

2010 Charter School Grant Applications

Guidance for Charter School Subgrantees

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
April 21, 2009



Purpose

The purpose of this session:

- Provide basic charter school information
- Review charter school grant guidelines

Overview

- Wisconsin Application to USDOE pending
- Grant Application Forms:
 - Planning
 - Initial Implementation
 - Implementation Renewal
 - Dissemination
 - Dissemination Renewal

What is a Charter School?

Charter School: A charter school is a tuition-free public school created on the basis of a contract or “charter” between the school and a local school board or other authorizer. A charter school has more freedom than a traditional public school in return for a commitment to meet higher standards of accountability. (NACSA, 2006)

Wisconsin State Statute s. 118.40

- Allows anyone to create a charter school;
- Specifies who can sponsor or authorize a charter school;
- Has no cap on the numbers that can be created;
- Specifies what must be included in a contract;
- Outlines what a charter school can and cannot do.

Wisconsin Charter School Law

- Under Wisconsin law, contracts/charters may be for any term not exceeding 5 school years.
- At the end of the term, the authorizer granting the charter may renew the charter school contract with the school's governance board.

Wisconsin Charter School Law

- Must be open to all students in the district – can not discriminate
- Must follow all federal and state health and safety requirements of public schools

Wisconsin Charter School Law

- May not require any pupil to enroll
- May not charge tuition
- May not be sectarian

Wisconsin Charter School Law

Charter schools are exempt from most state requirements, [ch.115-121 of Wis. Stats], however they **MUST** do the following:

- Participate in the state assessment system
- Complete the annual School Performance Report
- Count their students for membership in the LEA
- Complete membership counts in the Charter School (September and January)
- Require all teachers be licensed by the DPI

Autonomy for Accountability

- Charter schools are accountable to their authorizer to produce positive academic results
- Charter schools have increased autonomy in return for accountability.

Governance

- Autonomy and Independence means power to make decisions over budgets, personnel and policy
- Majority of Governance board must not be district staff or school board members
- No administrators on governance board

Governance

- Non-stock corporation—see Chapter 181 Wisconsin Statutes
- Formal board training
- Professional Development
- Fundraising

Lottery & Admissions

- What does it mean to admit students on the basis of a lottery, if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated?

See “Title V, Part B, Non-Regulatory Guidance (part C)” on DPI Charter Schools website

Is this a school or a program?

- Does the charter school provide the student's primary, elementary or secondary education?
- Avoid “school-within-a school” language
 - If sharing site, is the charter school physically separated from the traditional school?
- Students must be reported as enrolled in the charter school-September and January

Is this a school or a program?

- Are students taking their core courses in the charter school?
- Are there full time staff teaching in the school?
- Do you have a charter school website?

Wisconsin Charter School Grant Program

- Federal Requirements
- State Application Process



Available Wisconsin Grants

Start up Funds:

Federal rules require 3-year continuous relationship

- Planning Grant (12-18 months)
- Implementation Grant Year 1 (12 months)
- Implementation Grant Year 2 (6-12 months)

Continuous Relationship

If you request **planning** funds in 2010, you **must** open the charter school by the second semester of the 2011-12 school year.

If you do **not** open the school by that time, you will break your “*continuous contract*” and therefore **forfeit** your right to future federal charter school funds.

Elementary Charter Schools (K4 through 5th Grade)

Student Enrollment	Grant Amount Per Year	Three Year Total
>300 Students	\$ 250,000/year	\$ 750,000
100-300 Students	\$ 200,000/year	\$ 600,000
<100 Students	\$ 150,000/year	\$ 450,000

Secondary Charter Schools (6th through 12th Grades)

Student Enrollment	Grant Amount Per Year	Three Year Total
>300 Students	\$ 300,000/year	\$ 900,000
100-300 Students	\$ 225,000/year	\$ 675,000
<100 Students	\$ 175,000/year	\$ 525,000

Secondary Charter Schools SIFI and Economically Disadvantaged (6th through 12th Grades)

Student Enrollment	Grant Amount Per year	Three Year Total
>300 Students	\$ 325,000/year	\$ 975,000
100-300 Students	\$ 250,000/year	\$ 750,000
<100 Students	\$ 200,000/year	\$ 600,000

Planning Grant– Allowable Expenses

- Professional development of teachers or other staff
- Orientation and training of planning team members
- Consultation fees
- Extended teacher contracts – for the purposes of planning

Planning expenses (continued)

- Acquiring necessary educational materials for staff development
- Related costs for charter school site visits including reasonable mileage, meals and lodging
- Salaries for substitutes to cover teachers while conducting planning activities
- Attorneys fees limited to \$5000

Planning – Expenses Not Allowed

Any operational costs such as:

- Rent or Facility Leases
- Construction
- Purchase of vehicles
- No salary for staff who are grant writers, coordinators, accountants, or counselors
- No honorariums for community or planning team members or students

Implementation Grant

Allowable expenses

- Staff development and training
- Equipment for school including computers, desks, chairs, tables, lockers, etc.
- Curriculum materials, books
- Reasonable travel expenses for conferences

Implementation-Allowable expenses

- Minor renovations to bring facility up to health and safety codes
- Refrigerator/stove for food service
- Extended contracts for curriculum writing/program development
- Attorneys fees limited to \$5000

Implementation Grants Expenses not Allowed

Any operational costs such as:

- Salaries (instruction)
- Rent or Leases
- Field Trips
- Construction
- Purchase of vehicles
- Roof repairs, boilers
- Fees for accounting, administration or grant writing

Key Provisions in Applications

- Charter school goals
- Key competencies for administrator and teachers
- 4 year professional development plan

Key Provisions in Applications

- 5 year budget projections –See 2009-10 Charter School Budget Worksheets on DPI Charter Schools website
- Pre/post testing requirement
- Governance and autonomy

Dissemination Grant Program



Eligibility

- The charter school must have been in operation for at least 3 consecutive years.
- The school must demonstrate overall success including substantial progress in improving student achievement.

Eligibility

- The school must document high levels of parental satisfaction.
- The school must describe the management and the leadership necessary to overcome initial start-up problems.

Dissemination Grant Guidelines

- Funds must be used to provide a **service** and/or for the development and dissemination of a **product** designed to improve student performance in other public schools, including charter schools.
- Cannot be used to operate a school.

Dissemination Grant Guidelines

- Encourage collaboration between schools with similar models
- Cost recovery for:
 - Substitutes
 - Travel/lodging
 - Training programs delivered
 - Coaching expenses etc.

Dissemination Grants

- Dissemination: \$125,000

Dissemination Renewal: \$125,000

Application Forms

- Planning, Initial Implementation, Implementation Renewal, Dissemination and Dissemination Renewal grant applications available on DPI charter schools website at www.dpi.wi.gov/sms/csindex.html
- New application forms for 2010-11 will be available in December, 2009
- Projected deadline is April 15, 2010

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