



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

District Partnership Memo

Overview

School districts can opt to partner with the LDOE to run a 2014 district charter application process for charter schools set to open in the fall of 2015. In a charter application partnership, the Department conducts a legally compliant charter school review process on behalf of the local school board. The partnership guarantees that applicants for Type 1 and Type 3 charter schools will benefit from the state's capacity to coordinate a high-quality review process while at the same time freeing local school district officials from having to run a duplicate process.

Local School Board Responsibilities

In a charter partnership with the Department, the partner district retains all authority to make decisions on whether a Type 1 or Type 3 charter school applicants should be authorized. The independent reviewer hired by the Department to review charter applications will give reviews of Type 1 and Type 3 charter applications directly to the partner district. Local school boards should be prepared to oversee charter schools that they approve.

Cost-Sharing

Local school districts pay the full costs for the review of applications for Type 1 and Type 3 charter schools, and the Department pays the full cost for the review of applications for Type 2, Type 4, and Type 5 charter schools to be located within the partner district's geographic jurisdiction. If a charter applicant applies simultaneously to multiple partner districts and / or the Department, all authorizers to which the applicant applies will split the cost of the review of that application. No district will pay more than \$4,900 for the review of a charter application.

Timeline

By January 6, 2014, all districts are required to post the relevant district charter application documents, timeline, and contact information to their websites. Therefore, district partnership MOU's should be signed no later than January 6, 2014.

Louisiana Believes