



What's in your Charter? Bylaws? Contract?

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What is a “Charter”?

Discuss with your elbow partner



Definition:

a document, issued by a sovereign or state, outlining the Conditions under which a corporation, colony, city, or other corporate body is organized, and defining its rights and privileges.



Says who you are!

Charter School Law

Alaska Statutes 14.03.250 to 14.03.290

Links:

[DEED Charter School Information](#)

[AASB Charter School Academies](#)

Charter School Law

Let's take a look:

Sec 14.03.250 Application

(a) A local school board shall **prescribe an application procedure** for the establishment of a charter school in that school district. The application procedure must include provisions for an **academic policy committee** consisting of parents of students attending the school, teachers, and school employees and a proposed form for a contract between a charter school and the local school board, setting out the contract elements required under [AS 14.03.255\(c\)](#).



Charter School Law

Let's take a look:

Sec 14.03.255 Organization & Operation

- Operate within a local school district
- Exempt from district curriculum & instruction (this is your autonomy!)
- Operate under a contract with the district
 - 14 requirements within the contract

Contract requirements:

(c) A charter school shall operate under a contract between the charter school and the local school board. A contract must contain the following provisions:

- (1) a description of the educational program;
- (2) specific levels of achievement for the education program;
- (3) admission policies and procedures;
- (4) administrative policies;
- (5) a statement of the charter school's funding allocation from the local school board and costs assignable to the charter school program budget;
- (6) the method by which the charter school will account for receipts and expenditures;
- (7) the location and description of the facility;

Contract requirements:

- (8) the name of the teacher, or teachers, who, by agreement between the charter school and the teacher, will teach in the charter school;
- (9) the teacher-to-student ratio;
- (10) the number of students served;
- (11) the term of the contract, not to exceed a term of 10 years;
- (12) a termination clause providing that the contract may be terminated by the local school board for the failure of the charter school to meet educational achievement goals or fiscal management standards, or for other good cause;
- (13) a statement that the charter school will comply with all state and federal requirements for receipt and use of public money;
- (14) other requirements or exemptions agreed upon by the charter school and the local school board.

Charter School Law

Let's take a look:

Other important sections:

- 14.03.265 Funding
- 14.03.265 Admission
- 14.03.270 Teacher or employee transfers, evaluations, and negotiated agreements.
- 14.03.275 Contract; Duration
(not more than 10 yrs. durations)



What are “bylaws”?

Discuss with your elbow partner



Definition:

a standing rule governing the regulation of a corporation or society's internal affairs. .



How we will do it

Bylaws

Let's take a look at the elements:

- Who, where, when
- Defines the APC & composition
- **Definition of a “Quorum”**
 - Implications for compliance with OMA (***Open Meetings Act***)
- Elections & terms



Bylaws

- Powers & duties
- Regular & special meetings
 - Executive sessions (OMA)
- Notice (agenda – OMA)
- Resignation or removal
- Rules of order (Roberts Rules or other?)
- Conflicts



Bylaws

- Officers
- Administration
 - Selection
 - Description & expectations
 - Evaluation
- Committees
- Administrative policies



Bylaws

- Bylaw amendment procedure
- Miscellaneous
 - Fiscal year
 - contracts
 - Grants
 - Record keeping & storage
 - Accounting & budgeting



Are you familiar with your “contract”?

Discuss with your elbow partner



Your Contract

- Must include the 14 subjects previously presented
- When was yours last renewed?
- Have you reviewed it recently?
- Do you include it in your orientation of new APC members?
- Does your APC follow your contract? Are you accountable and transparent?

Good governance starts with knowing:

What's in your charter?

What's in your bylaws?

What's in your contract?

Questions?