



Charter School Proposal Review

The Oregon Charter School Law (Chapter 338 of the Oregon Revised Statutes) requires a proposal, or application, for a public charter school to contain 23 (25 for conversions of existing public schools) elements (as outlined in ORS 338.045(2)); district policy may stipulate additional elements. The charter law provides a broad description of the legally required elements, but does not provide any criteria for evaluating quality.

The law states that a charter proposal must be evaluated, in good faith, using eight specific criteria (as outlined in ORS 338.055(2)). Most of these criteria lack specificity and are, therefore, open to interpretation.

In order to assist prospective charter-sponsoring districts with the challenging responsibility of charter proposal review and good faith evaluation, the Northwest Center for Educational Options (NWCEO) has developed a multi-phase process, each with a rubric comprised of specific criteria (based on law and best practice).

Review Component	Description
District Policy and Administrative Rules	Public Charter Schools Policy/Administrative Rule LBE and LBE-AR
Phase I Completeness Review	Completeness Rubric (NWCEO Rubric)
Phase II Charter School Proposal Review	Qualitative evaluation based on ORS 338.045 (2) and District Policy/Administrative Rule, if either contains additional criteria (NWCEO Rubric)
Phase III Good Faith Evaluation	Good Faith Evaluation (ORS 338.055 (2)) based on qualitative and quantitative information from Phase I and II and public hearing (NWCEO Rubric)
Recommendation	Recommendation (from staff to board) to approve or deny charter school sponsorship

Please contact the Northwest Center for Educational Options at (503) 353-1690, kheikes@nwceo.org or jgilles@nwceo.org for additional information.

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