



HB23-1025 Charter School Application Timelines

- *Sponsors: Rep. Rick Taggart (R), Rep. Dafna Michaelson Jenet (D), Sen. Janice Rich (R)*
 - *The governor signed the bill into law on April 25, 2023, and it takes effect on August 7, 2023.*
 - *It applies to charter school applications filed after December 31, 2023.*
-

Overview

The legislation introduces adjustments to various deadlines related to charter school applications submitted to local school boards on or after January 1, 2025. The revised charter school application process is outlined as follows:

- From November 15 to January 15, school districts have the authority to release requests for proposals to solicit interest from potential charter schools.
- Between February 1 and April 1, charter school applicants are required to submit their applications to the respective local school board. This is a change from the previous deadline range of August 1 to October 1.
- Local school boards are mandated to hold a public hearing and make a ruling on charter school applications by June 30.
- The contract negotiation between the approved charter school and the school board must be concluded by September 30 or within 90 days after the school board approves the charter school application through a resolution, whichever is later.

These adjustments aim to streamline and provide clarity to the charter school application process, ensuring that all necessary steps are completed within the specified timeframes.

In the case of school districts classified as rural or small rural by the Department of Education (CDE), the legislation includes specific modifications for accepting charter school applications:

- The submission dates for charter school applications in these districts are dependent on the district's ability to receive applications. In rural districts,

applications are accepted between June 1 and August 1, which differs from the standard application submission timeline.

- The review of the application by the school district accountability committee is not mandatory for these rural districts.
- The timeline for the local school boards to make a ruling on the application is extended from the standard June 30 deadline to October 15.

Additionally, the bill stipulates that charter schools must utilize the fiscal and school year of July 1 to June 30 following the filing of their application as a planning year before officially serving students. However, it allows for the local school board and the charter school applicant to extend these deadlines, if necessary jointly. Furthermore, a local school board has the option to seek a waiver or modification of these deadlines from the State Board of Education.

School Impact

The legislation acknowledges that local school boards and school districts may experience a slight increase in workload if they opt to request a waiver from the established deadlines outlined in the bill. By seeking a waiver, they may need to navigate and manage additional administrative tasks associated with adjusting the application timeline.

Furthermore, the workload for school districts could shift within the fiscal year due to the new application schedule. This means specific tasks and responsibilities related to charter school applications, such as reviews and rulings, may be spread out differently throughout the year.

However, the overall impact on school districts is expected to be minimal, as the legislation assumes that the adjustments and potential workload changes can be accommodated without significant disruptions to the regular functioning of the districts.