

Charter School Performance Compact: Charter Board

Charter school boards must meet board structure requirements in Bulletin 126; and charter school boards must adhere to the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics through La.R.S. 42:1101, et. seq., applicable to charter schools via La.R.S. 17:3996(B)(20).

The guidelines below are general; proper application of these rules should be examined on a case-by-case basis.

Charter Board Requirements

Non-Profit Board Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only non-profit corporations and their boards are eligible to operate charter schools in Louisiana. Charter boards with corporate partners may have corporate representation on the board, though those representatives may not make up the board's majority. Non-profits may not be affiliated with or supported by any religious organization.
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boards must consist of at least seven members.
Employment and Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board members cannot be employed by any of the schools operated by the board. Members cannot receive any compensation outside of reimbursement for any actual costs related to their work on the board. Members cannot accept personal gifts from any entity that is doing or has the potential to do business with the board. Board members may accept food/drink at an event for a value of up to \$50.
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No board members can be members of the same immediate family. Members must disclose to the Board of Ethics any situation in which the board member or a member of his family might benefit from a proposed action of the board.
Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board members should have a diversity of professional skills, expertise, and interests in areas including education, organizational operations, community development, finance, and law.
Residency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 60% of board members must reside in the community where the school is located, which is defined as the parish where the school is located or in immediately neighboring parishes. Boards operating one or more schools in the same parish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community: the parish where the school is located or in immediately neighboring parishes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Type 2 Boards operating one school with multi-parish enrollment zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community: any parish that is included in the charter school’s attendance zone. ● Charter boards operating multiple schools in multiple parishes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communities: parishes and immediately neighboring parishes in which the charter schools are located, with equal representation from each community to the greatest extent possible.
Conflicts of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No elected official or school board official in whose jurisdiction a Type 5 charter school is to be located may serve on the board of the Type 5 charter school. ● Additionally, no BESE board member may serve on the board for any Type 2, 4, or 5 charter. ● Former elected officials must wait at least one year before serving on a charter school board. ● Board members must recuse themselves from any votes from which they might derive a personal or economic benefit.
On-Going Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board members must submit a financial disclosure statement to the LA Board of Ethics annually. ● Board members must develop and follow an annual training schedule per the guidance of the LDOE Office of Portfolio. ● Board members must abide by their bylaws and all applicable state laws and requirements including the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics, Louisiana Non-Profit Corporation law, Louisiana Secretary of State requirements, and Open Meetings and Public Records laws.

This informational document is a general guide to inform schools of basic requirements. It is NOT a substitute for federal, or state guidelines and/or the appropriate state and local policies. Please visit the websites above for more information or contact the Office of School Choice with questions.