



# Start·a·School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

## Kansas

### Charter Schools

#### Virtual Charter

The Virtual Schools Act does not refer to such schools as charter schools. A virtual school is defined as any school or educational program that:

- Is offered for credit.
- Uses distance-learning technologies which predominately use internet-based methods to deliver instruction.
- Involves instruction that occurs asynchronously with the teacher and student in separate locations.
- Requires the student to make academic progress toward the next grade level and matriculation from kindergarten through high school graduation.
- Requires the student to demonstrate competence in subject matter for each class or subject in which the student is enrolled as part of the virtual school.
- Requires age-appropriate students to complete state assessment tests.

Citations: [Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72--3712](#)

#### General Charter Info

Charter schools in Kansas are independent public schools that operate within a school district. They are operated free-of-charge to parents and are open to all students. In addition, every charter school in Kansas is subject to the accreditation requirements of the state board of education and must be accredited to maintain its charter.

While a charter school is separate and distinct, with its own building number, state assessment scores and demographic information, a charter school may be housed in an existing school facility with another school as long as it is operated separately.

## Steps to Start a Charter School

**Step 1:** The first step in creating a Charter school is to register as a corporation. This is usually a non-profit LLC. Register with your state's Division of Corporations.

**Step 2:** If you are planning to operate as a non-profit, you will need to obtain your IRS Non-Profit status by submitting [IRS Form 1023](#).

**Step 3:** Review the [Charter and Virtual Education Advisory Council Page](#).

**Step 4:** Review the Charter School State Statutes: [Chapter 72 »Article 42](#)

**Step 5:** Review the [Charter School Program Non-Regulatory Guidance](#).

**Step 6:** Review the [Charter Petition Rubric](#) to understand how your Petition/Application will be evaluated.

**Step 7:** Review the typical Petition Submittal timeline:

- December 1 - submitted to local board no later than December 1 of the school year preceding the school year in which the charter school is proposed to be established.
- February 1 - submitted to KSDE for review by February 1 of the school year preceding the school year in which the charter school is proposed to be established. Include public hearing notice and board minutes of approval.
- March 15 - approval or disapproval by the Kansas State Board of Education no later than March 1 of the school year

**Step 8:** Complete and submit a [New Charter Petition/Application \(PDF\)](#)

## Statutes and Rules

- [72-4206 - Intention of act; charter school defined.](#)
- [72-4207 - Authorization to establish; purposes.](#)
- [72-4208 - Petition for establishment; design and contents; receipt, review and screening; preparation and submission; charter elements and requirements; public hearing; duties of state board; approval or disapproval of petition; waiver of policies, rules and regulations.](#)
- [72-4209 - Duration of operational status; renewal or revocation of charter, procedure.](#)
- [72-4210 - Transportation of pupils.](#)
- [72-4211 - Employee benefits.](#)

- [72-4212 - Technical advice and assistance; evaluation of charter schools; compilation of evaluations and submission to governor and legislature.](#)
- [72-4213 - State board of education; rules and regulations.](#)
- [72-4221 - Coalition of innovative districts act; citation of act.](#)
- [72-4222 - Definitions.](#)
- [72-4223 - Public innovative districts, grant of authority to operate; duties; applicability of laws.](#)
- [72-4224 - Coalition of innovative districts; duties; reports.](#)
- [72-4225 - Public innovative districts; request for approval.](#)
- [72-4226 - Same; initial term; renewal application.](#)
- [72-4227 - Same; grant of authority; released or revoked.](#)
- [72-4228 - Superintendent meetings.](#)
- [72-4229 - Technical advice and assistance.](#)
- [72-4230 - Rules and regulations.](#)
- [72-4241 - Alternative schools; authorization to establish; waiver from certain requirements, how acquired; terms and conditions.](#)

## **Resources**

- [10 Things Schools Can Do to Create Great Family-School Partnerships](#)
- [National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools](#)
- [SEDL Advancing Research Improving Education](#)

## **Contact Information**

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