

281—68.3(256F) Application to a school board. A local school board may accept applications from the principal, teachers, or parents or guardians of students at an existing public school for the planning and operation of a charter school within the boundary lines of an existing public school district. An application for a charter school must be approved by the local school board as a prerequisite for submission of the application to the state board. An applicant may appeal the local school board denial of the application to the state board under the procedures set forth in Iowa Code chapter 290.

1. Prior to accepting applications, a local school board shall adopt procedures, criteria, and weighting of the criteria that will determine whether an application is approved or denied. The local school board may adopt the procedures, criteria, and weighting of the criteria as established in this chapter for public charter schools. The procedures shall include a requirement that a majority of family units of the proposed charter school support the approval of the application. In addition, any application that has been submitted and for which subsequent school board action has been taken shall, at minimum, meet the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 256F. An application that is received by a school board on or before October 1 of a calendar year shall be considered for approval and for the establishment of a charter school at the beginning of the school district's next school year or at a time agreed to by the applicant and the local school board.

2. Subject to the provision in numbered paragraph "3," a local school board may receive and consider applications after October 1 at its discretion. A local school board, by majority vote, must approve or deny the application within 60 calendar days after the application is received. An application approved by the local school board and state board of education shall constitute, at a minimum, an agreement between the local school board and the charter school for the operation of the charter school for no less than four years.

3. All applications approved by school boards shall be submitted to the department no later than December 15 immediately preceding the school year for which the charter school desires to start operations.