



Start·a·School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Indiana

Charter Schools

Virtual Charter

A charter school is not prohibited from delivering instructional services through the Internet or another online arrangement or in any manner by computer if they follow the Department of Education's procedures governing online and computer instruction.

Citations: [Ind. Code Ann. § 20-24-8-2](#); [Ind. Code Ann. § 20-24-7-13](#)

General Charter Info

Indiana's charter schools may be authorized by a governing body, a college, or the Indiana Charter School Board. The National Alliance of Public Charter Schools has ranked Indiana the top state in the nation for having strong public charter school laws.

Charter Authorizers

[IC 20-24-2.2-1.2\(b\)](#) provides that a governing body of a school corporation can register with the state board for charter authority within the attendance area of the corporation. A governing body wishing local chartering authority must submit an application to the state board if it has not previously issued a charter for any charter school prior to July 1, 2015. A governing board wishing to apply must submit to Applications@sboe.in.gov, the following:

1. A written notification of intent to serve as a charter authorizer in accordance with [IC 20-24-24](#).
2. An explanation of the governing body's strategic vision for chartering.
3. An explanation of the governing body's budget and personnel capacity and commitment to execute the duties of quality charter authorizing in accordance with [IC 20-24](#).
4. An explanation of how the governing body will solicit charter school applicants in accordance with [IC 20-24-3](#).
5. A description or outline of the performance framework the governing body will use to guide the establishment of a charter contract and for the oversight and evaluation of charter schools, consistent with this article.

6. A draft of the governing body's renewal, revocation, and nonrenewal processes, consistent with [IC 20-24](#).
7. A statement of assurance that the governing body commits to serving as a charter authorizer in fulfillment of the expectations, spirit, and intent of this article, and that the governing body will fully adopt standards of quality charter school authorizing in accordance with [IC 20-24-2.2-1.5](#).

Within sixty (60) days of receipt of this information, the state board will register the governing body as a charter authorizer within the attendance area of the school corporation and shall provide the governing body a letter confirming the governing body's registration as a charter authorizer. A governing body may not engage in any charter authorizing functions without a current registration as a charter authorizer with the state board.

Authorizers

Charter schools in Indiana can be authorized by one of the following:

- 1) a governing body,
- 2) a state educational institution that offers a four-year baccalaureate degree,
- 3) the executive (as defined in [IC § 36-1-2-5](#)) of a consolidated city,
- 4) the Indiana Charter School Board, or
- 5) a nonprofit college or university that provides a four-year educational program for which it awards a baccalaureate or more advanced degree.

Unlike many states, Indiana's legislation does not place a limit on the number of charter schools that can open in the State.

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](#).

Charter Approval Process

The process that an organizer must go through varies based on the sponsor to whom the organizer is applying. The Indiana Charter School Board's application process includes a Letter of Intent, a Full Application, an interview, and a public hearing prior to a final decision by the Board. Potential charter school organizers must be prepared to devote significant time to planning and researching during the application development stage. An organizer should carefully review the contents of Indiana's charter schools' law and work to establish a clear mission statement and vision for what the charter school will accomplish.

Any nonprofit entity that (a) has been determined by the IRS to be operating as a tax-exempt organization with a 501(c)(3) designation, or has applied for such determination, and (b) whose organizational documents (e.g., articles of incorporation, by-laws) include a provision that upon dissolution all remaining assets (other than funds received from the Indiana Department of Education, which must be returned to the Department) must be used for non-profit educational purposes. This may require establishment of new or separate entities by existing non-profit corporations whose current purpose is broader than education.

[ICSB Application Cycles](#)

[Apply for a Charter](#)

The Indiana Charter School Board ("ICSB") is currently accepting applications. Please see the Application Timeline or direct any questions to: Charter-Applications@icsb.in.gov.

- [Application Documents](#)
- [Application Timeline](#)
- [Application FAQ](#)

[Indiana Charter School Board](#) application documents.

Statutes and Rules

[Indiana Code](#)

IC 20-24-8 Chapter 8. Charter School Powers and Exemptions

- [20-24-8-1 Powers of charter schools](#)
- [20-24-8-2 Prohibited acts](#)
- [20-24-8-3 Compliance with laws, charter, and state constitution](#)
- [20-24-8-4 Statutes, rules, and regulations not applicable](#)
- [20-24-8-5 Applicable statutes, rules, and guidelines](#)
- [20-24-8-6 Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training apprenticeship programs](#)
- [20-24-8-7 Financial reports and audits](#)
- [20-24-8-8 Federal or state aid for students with disabilities](#)
- [20-24-8-9 Establishment of charter school compact](#)

Resources

- [Authorizer Listing](#)
- [IDOE CSP Moodle](#)
- [SBOE Charter Schools](#)
- [Dr. Jenner's IDOE Newsletter](#)
- [Funding Opportunities Search Engine](#)
- [Indiana Charter School Board](#)
- [Title Grants and Support Weekly Updates](#)
- [Authorizer Information and Resources](#)