



Start·a·School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Arkansas

Charter Schools

Applicants for a new public charter school must submit a [Letter of Intent](#) and follow [the charter school's application process](#). If a charter school is approved, the initial approval is granted for a period of up to five years. At the end of the term, the State Board of Education may renew the school's contract after the public charter school has followed the [renewal process](#).

There is also a [process by which a charter can be amended](#) to add campuses, increase or decrease enrollment caps, change grade configurations, and/or request or rescind waivers. Public charter schools are accountable to the State Board of Education to produce positive academic results and adhere to the charter contract. Charter schools are also responsible for submitting both a

[First Quarter and Fourth Quarter Report](#)

Steps to Start a Charter School

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.

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](#).

In Arkansas, there are two basic types of public charter schools. An **open-enrollment charter school** is a public charter school run by a governmental entity, an institution of higher learning, or a tax-exempt non-sectarian organization. Open enrollment schools can draw students from across district boundaries.

A **district conversion charter school** is a public school converted to a public charter school. Conversion schools can only draw students from within the school district's boundaries.

For more information, please contact:

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Application Process

1. Submit a [Letter of Intent](#)
2. Follow [the charter school's application process.](#)

SAMPLE 2024 Charter School Application Timeline

Event/Deadline	Open Date	Deadline
Letter of Intent	March 21, 2024	May 1, 2024
Charter Application (Open enrollment /District Conversion)	April 1, 2024	June 14, 2024
Charter Applicant Workshop (Optional-as needed)	April 11, 16, 25 May 2, 8,14	
DESE internal technical review and applicant revision meeting	June 17, 2024	July 9, 2024

Event/Deadline	Open Date	Deadline
DESE internal capacity review and applicant revision meeting	June 26, 2024	July 24, 2024
Final Applications Due by 5:00 p.m.		August 9, 2024
Charter Authorizing Panel internal review	August 15, 2024	September 5, 2024
Charter Authorizing Panel clarifying questions to the applicant		September 10, 2024
Charter Authorizing Panel Hearings	September 17, 2024	September 19, 2024
State Board of Education Review		October 10, 2024

Statutes and Rules

- [Ark. Code Ann. § 6-1-404](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-1006](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1004](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-163](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-2503](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. § 6-23-101 et seq](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. §6-23-106 \(a\)](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. §6-23-306 \(14\)\(B\)\(b\)\(2\)](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. §6-24-105](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. §6-24-106](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. §6-24-107](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. 6-20-402\(a\)\(1\)\(B\)](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. 6-23-401\(a\)\(7\)](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. 6-23-401\(b\)](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. 6-23-503](#)
- [Ark. Code Ann. 6-41-603](#)

- [Code Ann. §6-23-306 \(10\)](#)

Resources

- [ADE Rules Governing Public Charter Schools](#)