

Writing a Charter Application

January 6, 2012
NC Department of Public Instruction
Office of Charter Schools

Its All About:

1. **Quality**
2. **Children**



1. Hard and fast – must have an office cut off point
2. No exceptions
3. COMPLETE packages ahead of the deadline – 1 original, 6 copies, 1 electronic
4. Plan ahead

Deadlines

**April 13, 2012
12 noon**

WRIGLEY FIELD
HOME OF
CHICAGO CUBS

WELCOME TO THE
NATIONAL LEAGUE
DIVISION SERIES





***Things to Know
and Understand***

“We will follow the NC Open Meetings Law as stipulated within the pertinent statute.”



????????????????

1. Voting shall be done by proxy

2. No notice of regular meetings shall be required

3. Action may be taken without a formal meeting

4. Signed consent substitutes for an actual vote

5. Meetings occur outside NC

????????????????

NC Open Meetings Law

COPY

1. Simply reproducing an application that was approved in the past
2. Using language that does not apply to the mission
3. Issue of ownership, uniqueness, and innovation
4. If replicating, you must STATE it clearly somewhere
5. Bylaws Beware

**Beware of the
“Boilerplate”**

They are allowed in North Carolina;
however, the contracts must abide by
state charter law:

1. The EMO cannot legally take the place of the board.
2. The board, not the EMO, employs the staff of the school.
3. The board, not the EMO, is ultimately responsible for the operations of the school. Their error is considered your error because you contract with them.

Educational Management Companies



Vet carefully

Annually evaluate the EMO



Use the “Triple T” Method:

1. **Target** (what measurement)
2. **Time** (when each year)
3. **Term** (over time)

Use “SMART” goals – specific, measurable, attainable, rigorous (realistic), and timely

Goals and Objectives:

Application #1

Students will be healthy and responsible.

Students will take responsibility through goal setting, self-monitoring, and learning decision-making skills for "healthy choices"

Application #2

Students will reach academic excellence

In the spring of each year, in years 1 through 5, the median student score will rank at the 75th percentile or higher on a nationally normed math test.

**Examples:
You Make the Call**



Not allowed per an Attorney
General's opinion June 23, 1998:

"an applicant for a charter school cannot commit to
parents and parents cannot commit to the applicant
until the application for charter school status is
finally approved."

Pre-enrollment of Students

Show Demand with Facts & Figures



General Considerations:

- Read the charter school law regularly
- Read the State Board of Education policies regularly
- Visit existing charter schools and talk to their leadership (boards and principals)

General Considerations:

- Make the budget match your mission
- Pay attention to formatting
- Due process for all
- Explain your enrollment figures
- Open to all students not a few

General Considerations:

- EVERYTHING must flow from the mission!!
- Avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest
- Contingency plans for the facility
- Bylaws are significant
- Define relationships
- Submit a day or two EARLY

Suggestions to Implement

- Give the details NOT “we will comply” or “this is optional” or “DPI will tell us”
- Be sure to state the anticipated EC population: % or actual # of students
- Write in a manner that those who know nothing of your ideas will understand
- Have **your** attorney review all contracts and by-laws
- Submit a day or two **EARLY**

Suggestions to Implement (cont.)

- Carefully select your name
- LEA gets the first copy to take that off your plate
- Every section clearly complete – remove all doubt
- Get someone to review who does not know what you are doing or planning
- Prepare all board members
- Submit a day or two **EARLY**