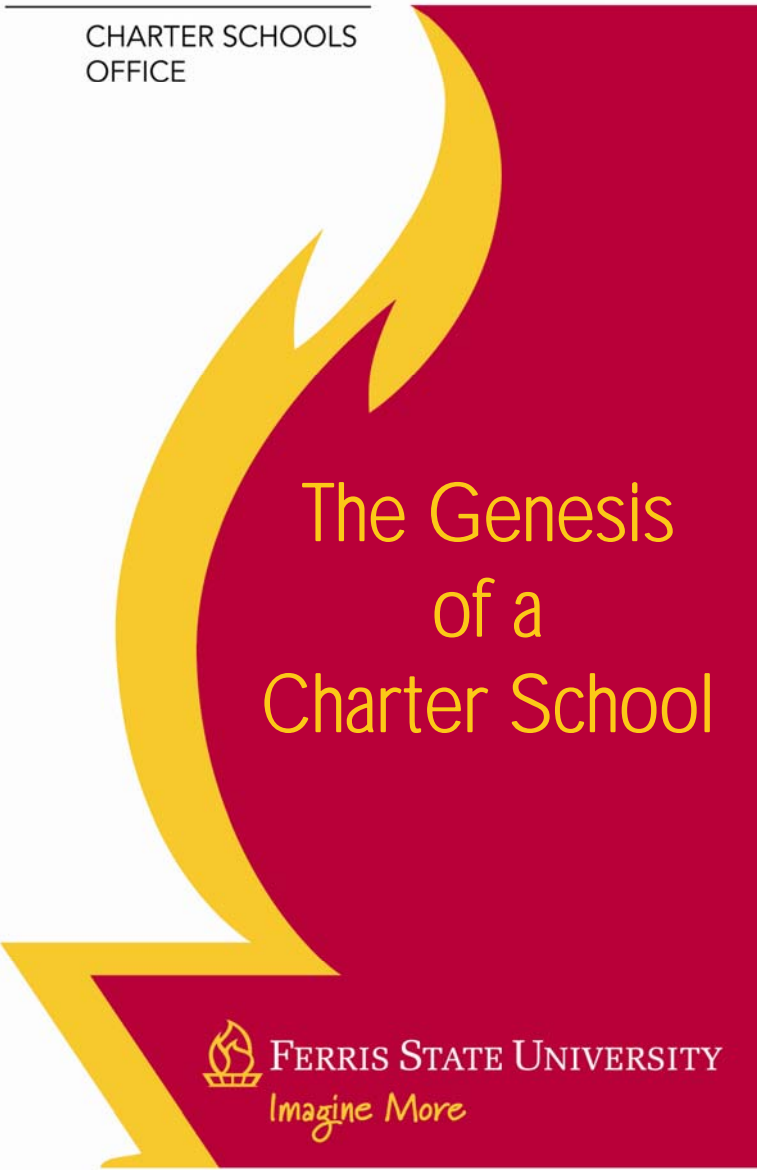




CHARTER SCHOOLS
OFFICE



The Genesis of a Charter School



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Imagine More

What is a charter school? (public school academy)

- 🍏 **Public school of choice**
- 🍏 **Autonomy to make decisions concerning structure, curriculum, educational emphasis**
- 🍏 **Held accountable for academic achievement of the students by means of its charter**
- 🍏 **Receives public school funds for every child enrolled**

Who can apply for a public school academy charter?

- 🍏 **An individual**
- 🍏 **A group**
- 🍏 **An organization**

How does someone get started?

In Michigan, there are four types of institutions granted authorizing power by the legislature to authorize public school academies.

- 🍏 **Local School Districts**
- 🍏 **Intermediate School Districts**
- 🍏 **Community Colleges**
- 🍏 **State Universities**

Do all applicants receive a charter?

- **NO. Each application is evaluated on its own merit.**
- **Each authorizer selects only the number of qualified applicants it plans to authorize each year.**
- **The authorizing process varies among authorizers.**
- **The number of academies authorized may vary from year to year.**

Does the application require a lot of detail?

- **Generally, YES. However, the amount will vary among authorizers.**
- **Most State universities have a standard application form that includes all of the elements required by the Revised School Code. The end product will likely exceed 20 pages, plus another 10-15 pages of attachments.**



What are the major elements required for an application to be considered?

- ❖ **Identification of applicant**
- ❖ **Type of applicant (individual, group or organization)**
- ❖ **Proposed initial Board of Directors with completed questionnaires**
- ❖ **Proposed Articles of Incorporation (usually supplied by the authorizer)**
- ❖ **Proposed Bylaws (usually supplied by the authorizer)**
- ❖ **Proposed operational description of the academy**
- ❖ **Proposed admissions policy (must comply with the Revised School Code)**
- ❖ **Proposed school calendar and daily schedule**
- ❖ **Proposed age or grade range of pupils to be served**
- ❖ **Proposed governance structure and responsibilities**
- ❖ **Proposed staff responsibilities (job descriptions)**
- ❖ **Description of proposed physical plant including a floor plan**
- ❖ **Name and address of the local school district**
- ❖ **Name of the intermediate school district**
- ❖ **Proposed opening date**
- ❖ **Projected enrollment for years 1-5**
- ❖ **Description of targeted students**
- ❖ **Proposed advertising and recruitment plans**
- ❖ **Proposed plan for selecting students if capacity is exceeded (must comply with the Revised School Code)**

...major elements required...(continued)

- 🍏 **Proposed plan to involve parents**
- 🍏 **Proposed plan for problem intervention and other retention strategies**
- 🍏 **Proposed head administrator qualifications**
- 🍏 **Proposed plan for use of non-certified individuals**
- 🍏 **Proposed method of transportation (if any)**
- 🍏 **Proposed description of how start-up costs will be met until State aid is available in late October**
- 🍏 **Description of the educational purpose of the academy, including philosophy and focus**
- 🍏 **Description of proposed curriculum**
- 🍏 **Proposed mission statement of academy**

What is the role of the academy's Board of Directors?

- 🍏 **Governing body and ultimately responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring policies, budget, and curriculum of the academy**
- 🍏 **Same powers as the local school district's elected Board of Education**
- 🍏 **Acts as the academy's school board**

Once appointed, can a board member be removed from office?

- **YES. The board may take action to remove one of its own members before the end of his/her term of office according to the academy's bylaws.**
- **The authorizer also has the power to remove a board member before his/her term of office expires.**

Who hires the academy employees?

- **The board may interview and hire all its employees.**
- **The board may interview and hire a head administrator and delegate the responsibility to him/her with all employees being approved by the board.**
All Employees Must Be Appropriately Certified
- **The board may contract with an educational service provider (management company) to provide all or part of the employees as part of its contract.**

What are the authorizer's responsibilities?

- **Receive inquiries about the authorizing process**
- **Provide an application to authorize an academy**
- **Receive and screen applications**
- **Execute approved charter contracts**
- **Appoint academy board of directors**
- **Assure that authorized academies comply with terms and conditions of the charter contract**

...authorizer's responsibilities...(continued)

- **Assure that authorized academies comply with applicable State and federal laws**
- **Assure that authorized academies make reasonable progress toward meeting the goals stated in its charter contract**

Is the authorizer involved in the operation of the academy?

- **Only indirectly. The authorizer's relationship is with the academy's board of directors.**
- **The authorizer is responsible for overseeing the academy's operation to assure that it remains in compliance with the charter contract.**

Does an authorizer have the power to stop operations of an academy?

- **YES. The Revised School Code gives the authorizer the power to revoke a charter if the academy is not functioning as authorized in its charter contract.**
- **Authorizers will usually attempt remedial action to bring the academy into compliance before revocation proceedings are initiated.**



Ferris State University Charter Schools



Allen Academy
Benton Harbor Charter School
Bridge Academy
Clara B. Ford
Conner Creek Academy - East
Consortium College Preparatory High School
Creative Technologies Academy
Francis Reh Public School Academy
George Crockett Academy
Hope of Detroit Academy
Huron Academy
Joy Preparatory Academy
Marshall Academy
New Bedford Academy
New City Academy
Northridge Academy
Pierre Toussaint Academy
*Vista Meadows Academy
Voyageur Academy

*Ferris State University Charter Schools Office does the Oversight
for Vista Meadows Academy whose Authorizer is Bay Mills Community College



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