

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**

LCB FILE NO. R043-21I

**The following document is the initial draft regulation proposed
by the agency submitted on 09/09/2021**

Nevada State Public Charter School Authority
Proposed Regulatory Amendment (NAC 388A.260)

Statement of Intent:

NRS 388A.168 and NRS 388A.258 provide the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority with statutory authority regarding regulations related to the timelines, processes and procedures, and the contents for new charter school applications.

Nevada Administrative Code 388A.260 currently provides that a letter of intent to submit a new charter school application be submitted to the SPCSA no less than 120 days prior to the submission to the SPCSA of a new charter school application.

NAC 388A.260 also currently provides for two application “windows” whereby new charter school applications must be submitted to the SPCSA between January 1 and January 15 or between July 1 and July 15.

This proposed amendment to NAC 388A.260 seeks to shorten the lead time by which letters of intent must be submitted to the SPCSA from 120 days to 90 days prior to submission of the application to form a charter school, as well as adding additional detail to NAC 388A.260 regarding the contents of the letters of intent. This proposed amendment also seeks to revise NAC 388A.260 to provide for a single application window each year between April 15 and April 30 of each year.

Statutory Authority:

NRS 388A.168 and NRS 388A.258

Proposed Regulatory Amendment:

Nevada Administrative Code 388A.260 is hereby amended as follows:

NAC 388A.260 Application to form charter school: Submission or notice of intent to submit; examination; withdrawal; establishment and duties of review panel; review of recommendation by State Public Charter School Authority; considerations; decision concerning applicant is final; duties of approved applicant. (NRS 388A.168)

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section and NAC 388A.270, an application to form a charter school must be submitted to the State Public Charter School Authority by an applicant on or before April 15 and April 30 of each year. The State Public Charter School Authority may, upon request and for good cause shown, accept an application to form a charter school at any time.

2. A prospective applicant must submit a written notice of intent to submit an application to form a charter school to the Executive Director, in a manner prescribed by the Executive Director, not less than 90 days before submitting the application. The notice of intent must include:

- (a) The proposed name of the proposed charter school;

(b) The name, address, telephone number and electronic mail address of the person selected pursuant to NAC 388A.115 to act as liaison between the committee and the proposed sponsor;

(c) The name of the county and, if applicable, the address or zip code in which the proposed charter school will be located;

(d) The zip codes that the proposed charter school seeks to serve;

(e) The grade levels the proposed charter school seeks to serve;

(f) The number of students in each grade level that the proposed charter school seeks to serve;

(g) Whether the proposed charter school will be dedicated to providing educational programs and opportunities for pupils who are at risk;

(h) Whether the proposed charter school will provide a program of distance education;

(i) The date and school year on which the proposed charter school will begin operation;

(j) Whether the committee intends to contract or is considering contracting with an educational management organization or a charter management organization to provide service to the charter school and, if so, the name of the educational management organization or charter management organization; and

(k) Any other information requested by the Executive Director.

3. An application to form a charter school must comply with NAC 388A.265 and be submitted on a form prescribed by the Executive Director which must include, without limitation:

(a) A timeline for the selection of an applicant to form a charter school;

(b) Any prerequisites for conferences with and training of an applicant;

(c) The criteria and procedures which will be used to score applications;

(d) The criteria which will be used to recommend approval of an application to form a charter school, including, without limitation, the minimum score necessary for an application to be eligible for recommendation; and

(e) The earliest date on which an applicant that is selected to form a charter school may open the charter school.

4. The State Public Charter School Authority will examine each application submitted pursuant to this section. If the State Public Charter School Authority determines that an application is incomplete or does not satisfy the requirements of this chapter or chapter 388A of NRS, the State Public Charter School Authority will not process the application. The failure of the State Public Charter School Authority to identify or notify an applicant of a deficiency during its review of an application does not constitute a waiver of the appropriate requirement. Each applicant shall ensure that its application is complete and satisfies the requirements of this chapter and chapter 388A of NRS at all times during which the application is under review by the State Public Charter School Authority.

5. An applicant may withdraw an application to form a charter school by providing written notice to the State Public Charter School Authority.

6. The State Public Charter School Authority will establish an application review panel composed of experts selected by the Executive Director who are not employed by the State Public Charter School Authority and employees of the State Public Charter School Authority to the extent such employees are available and appropriate to serve on the panel. After the State Public Charter School Authority has determined that an application is complete, the State Public Charter School Authority will:

(a) Publish on the Internet website maintained by the State Public Charter School Authority the version of the application which complies with NAC 388A.265; and

(b) Submit the application to the application review panel to:

(1) Review and score the application in accordance with the criteria described in the application; and

(2) Conduct an interview with the applicant to assess the qualifications of the applicant and the ability of the applicant to establish a high-quality charter school which may include, without limitation, one or more interviews with members of the applicant or with any proposed school leader, educational management organization or other party identified in the application. Any person interviewed pursuant to this subparagraph shall not disclose the contents of the interview to any other person.

5. The members of the application review panel established pursuant to subsection 4:

(a) Shall not discuss applications with any person other than the members of the application review panel or the State Public Charter School Authority and its employees;

(b) Shall not accept meals, entertainment, gifts or gratuities in any form from any person or organization with an interest in the results of the selection process;

(c) Shall immediately disclose to the State Public Charter School Authority the discovery of any past or present relationship with an applicant, including, without limitation, with any current or prospective employee, agent, officer or director of the sponsor of the proposed charter school, any affiliated entity or any other person with an interest in the application; and

(d) Shall complete a questionnaire regarding conflicts of interest prescribed by the Executive Director to ensure that each member has no pecuniary interest in the approval or denial of any application which he or she may review.

7. After the application review panel reviews and scores an application and conducts an interview with the applicant, the panel must submit its recommendation and supporting information to the Executive Director. The Executive Director or his or her designee shall consider the recommendations of the application review panel, draft a staff recommendation and forward the staff recommendation and the application to the State Public Charter School Authority for review. The State Public Charter School Authority:

(a) Will review and evaluate all application materials according to the criteria established in subsection 7;

(b) May consider the score given to the application by the application review panel and consider the staff recommendation forwarded pursuant to subsection 6; and

(c) Will determine whether to approve the application to form a charter school.

8. The State Public Charter School Authority will consider, without limitation, whether the applicant has demonstrated the capacity to:

- (a) Further the purposes for the establishment of charter schools pursuant to chapter 388A of NRS;
- (b) Comply with all laws and regulations affecting charter schools, including, without limitation, laws and regulations concerning pupils with disabilities, pupils who are English learners, pupils who are academically behind their peers and gifted and talented pupils;
- (c) Meet its projections for enrollment through a demonstration of support for the proposed charter school in the communities from which pupils would be likely to enroll;
- (d) Develop and implement a plan for recruitment and retention consistent with the provisions of this chapter and chapter 388A of NRS;
- (e) Involve parents and guardians as partners in the education of their children;
- (f) Develop a proposed program which enhances options for pupils in the areas served by the proposed charter school;
- (g) Develop a management structure and plan which enables the proposed charter school to function at a high level of performance and which will achieve the goals and mission set forth in its charter contract, including, without limitation, information about the proposed staff and members of the governing body of the proposed charter school and the roles, responsibilities and manner of selection of the governing body;
- (h) Develop bylaws which govern the governing body of the proposed charter school in a manner consistent with this chapter and chapter 388A of NRS;
- (i) Develop a management structure and plan which enables the governing body of the proposed charter school to oversee multiple campuses or a network of charter schools, including the roles and responsibilities of school leaders and administrators, if applicable;
- (j) Assure that pupils enrolled in the proposed charter school will meet the same performance standards and assessment requirements for pupils in other public schools;
- (k) Develop goals for each year of the charter contract for the proposed charter school to help measure the progress and success of the school in fulfilling the terms of its charter which:
 - (1) Supplement, but do not supplant, the indicators, metrics and measurements contained in the performance framework established by the State Public Charter School Authority; and
 - (2) Are specific to the mission of the proposed charter school, if applicable;
- (l) Effectively administer its educational programs, school operations and finances in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and the provisions of any applicable federal grant for charter schools;
- (m) Establish a process to provide to pupils, parents, guardians, the State Public Charter School Authority, other interested parties and the public all information required to be provided by state and federal laws and regulations and to provide to the State Public Charter School Authority, the Department of Education, the State Board of Education, the Governor and the Legislative Counsel Bureau such information as those entities may request;

(n) Develop an enrollment policy consistent with federal laws and regulations, this chapter and chapter 388A of NRS;

(o) Ensure the thoroughness and accuracy of the information contained in its application;

(p) Provide school facilities which comply with all applicable municipal building codes and other applicable laws and which are adequate to meet the program requirements of the proposed charter school;

(q) Develop a governing body with the capacity to effectively govern the proposed charter school and, if applicable, to effectively govern more than one campus or school; and

(r) Build a network of charter schools, if applicable.

9. If an applicant, any person who is a member of a group comprising an applicant, any vendor or educational management organization which is proposed to contract with the charter school or any person proposed to be employed by the charter school or by a vendor or educational management organization which is proposed to contract with the charter school has a current or previous relationship with a charter school in this or any other state, the State Public Charter School Authority and the Executive Director may consider all information relating to the performance of such a charter school when evaluating the application of the applicant, including, without limitation, any information reported to the general public or the State Public Charter School Authority by other sponsors of charter schools or by other clients of the vendor or educational management organization.

10. The decision of the State Public Charter School Authority on whether to approve an application to form a charter school is a final decision.

11. If the State Public Charter School Authority approves an application to form a charter school pursuant to this section, the applicant must:

(a) Submit a draft of each document required pursuant to NAC 388A.410 to the State Public Charter School Authority for review and approval before opening the charter school; and

(b) Execute a charter contract within 45 days after approval of its application to form a charter school. The State Public Charter School Authority may revoke approval of an application to form a charter school if the applicant fails to comply with this paragraph.

(Added to NAC by St. Pub. Charter School Auth. by R089-16, eff. 12-21-2016)