



Start•a•School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Nevada

Charter Schools

Nevada Charter schools operate public elementary, middle, or secondary schools that are relatively autonomous schools of choice. They operate under a charter, or contract, issued by a public entity such as a local school district or State Public Charter School Authority. Individual states determine in their charter school legislation which rules must be adhered to, which rules may be waived, and which procedures must be followed to obtain a charter. In return for their autonomy, charter schools are held accountable for student performance: Quoting the Center on Reinventing Public Education "Every charter school statute embodies a legislature's intent to give school organizers a relatively free hand in managing individual schools in return for accepting increased responsibility for student performance. This is the "basic bargain" of charter school legislation: autonomy for accountability." If the goals of the school set forth in the charter are not reached, the school's charter may be revoked or not renewed.

Virtual Charters

Full-time virtual schools may be authorized by the state public charter school authority or school districts. A charter school authorized by a district that provides a full-time virtual school program may not enroll students from outside of the district. Charter schools may provide a program of distance education under that state's distance education program. Charter school applications must indicate if the school provides a program of distance education. Students enrolled in a charter school may enroll in a full-time distance education program only if the charter school in which the student is enrolled provides a program of distance education.

Citations: [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 388A.366](#); [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 388A.246](#); [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 388.838](#); [Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 388.854](#); [NRS 388A.700](#); [NRS 388A.705](#); [NRS 388A.710](#); [NRS 388A.715](#); [NRS 388A.72](#); [NRS 388A.725](#); [NRS 388A.730](#); [NRS 388A.735](#); [NRS 388A.740](#)

Steps to Start a Charter School

Review the information provided by the [Charter School Association of Nevada](#). Charter schools operate public elementary, middle, or secondary schools that are relatively autonomous schools of choice. They operate under a charter, or contract, issued by a public entity such as a local school district or the [State Public Charter School Authority](#).

First Step

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](#).

[State Public Charter School Authority](#)

[New Charter School Application](#)

SPCSA Charter Application Timeline

Notice of Intent to submit a charter application	Due January 30
Charter Application Submission	Due Between April 15 – 30
Board Meeting for Possible Action	August

Sample 2026 Call for Quality Charter Schools Cycle

To be eligible to submit a full proposal for the 2026 application cycle, the deadline for applicants to submit the Notice of Intent was 11 PM PT January 30, 2026. The 2026 application deadline was between April 15 and April 30, 2026 by 11:59 pm PT.

The 2026 Training Cycle dates are as follows:

- January 6, 2026
- January 20, 2026
- February 4, 2026
- February 18, 2026
- March 9, 2026

Sample File Your Notice of Intent

The 2026 Charter Application Notice of Intent window has closed. To have been eligible to submit a 2026 Charter Application, applicants must have submitted a Notice of Intent no later than January 30, 2026 by 11 p.m.

Sample 2026 Charter Application

- [2026 Charter Application](#)
- [Charter Application Guidance](#)
- [Charter Application Rubric](#)

Sample 2026 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment

Pursuant to [NRS 388A.249\(2\)](#), the SPCSA must consider the degree to which the proposed charter school will address the needs identified in the Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment as part of the application review. Additionally, in accordance with [NRS 388A.249\(3\)](#) the SPCSA may only approve an application to form a charter school if, in addition to meeting other requirements, the proposed charter school will address one or more of the needs identified in the Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment.

- [2026 Academic and Demographic Needs Assessment](#)
- [2026 School Data Workbook](#)
- [2026 Interactive Map](#)

Sample 2026 Application Forms

- [Attachment 1: Information Sheet for Applicant Team Members](#)
- [Attachment 9: Board Member Roster Template](#)
- [Attachment 15: Incubation Year Planning Table](#)
- [Attachment 16: Evidence of Demand Templates](#)
- [Attachment 22: Application Financial Plan Workbook](#)
- [Attachment 23: EMO/CMO Data Template](#)

Application Help

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Application Submission

- [Epicenter](#)

Statutes and Rules

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- [NRS 388A.010](#) Definitions.
- [NRS 388A.015](#) “Charter contract” defined.
- [NRS 388A.020](#) “Charter management organization” defined.
- [NRS 388A.030](#) “Educational management organization” defined.
- [NRS 388A.035](#) “Executive Director” defined.

- [NRS 388A.040](#) “Performance framework” defined.
- [NRS 388A.045](#) “Pupil ‘at risk’ ” defined.
- [NRS 388A.050](#) “State Public Charter School Authority” defined.
- [NRS 388A.075](#) Legislative declaration concerning formation of charter schools.
- [NRS 388A.080](#) No authority to convert public school or homeschool to charter school.
- [NRS 388A.085](#) Provisions governing formation and operation of charter schools.
- [NRS 388A.087](#) Charter school deemed to be political subdivision of State for certain purposes.
- [NRS 388A.090](#) Support by or affiliation with religion or religious organization prohibited.
- [NRS 388A.095](#) Operation for profit prohibited; incorporation as nonprofit corporation authorized.
- [NRS 388A.097](#) Required actions before submitting application for grant which may result in distribution of money to charter school or sponsor of charter school.
- [NRS 388A.100](#) Department and school district to maintain and provide certain information concerning charter schools; request for additional information from charter school by Department.
- [NRS 388A.105](#) Required regulations of Department.
- [NRS 388A.110](#) Authorized regulations of Department.

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

General Provisions

- [NRS 388A.150](#) Creation; purpose.
- [NRS 388A.153](#) Appointment and qualifications of members; terms; vacancies; selection of Chair and Vice Chair; compensation, allowances and travel expenses.
- [NRS 388A.155](#) Required training.
- [NRS 388A.156](#) Meetings; quorum.
- [NRS 388A.159](#) Authority deemed local educational agency for all purposes.

- [NRS 388A.162](#) Account for the State Public Charter School Authority: Creation; use of money in Account; acceptance of gifts, grants and bequests; prohibition against accepting gift or donation from charter management organization, committee to form charter school or governing body.
- [NRS 388A.165](#) Contracts with persons regarding charter schools.
- [NRS 388A.167](#) Plan to manage growth of charter schools.
- [NRS 388A.168](#) Regulations.
- [NRS 388A.171](#) Review of statutes and regulations; recommendations concerning legislation and changes to regulations; duty to make certain information concerning charter schools available.

Executive Director and Staff

- [NRS 388A.190](#) Executive Director: Appointment; unclassified service; eligibility.
- [NRS 388A.193](#) Executive Director: Authorization to pursue other employment or hold other office for profit with approval of Authority.
- [NRS 388A.196](#) Executive Director: Duties.
- [NRS 388A.199](#) Employment and qualifications of staff; periodic evaluations.

Sponsors of Charter Schools

- [NRS 388A.220](#) Application to sponsor charter schools; preparation of evaluation of academic needs of pupils in geographic area served by sponsor.
- [NRS 388A.223](#) Duties and powers of sponsor; development of policies and practices; grounds for revocation of sponsorship; no private right of action against sponsor.
- [NRS 388A.224](#) Duty to establish standards and provide training regarding governance of charter schools.
- [NRS 388A.225](#) Duty to notify Department and board of trustees of school district in certain circumstances relating to new or existing charter schools.
- [NRS 388A.226](#) Duty to provide information and assistance; provision of additional services by district-sponsored charter schools; availability of summer school and Internet-based classes for certain charter school pupils.

- [NRS 388A.229](#) Duty to collect, analyze and report data; aggregation and disaggregation of data for purpose of evaluating and reporting pupil achievement and school performance; adoption of policies for determining pupil achievement and school performance; regulations.
- [NRS 388A.230](#) Review of sponsor; determination regarding continuation or revocation of authorization to sponsor charter school.
- [NRS 388A.231](#) Change of sponsor.

FORMATION OF CHARTER SCHOOL

Applications

- [NRS 388A.240](#) Membership of committee to form charter school.
- [NRS 388A.243](#) Duties of applicant to ensure application meets certain requirements; charter management organization authorized to request waiver of requirements concerning membership of governing body.
- [NRS 388A.246](#) Contents of application.
- [NRS 388A.247](#) Information provided to sponsor of charter school by charter management organization, committee to form charter school or charter school is public record; authority to declare certain information confidential.
- [NRS 388A.249](#) Submission of application to proposed sponsor; review of application by proposed sponsor; criteria for approval of application; confidentiality of identity of reviewers; biennial report by Superintendent of Public Instruction concerning status of applications.
- [NRS 388A.252](#) Review of application received by board of trustees of school district or college or university within Nevada System of Higher Education; written notice of approval or denial; opportunity to correct deficiencies; written request for sponsorship by State Public Charter School Authority if resubmitted application denied.
- [NRS 388A.255](#) Review of application received by State Public Charter School Authority; written notice of approval or denial; opportunity to correct deficiencies; appeal of denial.

- [NRS 388A.258](#) Regulations and policies establishing times and procedures for review of applications.

Charter Contracts

- [NRS 388A.270](#) Charter contract upon approval of application; notice to Department; determination of sponsor.
- [NRS 388A.273](#) Adoption of performance framework and incorporation into charter contract; establishment of annual performance goals; revision upon renewal of charter contract.
- [NRS 388A.274](#) Application to be rated using alternative performance framework; sponsor of charter school authorized to require charter school to take certain actions; evaluation of application; proposed sponsor to include certain language in charter contract upon approval.
- [NRS 388A.275](#) Charter contract not assignable or transferable; charter contract may not be used as security for loan.
- [NRS 388A.276](#) Amendment of charter contract.
- [NRS 388A.279](#) Amendment of charter contract: Public hearing; approval of sponsor required; when request required to be denied.
- [NRS 388A.282](#) Consolidation of operations of two or more charter schools.
- [NRS 388A.285](#) Renewal of charter contract: Performance report by sponsor; application; criteria for review by sponsor; notice to applicant; term of renewal.

Termination of Charter Contracts

- [NRS 388A.300](#) Termination of charter contract or restart of charter school by sponsor: Grounds for termination or restart without adherence to procedural standards based upon ratings of charter school as underperforming; submission of written report to Department; regulations governing restart of charter school; exception.
- [NRS 388A.303](#) Sponsor authorized to take certain action upon termination of charter contract; sponsor to make certain considerations before selecting governing body to operate additional campus of existing charter school.

- [NRS 388A.306](#) Closure of charter school; duties of governing body; written notice; written plan for closure; financial affairs of charter school; appointment, duties and financial compensation of trustee.

Governing Body of Charter School

- [NRS 388A.320](#) Membership and qualifications; waiver; disclosure of conflicts of interest; powers; duty to hold public meeting on quarterly basis; authorization to set salary for attendance at meetings.
- [NRS 388A.323](#) Fingerprinting of members; removal of member convicted of certain crimes.

Reconstitution of Governing Body of Charter School

- [NRS 388A.330](#) Reconstitution of governing body of charter school or termination of charter contract by sponsor: Grounds; written notice; opportunity to correct deficiencies; public hearing; notice to Department; limitation on reconstitution; continued operation and limited enrollment under certain circumstances.
- [NRS 388A.333](#) Appointment of new members; review of employees and hiring of new employees.
- [NRS 388A.336](#) Parents of pupils to interview certain governing bodies and cast advisory vote for preferred governing body; priority enrollment for pupils who were enrolled in charter school whose charter contract was terminated.

Reports by Governing Body and Sponsor

- [NRS 388A.345](#) Annual reports of budget required; compilation of reports by Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- [NRS 388A.348](#) Submission of accountability information to sponsor of charter school.
- [NRS 388A.351](#) Annual report by sponsor of charter school.
- [NRS 388A.352](#) Annual posting of certain information regarding charter management organizations and educational management organizations by governing body of charter school on Internet website.

- [NRS 388A.353](#) Biennial reports of amounts paid to educational management organizations.
- [NRS 388A.354](#) Disclosure of information relating to charter management organizations and educational management organizations; reports.
- [NRS 388A.355](#) Biennial report of corrective actions taken by sponsor of charter school.

OPERATIONS

General Provisions

- [NRS 388A.360](#) Requirements of facility before commencement of operation.
- [NRS 388A.363](#) Notification to primary law enforcement agency regarding location of charter school.
- [NRS 388A.366](#) Requirement to comply with certain laws; prohibited tuition and fees; days of instruction; administration of examinations; use of public money; indemnification of sponsor; notice of accreditation; adoption of budget; programs of distance education.
- [NRS 388A.367](#) Written notice to parent or legal guardian of pupils enrolled in a charter school in certain circumstances; public hearing to discuss plan to correct certain issues and solicit suggestions to improve performance of school.
- [NRS 388A.369](#) Interference by school district with operation and management prohibited.

Services and Facilities

- [NRS 388A.378](#) Authorization to contract with school district for services and facilities; limitation on amount charged by school district for provision of services; donation of surplus property of school district; authorization to acquire or purchase buildings, structures or property and engage in certain financial transactions.
- [NRS 388A.381](#) Authorization to contract with sponsor of charter school for certain services; annual service agreement; sponsor required to provide itemized

accounting of cost of services; annual reconciliation of difference; request for independent review by Department.

- [NRS 388A.384](#) Contract for provision of school police officers by school district upon request of governing body; contract requirements; immunity from liability of school district that provides school police officers.

Miscellaneous Provisions

- [NRS 388A.393](#) Prohibited provisions of contracts with contractors or educational management organizations.
- [NRS 388A.3932](#) Expedited review of application to become qualified provider of alternative route to licensure program authorized in certain circumstances; request for waiver of certain requirements; review and approval or denial of application to become qualified provider.
- [NRS 388A.3934](#) Requirements to request establishment of experimental academic program or new school model in school; limitations on enrollment in such program or model; authority to seek expansion if program or model receives high rating of performance.

Complaints Relating to Charter Schools Sponsored by the State Public Charter School Authority

- [NRS 388A.395](#) Applicability.
- [NRS 388A.3955](#) Persons authorized to file written complaint with State Public Charter School Authority alleging certain violations; investigation of allegations.
- [NRS 388A.396](#) Certain persons authorized to file complaint with Department or appropriate agency; persons who have evidence of commission of crime required to file complaint with law enforcement agency.
- [NRS 388A.3965](#) Persons authorized to file complaint directly with State Public Charter School Authority when person has evidence that charter school engaged in certain behavior; investigation of complaints; written response to complaining party.
- [NRS 388A.397](#) Selection of investigator to conduct certain investigations and make determinations or recommendations; petition for order directing charter school to reimburse State Public Charter School Authority for cost of investigation if violation

determined to have occurred; authorized actions upon determination of violation of law or breach of terms and conditions of charter contract; order for charter school to suspend operations under certain circumstances.

- [NRS 388A.3975](#) Governing body required to develop policy for accepting, investigating and responding to complaints; submission and approval of policy by State Public Charter School Authority.

Finances

- [NRS 388A.405](#) Eligibility for available money from Department for facilities for charter schools that meet certain conditions; requirements for performance audit; exemption from annual performance audit; quarterly financial report.
- [NRS 388A.408](#) Solicitation or acceptance of gifts or money from charter school by member of board of trustees or employee of school district prohibited; exception; penalty.
- [NRS 388A.411](#) Count of pupils for apportionment; deposit of money; solicitation and acceptance of donations and grants.
- [NRS 388A.414](#) Payment of quarterly sponsorship fee to sponsor; request by charter school for reduction in amount of sponsorship fee.
- [NRS 388A.417](#) Distribution of money to charter school in first year of operation; payment of remaining apportionments upon cessation of operation.
- [NRS 388A.420](#) Orders for payment of money; limitations.
- [NRS 388A.423](#) Bankruptcy: Disposition of property; immunity of State and sponsor from liability.

ACCOUNT FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

- [NRS 388A.432](#) Creation; investment; credit of interest and income; deposit of money; payment of claims; acceptance of gifts and grants.
- [NRS 388A.435](#) Authorized uses of money in Account; limitation on amount of loans.
- [NRS 388A.438](#) Application for loan; requirements of contract for loan; regulations.

PUPILS

Enrollment

- [NRS 388A.450](#) School that is accepting applications, expanding enrollment or opening a new facility to provide notice about enrollment process to households located within certain distance from school; language used in notice; alternative plan to inform households for certain smaller schools; revision of timeline for notice.
- [NRS 388A.453](#) Application for admission; determination of enrollment; timeline for lottery; discrimination prohibited; exception for charter school that provides education for certain pupils.
- [NRS 388A.456](#) Priority enrollment for certain children; timeline for lottery; school districts required to create, maintain and post list regarding enrollment.
- [NRS 388A.459](#) Weighted lottery for enrollment authorized in certain counties to improve diversity; certain counties with high enrollment in charter schools to establish uniform enrollment calendar and process for enrolling pupils.
- [NRS 388A.462](#) Prohibition on charter school sponsored by school district enrolling pupils outside district in program of distance education.

Participation in Other Schools

- [NRS 388A.471](#) Participation in class or extracurricular activity by pupil enrolled in another school or homeschooled child.
- [NRS 388A.474](#) Board of trustees required to allow pupil to participate in class or activity of school district in which pupil resides in certain circumstances; revocation of approval.
- [NRS 388A.478](#) Transfer of credit to other public school.

Academics

- [NRS 388A.487](#) Adoption of rules for providing intervention services and intensive instruction; annual report concerning intervention services and intensive instruction.

- [NRS 388A.489](#) Identification of and development of plan for homeless and unaccompanied pupils and pupils in foster care.
- [NRS 388A.490](#) Issuance of high school diploma; approval of form for diploma by Department.

Rules of Behavior

- [NRS 388A.495](#) Adoption and distribution of rules of behavior and punishments; procedure for suspension or expulsion of pupils; adoption of rules for truancy.

PERSONNEL

Qualifications and Requirements

- [NRS 388A.500](#) Definitions.
- [NRS 388A.505](#) “Unsupervised contact” defined.
- [NRS 388A.510](#) “Volunteer” defined.
- [NRS 388A.515](#) Fingerprinting and investigation into the background of nonlicensed applicants for employment, employees and volunteers; use of certain information; disqualification of certain applicants, employees and volunteers; acceptance of gifts, grants and donations; immunity from liability.
- [NRS 388A.516](#) Conditions under which volunteer not required to submit fingerprints.
- [NRS 388A.518](#) Employment of teachers with certain qualifications required for certain instruction; qualifications of teachers who teach special education or English as second language.
- [NRS 388A.521](#) Qualifications and employment of administrators; limitation on salaries of administrators.
- [NRS 388A.524](#) Prohibition against employing person whose license has been suspended or revoked; submission of information concerning licensed employees to Department.
- [NRS 388A.527](#) Certain paraprofessionals required to possess qualifications prescribed by State Public Charter School Authority.

Employment with Charter School

- [NRS 388A.530](#) Leave of absence from school district to accept employment with charter school.
- [NRS 388A.533](#) Employees deemed to be public employees; terms and conditions of employment; transfer of employment records with school district to governing body.

Response to Criminal Cases Involving Unlicensed Teachers and Administrators

- [NRS 388A.5332](#) “Arrest” defined.
- [NRS 388A.5334](#) Adoption of regulations to establish procedure for notification, tracking and monitoring the status of criminal cases; maintenance of file on employee; fees for tracking and monitoring status of case.
- [NRS 388A.5336](#) Adoption of policy by governing body requiring unlicensed employees to report arrests for or convictions of a crime; contents of policy.
- [NRS 388A.5338](#) Timely submission of information by charter school.
- [NRS 388A.5340](#) Immunity from liability for certain persons involved in making report, conducting investigation or submitting information concerning arrest.
- [NRS 388A.5342](#) Termination of employment upon conviction of certain crimes.

Return to Employment at Other Public School

- [NRS 388A.535](#) Reassignment of licensed employees within school district upon termination of charter contract or cessation of operation; exceptions.
- [NRS 388A.538](#) Governing body required to transmit employment record to school district upon request of board of trustees; investigation into misconduct during leave of absence.

Benefits

- [NRS 388A.541](#) Eligibility for benefits of licensed employee on leave of absence; time on leave of absence does not count toward permanent status.
- [NRS 388A.544](#) Determination of appropriate level of contribution toward retirement benefits; participation in plan of group insurance.

Miscellaneous Provisions

- [NRS 388A.547](#) Charter school required to designate employee authorized to administer auto-injectable epinephrine or opioid antagonist; training for proper storage and administration.

CHARTER SCHOOL FINANCING LAW

General Provisions

- [NRS 388A.550](#) Short title.
- [NRS 388A.555](#) Definitions.
- [NRS 388A.560](#) “Bond” and “revenue bond” defined.
- [NRS 388A.565](#) “Cost of the project” defined.
- [NRS 388A.570](#) “Director of the Department of Business and Industry” defined.
- [NRS 388A.575](#) “Expense of operation and maintenance” defined.
- [NRS 388A.580](#) “Finance” and “financing” defined.
- [NRS 388A.585](#) “Financing agreement” defined.
- [NRS 388A.590](#) “Mortgage” defined.
- [NRS 388A.595](#) “Obligor” defined.
- [NRS 388A.600](#) “Project” defined.
- [NRS 388A.605](#) “Revenues” defined.
- [NRS 388A.620](#) Declaration of legislative intent.
- [NRS 388A.625](#) Limitation of actions.
- [NRS 388A.630](#) Faith of State pledged against repeal, amendment or modification of [NRS 388A.550](#) to [388A.695](#), inclusive.
- [NRS 388A.635](#) Sufficiency of [NRS 388A.550](#) to [388A.695](#), inclusive; construction.
- [NRS 388A.640](#) Regulations.

Prerequisites to Financing Project

- [NRS 388A.650](#) Findings of Director of Department of Business and Industry; approval of findings by State Board of Finance.

- [NRS 388A.655](#) Additional considerations by Director of Department of Business and Industry and State Board of Finance; regulations of Director of Department of Business and Industry.
- [NRS 388A.660](#) Limitation on amount and purpose of financing; establishment of and compliance with guidelines for financing project.

Bonds

- [NRS 388A.670](#) Special obligations of State.
- [NRS 388A.675](#) Form and terms; sale; employment of financial and legal consultants authorized as incidental expense to project.
- [NRS 388A.680](#) Security.
- [NRS 388A.685](#) Refunding.
- [NRS 388A.690](#) Exemption from taxation; exceptions.
- [NRS 388A.695](#) General power of Director of Department of Business and Industry to issue bonds.

CHARTER SCHOOLS FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION

- [NRS 388A.700](#) Definitions.
- [NRS 388A.705](#) “Charter school for distance education” defined.
- [NRS 388A.710](#) “Course of distance education” defined.
- [NRS 388A.715](#) “Distance education” defined.
- [NRS 388A.720](#) “Program of distance education” defined.
- [NRS 388A.725](#) Application to operate; authorization; standard charter contract; contents.
- [NRS 388A.730](#) Consideration of information relating to pupil’s progress for purposes of collecting information on attendance, truancy and transiency of pupils.
- [NRS 388A.735](#) State Public Charter School Authority deemed local educational agency for schools sponsored by Authority; exception.
- [NRS 388A.740](#) Regulations.

Resources

You can also review the resources found on the [Charter Support Unit \(CSU\)](#) website. This resource contains helpful information on the following:

- Planning and Launching
- Boards and Governance
- School Operations
- Professional Development
- One-on-one Consultations
- Facilities Planning
- Board Governance Program

Application Help

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