

S T A T U T O R Y R E P O R T

2006-2007

CHARTER SCHOOLS

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
ELIZABETH BURMASTER, STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Statutory Report Series

Legislative Report on Charter Schools

2006-2007

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Executive Summary

This report offers a summary of charter school activity in the 425 Wisconsin school districts during the 2006-2007 school year. The purpose of this report is to identify and describe the actions taken on new charter school petitions or proposals. The data is based upon an electronic survey administered by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), document review, and follow up contacts with local school district officials. As stated in § 115.28 (49), Wis. Stats., the department is required to submit this report to the Legislature in the manner provided under § 13.172 (2), Wis. Stats., regarding the status of existing charter schools, the number of petitions for new charter schools, and school board as well as departmental action taken on petitions for new charter schools.

An electronic survey was administered to the 425 Wisconsin public school districts. Using a mixed mode methodology that included an online survey, e-mails, letters and phone calls, a 100 percent response rate was achieved. Document review included federal charter school grant applications and annual charter school publications. Additionally, follow-up phone calls were made to districts that submitted federal charter school grant applications or who were identified as members of a consortium on grant applications submitted to the DPI and not reported on the electronic survey.

For the purposes of this report, two distinct levels of decision-making were documented. A first-level decision is defined as a concept approval or participation in a consortium whereby a school board supported further study of the charter school concept (of a proposed charter school) or a school board clerk and district administrator provided a signature on a charter school planning grant application submitted to the department for the purposes of seeking federal grant funds to develop a new charter school. A second-level decision is defined as a decision to issue a charter, provide a signature on an agreement to participate in a multi-district charter school, or a school board official signature on an implementation grant to seek federal charter school start up funds from the department.

During the 2006-2007 school year, there were 112 *first level* charter school decisions made by 66 school boards statewide and 92 *second level* charter school decisions made by 58 school boards statewide. One hundred of 112 (89.3 percent) proposals were approved at the level one decision, and twelve (9.3 percent) were denied. At the *level two* decision, 86 (93.5 percent) proposals were approved and 6 proposals (6.9 percent) were denied. Nine school districts reported a *second level* decision but not a *first level* decision, bringing the total number of districts reporting charter school activity between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 to 75 (17.6 percent) of Wisconsin's 425 public school districts.

This study shows that charter school planners sought petition approval and school boards approved proposals at the first and second levels in order to realize an alternative vision for schooling, serve special populations, and increase student achievement, among other reasons. The possibility of political ramifications, lack of district capacity to support a charter, and declining enrollment, among others, were cited as reasons for denial of petitions at the first and second level. The denial or limitation of federal charter school grant funds—which cannot be used for salaries, facility leasing, or student transportation—contributes to the lack

of charter school development at the first-level decision. Charter School Program funds are intended to provide seed money for charter school development as opposed to ongoing funds to cover expenses such as staffing, pupil services or building costs.

Introduction

The Wisconsin Charter School Program was established in 1993 to provide educational alternatives for students in kindergarten through grade twelve. The initial law permitted 10 school districts to establish up to two charter schools each and created a ceiling of 20 schools statewide. Thirteen charter schools were created under this early law. In 1995, revisions to the charter school law gave chartering authority to all school boards statewide and eliminated the cap on the total number of charter schools that could be created in the state. In 1997, the state legislature gave chartering authority in Milwaukee to the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM), to the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), and to the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee. In 2005 Wisconsin Act 11, the 2001-2003 budget bill, gave limited chartering authority to the University of Wisconsin-Parkside to create a charter school for no more than 480 children.

During the 2006-2007 school year there were 175 charter schools authorized by 78 Wisconsin school boards and 15 charter schools authorized by non-school board sponsors for a total of *190* operating charter schools. A report published in 2003 evaluating the role and processes of authorizers in 24 states gave Wisconsin above average scores for every criterion used to evaluate the charter approval process (Palmer, Gau, & Shekerjian, 2003). Respondents in this study described the approval process in Wisconsin to be nonpolitical and focused on application quality. Application procedures were noted as varying from district to district, with some but not all having formal application processes.

While there are multiple authorizers in the state of Wisconsin, the data in this report specifically addresses local school board action and does not include activity or action taken on new charter school petitions or proposals by non-school board sponsors.

In 2005, the DPI applied for and was awarded a three-year, \$52 million federal grant by the United States Department of Education (USDE) to support planning and start up of new charter schools and the dissemination of best practices to increase student achievement in charter schools. The state charter plan submitted to the USDE by the DPI projected 100 new charter schools by the 2007-2008 school year.

Charter Schools in Wisconsin and Other States

Charter schools, as defined by the United States Department of Education are a form of public school choice providing increased innovative educational options for parents and students. At the federal level, significant funding has been allocated to promote charter schools and to encourage states to enact charter school legislation. The 2006 appropriation for the USDE Public Charter Schools Program was over \$214 million. As of the 2006-2007 school year, 40 states, and the District of Columbia have signed charter school legislation into law and have operating charter schools. The first charter school law in the country was created in Minnesota in 1991 and the country's first charter school opened in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area in 1992. Ten years later, in the 2000-2001 school year, there were over 1,700 charter schools operating, serving approximately 430,000 school children (Hill et al., 2001). As of the 2006-2007 school year there were approximately 4,000 charter schools in operation across the nation serving over one million students, representing 4 percent of all public schools and 2 percent of all students attending public schools (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, 2006).

Wisconsin's charter law was conceived in 1993. The first charter school in Wisconsin was authorized by the Stevens Point Area School Board in 1994. During the 2006-2007 school year, there were 190 operating charter schools in Wisconsin ranking Wisconsin among the top ten states with the most number of operating charter schools among the 40 states with operating charter schools. Table 1 presents the top ten states in the country with the largest number of operating charter schools.

■ Table 1

States with the Most Charter Schools in 2006-2007 compared to 2005-2006 School Year

State	Number of Charters	
	2005-2006	2006-2007
California	574	618
Arizona	466	464
Florida	333	356
Texas	237	207
Michigan	226	229
Ohio	297	315
Wisconsin	183	190
Pennsylvania	117	119
Minnesota	124	131
North Carolina	97	93

Sources: National Charter School Research Project, January 2008. Wisconsin numbers obtained from the Department of Public Instruction.

Federal charter school planning and implementation start-up funds awarded to the DPI by the USDE are disseminated through the Wisconsin Charter School Program to support the development of successful charter schools. While charter school grant funds may influence and encourage the development of charter schools, chartering a new school at the local level is a separate and distinct activity from applying for charter school grant funds. Chartering requires communication and decision making between the operator of the charter school and

the local school administration and school board. There are two approaches to developing a charter school at the local level: petitions and proposals, each is discussed below.

Two Methods to Create a Charter School: Petitions and Proposals

Charter School Petition

A written petition requesting the school board to establish a charter school must be filed with the school district clerk. A petition must be signed by at least 10 percent of the teachers employed by the school district or by at least 50 percent of the teachers employed at one school of the school district. By law, a petition includes all of the following:

1. The name of the person who is seeking to establish the charter school.
2. The name of the person who will be in charge of the charter school and the manner in which administrative services will be provided.
3. A description of the educational program of the school.
4. The methods the school will use to enable pupils to attain the educational goals under § 118.01, Wis. Stats.
5. The method by which pupil progress in attaining the educational goals under § 118.01, Wis. Stats. will be measured.
6. The governance structure of the school - including the method to be followed by the school to ensure parental involvement.
7. Subject to sub. (7) (a) and (am) and §118.19 (1), Wis. Stats. and §121.02 (1) (a) 2., Wis. Stats., the qualifications that must be met by the individuals to be employed in the school.
8. The procedures that the school will follow to ensure the health and safety of the pupils.
9. The means by which the school will achieve a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils that is reflective of the school district population.
10. The requirements for admission to the school.
11. The manner in which annual audits of the financial and programmatic operations of the school will be performed.
12. The procedures for disciplining pupils.
13. The public school alternatives for pupils who reside in the school district and do not wish to attend or are not admitted to the charter school.
14. A description of the school facilities and the types and limits of the liability insurance that the school will carry.
15. The effect of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the school district.

To assist planners and authorizers, the DPI has established a contract benchmark sheet for guidance purposes that outlines required and suggested items for inclusion in a charter school contract (see Appendix A).

A petition is a culmination of collaborative effort between local groups, usually including teachers, administrators, parents, community members, universities or technical colleges, Cooperative Educational Service Agencies, students, and not-for-profit or for-profit businesses or agencies. Planning requires an understanding of state and federal law as it relates to education, local needs and educational options.

Public Hearing or Granting of Petition

A school board must hold a public hearing within 30 days after receiving a charter school petition. At the hearing, the school board, as part of the review process, considers the level of employee and parental support for the establishment of the charter school described in the petition and the fiscal impact of the establishment of the charter school on the school district. After the hearing, the school board may grant or deny the petition.

A school board may grant a petition that would result in the conversion of all of the public schools in the school district to charter schools if all of the following apply:

1. At least 50 percent of the teachers employed by the school district sign the petition.
2. The school board provides alternative public school attendance arrangements for pupils who do not wish to attend or are not admitted to a charter school.

In Milwaukee, if a school board denies a petition, the person seeking to establish the charter school may, within 30 days after receiving the denial, appeal the denial to the DPI. The department shall issue a decision within 30 days after receiving the appeal. The DPI's decision is final, and by statute is not subject to judicial review.

Charter School Proposal

School Board Initiative or Charter School Proposal

A school board may on its own initiative contract with a person to operate a charter school. The contract must include all of the 16 provisions required in a petition and may include other provisions as agreed to by all parties. Planning requires an understanding of state and federal law as it relates to education and an awareness of local needs and educational options.

Public Hearing on Granting of Proposal to Convert a Private School or Establish a Non-Instrumentality

At least 30 days before entering into a contract that would convert a private school to a charter school or that would establish a charter school that is not an instrumentality of the school district, the school board shall hold a public hearing on the contract. At the hearing, the school board shall consider the level of employee and parental support for the establishment of the charter school and the fiscal impact of the establishment of the charter school on the school district.

A school board may not enter into a contract that would result in the conversion of all of the public schools in the school district to charter schools *unless* the school board provides alternative public school attendance arrangements for pupils who do not wish to attend or are not admitted to a charter school.

Notice

Whenever a school board intends to establish a charter school, §118.40 (1), Wis. Stats., requires notification of the State Superintendent of its intention. A notice must include a description of the proposed school. A charter school contract, submitted to the department and which must include sixteen items according to §118.40, Wis. Stats., satisfies this required notification.

A contract between a school board and a charter school operator may be for any term not exceeding five school years and may be renewed for one or more terms not exceeding five school years. The contract must specify the amount to be paid to the charter school during each school year of the contract. The contract often includes reasons and procedures for revocation or renewal.

Wisconsin Charter Schools

Wisconsin's charter schools are intended to encourage innovation in school organization and instruction. Charter schools are accountable in three major areas: 1) student achievement, 2) fiscal management, 3) teacher licensure and 4) adherence to their contracts and the charter school law. Charter schools in Wisconsin are exempt from most state requirements regarding public education but are not exempt from federal laws governing regular or special education or civil rights policies, nor are they exempt from local school board policies unless negotiated and documented in the charter contract. Charter school developers are free to be creative in setting up independent governance and administrative structures.

Under federal law, charter schools cannot charge tuition and must be equally accessible to all students in the school district. Preference in admission must be given to students living within the attendance area of an existing school that is converted to a charter school. Further, if more students apply for admission to charter schools than can be accommodated, students are admitted on the basis of a single lottery.

Charter schools may not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Specific information regarding special education may be found at the web address: <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/dlsea>.

Attendance at a charter school must be voluntary. Additionally, the district must provide alternative public education for pupils who do not wish to attend the charter school or who are not admitted to the charter school. The charter school contract must clearly describe how the school will achieve a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils and how the population of a charter school reflects the racial and ethnic balance in the school district as a whole. Table 2 is a breakdown of the Wisconsin charter school population compared to statewide data.

Independent (2r) Charter Schools in Wisconsin

In 1997, the state gave chartering authority in Milwaukee to the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UW-Milwaukee), to the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), and to the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee. In 2005 Wisconsin Act 11, the 2001-2003 budget bill, gave limited chartering authority to the University of Wisconsin-Parkside to create a charter school for no more than 480 students. These chartering entities are often referred to as independent (2r) authorizers because §118.40 (2r) is the statute that refers to these entities.

In 2006, the law was changed to allow school boards or independent (2r) authorizers to enter into contracts for the establishment of a charter school that enrolls only one sex or that provides one or more courses that enroll only one sex if the school board or independent (2r)

authorizer makes available to the opposite sex, under the same policies and criteria of admission, schools or courses that are comparable to each such school or course.

During the 2006-2007 school year there was a total of 15 independent (2r) charter schools in operation in the State of Wisconsin. Below is a list of these schools and their authorizers.

<u>Authorizer</u>	<u>School</u>
City of Milwaukee	Academy of Learning and Leadership
City of Milwaukee	Central City Cyberschool
City of Milwaukee	Darrell Lynn Hines Academy
City of Milwaukee	Downtown Montessori Academy
City of Milwaukee	Maasai Institute
UW-Milwaukee	Capitol West Academy
UW-Milwaukee	Inland Seas School of Expeditionary Learning
UW-Milwaukee	Milwaukee Academy of Science
UW-Milwaukee	Milwaukee College Preparatory School
UW-Milwaukee	School for Early Development & Achievement
UW-Milwaukee	Tenor High School
UW-Milwaukee	YMCA Young Leaders Academy
UW-Milwaukee	Urban League Academy
UW-Milwaukee	Woodlands School
UW-Parkside	21 st Century Preparatory School

■ Table 2

Charter School Population by School Year

	2005-2006		2006-2007	
	Charter	State	Charter	State
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.5%	3.6%	5.1%	3.6%
Black, not Hispanic	36.9%	10.5%	33.7%	10.5%
Hispanic	14.7%	6.7%	15.3%	7.2%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	1.0%	1.5%	1.0%	1.5%
White, not Hispanic	42.9%	77.8%	44.9%	77.3%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, PEDE07 – Public Enrollment by District by Ethnicity 07

Table 3 shows the growth of Wisconsin charter schools from fall of 1994 to fall of 2006. In the fall of 2006 there were 190 operating charter schools in Wisconsin. The net increase of 7 charter schools between the falls of 2005 and 2006 reflects the addition of 18 new charter schools, and the closing of 11 charter schools. The department publishes an annual charter school yearbook that includes a history of the Wisconsin charter school law, charter licensing requirements, and a description of each operating charter school in the state. This and other related information can be found on the charter school website at:

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/csindex.html> .

■ Table 3

Charter School Growth in Wisconsin

Year	Number of Charter Schools	% Increase
1994-1995	1	-
1995-1996	8	700%
1996-1997	13	63%
1997-1998	18	38%
1998-1999	40	122%
1999-2000	63	58%
2000-2001	86	37%
2001-2002	109	27%
2002-2003	129	18%
2003-2004	134	4%
2004-2005	161	20%
2005-2006	183	14%
2006-2007	190	4%

This section reviewed the procedures for developing a charter school using two approaches, a petition or a proposal. The next section will provide an overview of petition and proposal activity in school districts and action taken by school districts and the department. For the purposes of this report, subsequent sections may use the terms ‘proposal’ and ‘petition’ interchangeably.

Survey Results

The department contacted all 425 school district superintendents by email with an introductory letter from the State Superintendent (see Appendix B). The information contained within this report reflects petition or proposal activity during the 2006-2007 school year collected from 425 school districts (100 percent) via an electronic online survey (see Appendix C). Where inconsistencies were noted between survey data and grant documentation, follow-up contacts were made. The results are a compilation from all data sources.

Questions one through three identified the district, district code and name and title of the person completing the survey. Questions four through fifteen dealt with substantive issues related to charter school creation and question sixteen was space provided for open comments about charter schools generally or comments specifically about the Wisconsin Charter School Program.

All of the 425 survey respondents indicated their position within the district. Within these responses, 372 (87.5 percent) indicated their title as being district administrator, district superintendent or assistant superintendent; 15 (3.5 percent) indicated their title as being director of learning, director of student achievement, director of student services, director of pupil services or director of instructional services; 12 (2.8 percent) indicated their position as charter school director or program manager, school principal or assistant principal; 16 (3.8 percent) indicated their position as assistant to the superintendent, administrative assistant or district secretary and the remaining 10 (2.4 percent) held positions such as director of business services, bookkeeper, supervisor of fine arts, librarian and others.

Figure 1 provides a breakdown by CESA of new charter school petitions filed during the 2006-2007 school year compared to those filed in 2005-2006. The number of new petitions increased in CESAs 4, 5, 10 and 12. CESAs 10 and 12 show the most notable increase with a total of 16 and 12 new petitions filed in 2006-2007 compared to only 10 and 5 filed in 2005-2006.

■ Figure 1

Number of New Petitions and Proposals in each CESA in the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 School Years

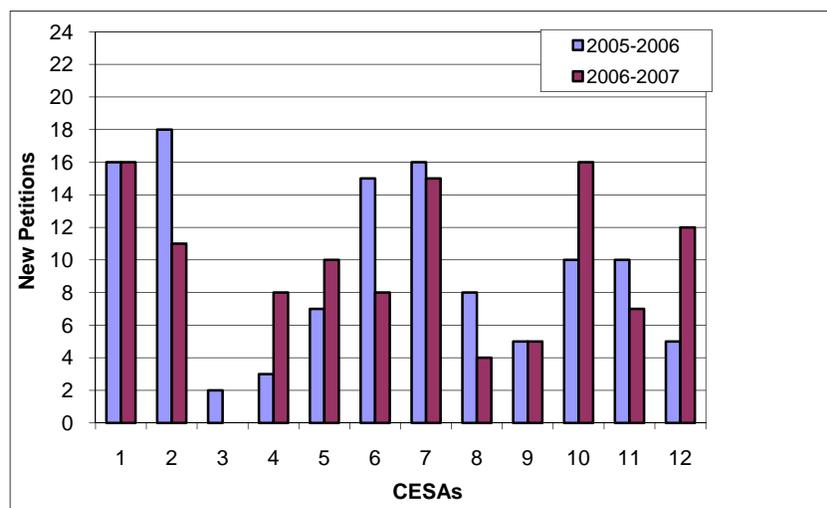
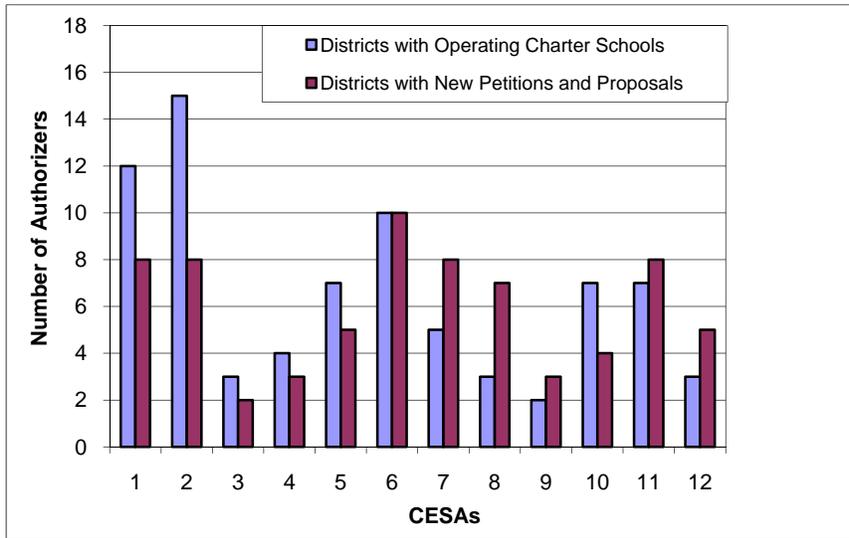


Figure 2 displays the comparison of districts in 2006-2007 with operating charter schools to the number of districts with new petitions. Thirty-nine (59 percent) of the 66 districts with new petitions in 2006-2007 were first time authorizers.

■ Figure 2

Comparison by CESA of existing authorizers to authorizers in 2006-2007



First Level Decisions

Questions 4-8

District administrators were asked to report on the number of first level decisions approved and the number of first level decisions denied. Between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, 66 (15.5 percent) of 425 school districts in the state of Wisconsin reported a total of 112 petitions or proposals filed with their school board. Respondents reported that at the first level, 100 (89.2 percent) proposals filed were approved. Districts reporting approval of a petition or proposal on the electronic survey provided a rationale for the action taken.

■ Table 4

Reasons for Approval of First Level Decisions

Reason	Number (n=100)	Percentage
Realizes an alternative vision for schooling	52	52%
Increases student achievement	49	49%
Serves a special population	46	46%
Increases parent/community involvement	43	43%
Attracts students	41	41%
Participates in a charter school consortium	12	12%
Other	1	1%

Note: Districts could provide more than one reason for approval. Therefore, the total exceeds 100%.

In 2004 a Final Report entitled *Evaluation of the Public Charter Schools Program* was issued by the United States Department of Education. This report detailed the reasons authorizers sponsor charter schools. Three types of authorizers were surveyed for this report; local authorizers, state authorizers, and university authorizers. Local authorizers who participated in this national survey responded to survey questions on the basis of which factors they believed to be “very important” reasons to sponsor charter schools. The reason cited by 72 percent of local authorizers who participated in this national survey as being very important to sponsorship of a charter school was to “create competition in the school system” (Finnigan et. al, 2004). The reason most cited by Wisconsin school boards in 2006-2007 for approving new petitions was “realizes an alternative vision for schooling” (52 percent). Similarly, a large percentage (48 percent) of local authorizers participating in the USDE evaluation survey cited “create alternatives for students and parents” as a very important reason to sponsor a charter school (Finnigan et. al, 2004).

Wisconsin school board authorizers cite “serves a special population” more frequently than local authorizers participating in the USDE evaluation survey, 46 percent compared to 20 percent. Forty-six percent of local authorizers in the USDE survey cited “keeping students in the public school system” as a very important reason to sponsor charters whereas 41 percent of Wisconsin school boards in 2006-2007 cite “attracts students” as a reason for approving new petitions (Finnigan et. al, 2004). A significant amount of districts in Wisconsin (43 percent) cited “increases parent/community involvement” as a reason for approving new petitions. This item was not included in the USDE survey so it is unknown how important increasing parent and community involvement rates with those local authorizers who participated in the national survey.

One survey respondent indicated “other” to explain reasons for approval of the first level decision. The additional reason provided indicated that the availability of a prime location for the charter school impacted the decision of the district to approve the charter proposal. Twelve districts reported a denial of a first level decision. Among the reasons for denial were declining enrollment, financial constraints, and “other” responses which included personnel changes, lack of planning and denial of start-up funds.

■ Table 5

Reasons for Denial of First Level Decisions

Reason	Number (n=12)	Percentage
Declining enrollment	1	8%
Financial reasons	5	42%
Program not unique or innovative	0	0%
Lack of teacher, parent or community support	0	0%
Liability of district	0	0%
Withdrew from multi-district consortium	0	0%
Other	6	50%

Note: Districts could provide more than one reason for approval and, therefore, the total percentage exceeds 100.

Second Level Decisions

Questions 9-13

Survey respondents were asked to report on the number of second level decisions approved and the number of second level decisions denied. Between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, 58 (13.6 percent) of Wisconsin school districts reported making 92 second level decisions. Eighty-six decisions were approved at the second level and six were denied. Districts making second level decisions provided reasons for the approval and denial of the proposals.

■ Table 6

Reasons for Approval of Second Level Decisions

Reason	Number (n=86)	Percentage
Realizes alternative vision for schooling	47	55%
Increases student achievement	42	48%
Serves a special population	41	47%
Attracts students	38	44%
Increases parent/community involvement	34	39%
Participates in a charter school consortium	12	14%
Other	0	0%

Note: Districts could provide more than one reason for approval and, therefore, the total percentage exceeds 100.

The reasons respondents provided for approving second level decisions are consistent with the reasons provided for approving first level decisions. “Realizes an alternative vision for schooling” was cited most frequently as a reason for approving a second level decision. “Serves a special population” and “increases student achievement” were the second most frequently cited reasons for approval of second level decisions mirroring those most frequently cited at the first level decision. Six second-level decisions were denied. Survey respondents indicated reasons for denial of decisions at the second-level. These responses ranged from financial concerns, and lack of community support, to insufficient planning and low student enrollment.

Source of Petitions/Proposals

Question 14

Respondents were asked to indicate who initiated charter school concepts or proposals.

■ Table 7

Source of Charter School Concepts or Proposals

Source	Number (n=75)	Percentage
School Administration	41	54%
District Superintendent	32	42%
Teachers	32	42%
Parents	25	33%
CESA	7	9%
Community (not for profit)	17	22%
Business for profit	4	5%
Other	8	10%

Note: Districts could provide more than one source. Therefore, the total exceeds 100%.

Survey responses indicated that the majority of charter school concepts or proposals came from school administrators, teachers and district superintendents during the 2006-2007 reporting period with a significant number of petitions and proposals originating from parents and community members.

Planning Group Participants

Question 15

Respondents were asked to identify planning group members.

■ Table 8

Charter School Planning Group Members

Source	Number (n=75)	Percentage
School Administration	65	86%
Teachers	49	65%
Parents	63	84%
District Superintendent	52	69%
Community (not for profit)	12	16%
CESA	48	64%
Business for profit	18	24%
Other	0	0%

Note: Districts could provide more than one source. Therefore, the total exceeds 100%.

Survey results indicate that school administrators, parents and superintendents made up the majority of charter school planning groups during the 2006-2007 survey reporting period while teachers and CESA personnel were close behind.

Comments

Question 16

Question 16 of the electronic survey provided space for “Open Comments.” Seventy-nine comments were provided that covered topics such as the usefulness of charter schools, the successes of current charter schools, the need for more accountability and oversight of charter schools, the feasibility of creating financially sustainable charter schools, and many others. Nine districts identified that they are currently in the grant application process or will be applying for grants within the next year. Seventeen districts noted that they wish to begin exploring the idea of implementing a charter school sometime in the future. Twelve districts stated that they currently have charter schools and many districts attribute student success to the implementation of these schools. Fourteen districts expressed their support for charter schools stating that charter schools are a great way to expand educational options available to students and that they are crucial to maintaining quality in the ever changing educational environment in Wisconsin. Other districts also shared feelings about the charter school grant program. Five districts indicated that the size and needs of their district limit their ability to entertain the option of opening a charter school.

Seven districts expressed negative attitudes about charter schools and the Wisconsin Charter School Program. These responses varied in opinion. Two school districts discussed the grant application process and the drawbacks of extensively planning a school even though the implementation grant can be denied. One discussed the financial problems involved with virtual charter schools and one feels that charter schools need more monitoring to be held to high standards. These districts believe that money spent on charter schools should be used to enhance and improve education for all children not just the select few that choose to attend these schools.

Overall, Wisconsin school districts share mixed feelings about charter schools and the Wisconsin Charter School Program. Responses indicate the need for greater dissemination of information about the benefits of charters and the financial and instructional aspects of charter schools.

2006-2007 Charter School and Federal Grant Status

There were 190 operating charter schools in the 2006-2007 school year, 175 of which were authorized by 78 school districts. Of the remaining fifteen charter schools, five were authorized by the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, nine were authorized by University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and one was authorized by UW-Parkside.

A listing of charter proposals, type of federal charter school grant application submitted to the department, the status of the application as funded or not funded, and school status as of September 2007 are revealed below in Table 9.

■ Table 9

2006-2007 Action Taken by the Department of Public Instruction on Grant Applications submitted to the department and School Status as of September 2007

District and School Name	Grant Type	Date Signed by School Board	Funding Status	School Status as of 9/2007
Appleton-Appleton North Career Academy	Implementation I	9/28/06	Funded	Open 2007
Appleton-Appleton Public Montessori	Implementation II	9/26/06	Funded	Open 2006
Appleton-Appleton Fox River Academy	Implementation II	9/25/06	Funded	Open 2005
Appleton-Kaleidoscope Academy	Implementation I	5/29/07	Funded	Open 2007
Appleton-Stephen Foster Elementary Charter School	Implementation II	6/6/07	Funded	Open 2006
Augusta-Augusta Technical Charter School	Planning	5/29/07	Withdrawn	Did not open
Augusta-Wildlands Science Research Charter School	Implementation II	9/26/06	Funded	Open 2005
Baraboo-Baraboo Hills Elementary School	Implementation II	5/31/07	Withdrawn	Open 2006
Barron-Barron Area Montessori School	Implementation I	5/24/07	Funded	Open 2007
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine-R-New Trades	Planning	9/26/07	Funded	Planning
Beloit-Camelot Campus	Planning	9/29/06	Funded	Planning
Beloit-Roy Chapman Andrews Institute	Planning	5/24/07	Not Funded	Did not open
Beloit-Roy Chapman Andrews Academy	Implementation I	5/24/07	Funded	Open 2007
Beloit-Eclipse Center Charter School	Implementation I	5/30/07	Funded	Open 2007
Birchwood-Blue Hills Charter School	Planning	9/28/06	Not Funded	Did not open
Birchwood-Blue Hills Charter School	Planning	5/29/07	Withdrawn	Did not open
Black River Falls-Black River Alternative Green School	Planning	5/29/07	Withdrawn	Did not open
Blair-Taylor-Blair Taylor Charter School	Planning	9/27/06	Not Funded	Did not open
Butternut-Promethean Charter School	Implementation I	4/30/07	Funded	Open 2007
Campbellsport-Academy of Career and Technical Education	Planning	5/23/07	Not Funded	Did not open
Central-Westosha UHS-Central Charter Sch.	Implementation I	9/19/06	Funded	Open 2007
City of Milwaukee-Maasai Institute	Implementation II	9/30/06	Funded	Open 2005
Clinton-P.O.W.E.R.	Implementation I	5/21/07	Withdrawn	Did not open
Columbus-Discovery Charter School	Planning	10/2/06	Funded	Open 2007
Columbus-Discovery Charter School	Implementation I	6/21/07	Funded	Open 2007
Cumberland-Island City Research Academy	Implementation I	4/30/07	Funded	Open 2007
Erin-Erin School of Technology, Engineering and Design	Planning	5/22/07	Not Funded	Did not open
Erin-The Erin Charter School	Planning	9/25/06	Funded/Declined	Did not open
Evansville-JEDI Transitional Charter School	Planning	6/1/07	Not Funded	Did not open
Flambeau-Whitetail Academy Charter School	Implementation I	9/28/06	Funded	Open 2006
Glidden-Glidden Class AT Charter School	Implementation I	5/21/07	Funded	Open 2007
Green Bay-Green Bay Alternative High School	Planning	5/29/07	Withdrawn	Did not open
Green Lake-Green Lake Global and Environmental Learning Community	Planning	5/21/07	Funded	Planning
Hayward-Hayward Center for Individualized Learning	Implementation I	9/29/06	Not Funded	Open 2003
Holmen-Ventures Charter School	Planning	5/29/07	Funded	Planning
Janesville-CRES Academy	Planning	9/26/06	Funded	Planning
Janesville-Janesville Academy for International Studies	Implementation II	9/29/06	Funded	Open 2006
Janesville-Janesville Virtual Academy	Implementation I	5/22/07	Funded	Open 2007
Janesville-TAGOS Leadership Academy	Implementation I	6/1/07	Funded	Open 2007
Kenosha-Harborside Academy (Formerly-Expeditionary Learning High School)	Planning I	9/26/06	Funded	Open 2007
Kenosha-Harborside Academy	Implementation I	5/22/07	Funded	Open 2007
Kenosha-Kenosha eSchool	Implementation I	9/20/06	Funded	Open 2007
Kenosha-Kenosha eSchool	Implementation II	5/22/07	Funded	Open 2007
Kenosha-Technology Enhanced Curriculum	Implementation I	5/25/06	Funded	Open 2007
Kiel-Meeme LEADS Charter School	Implementation II	9/19/07	Funded	Open 2006
Kimberly-Caring Opportunities for Recovery	Implementation II	9/22/06	Funded	Open 2005

Education				
Ladysmith Hawkins-Health Care Academy	Planning	9/25/06	Funded	Open 2007
Ladysmith Hawkins-Health Care Academy	Implementation I	5/29/07	Funded	Open 2007
Ladysmith Hawkins-Virtual Interactive Academy for Learning	Planning	9/25/06	Not Funded	Did not open
Lena-LEARN	Implementation II	9/26/06	Funded	Open 2006
Manitowoc-Manitowoc County Comprehensive Charter School	Planning	9/13/06	Funded	Open 2007
Manitowoc-Manitowoc County Comprehensive Charter School	Implementation I	5/08/07	Funded	Open 2007
Manitowoc-McKinley Academy	Planning	9/26/06	Funded	Open 2007
Marshfield-Architecture, Construction & Engineering Academy	Planning	5/25/07	Funded	Planning
Marshfield-Marshfield Human Services Academy	Implementation II	5/25/07	Not Funded	Open 2006
Medford-Rural Virtual Academy	Implementation II	7/26/06	Funded	Open 2005
Mellen- Mellen Technology Charter School	Implementation I	5/24/07	Funded	Open 2007
Menasha-Chance II Charter School	Implementation II	9/28/06	Funded	Open 2005
Mercer-Mercer Environmental Tourism Charter School	Implementation I	5/22/07	Funded	Open 2007
Merrill-Merrill Adult Diploma Academy	Implementation I	5/24/07	Funded	Open 2007
Milwaukee-Carmen H.S. of Science and Technology	Implementation I	5/22/07	Funded	Open 2007
Milwaukee-Downtown Institute of Arts and Letters	Implementation II	5/29/07	Funded	Open 2006
Milwaukee-Foster and Williams H.S. of the Visual Arts	Planning	9/26/06	Funded	Open 2007
Milwaukee-Foster and Williams H.S. of the Visual Arts	Implementation I	5/22/07	Funded	Open 2007
Milwaukee-International Peace Academy	Planning	5/30/07	Funded	Planning
Milwaukee-James Madison Academic Campus	Planning	9/25/06	Funded	Open 2007
Milwaukee-James Madison Academic Campus	Implementation I	5/22/07	Funded	Open 2007
Milwaukee-Kosciuszko Middle Montessori	Implementation II	5/22/07	Funded	Open 2006
Milwaukee-Marshall Montessori IB High School	Implementation I	5/22/07	Funded	Open 2007
Milwaukee-Milwaukee Academy of Chinese Language	Planning	9/26/06	Funded	Open 2007
Milwaukee-Milwaukee Academy of Chinese Language	Implementation I	5/22/07	Funded	Open 2007
Milwaukee-Milwaukee Academy of Environmental Sciences	Planning	No Sig.	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
Milwaukee-Milwaukee African American Immersion High School	Implementation I	5/22/07	Funded	Open 2007
Milwaukee-Milwaukee Business High School	Planning	5/22/07	Not Funded	Planning
Milwaukee-Milwaukee Business High School	Planning	9/24/07	Funded	Planning
Milwaukee-S.H.A.R.E. Academy	Planning	3/2/07	Funded	Planning
Milwaukee-School for Urban Planning and Architecture	Planning	11/16/06	Funded	Open 2007
Milwaukee-School for Urban Planning and Architecture	Implementation I	5/22/07	Funded	Open 2007
Milwaukee-Where Opportunities Require Knowledge Institute	Implementation I	9/24/07	Not Funded	Open 2007
Monroe-Abraham Lincoln Accelerated Learning Academy	Implementation II	5/14/07	Withdrawn	Open 2004
Monroe-Monroe Virtual Charter Middle School	Implementation I	5/31/07	Not Funded	Open 2006
Neenah-Neenah 21 st Century Careers Charter School	Planning	5/15/07	Not Funded	Did not open
Nekoosa-Nekoosa Alternate Charter Middle School	Planning	6/1/07	Funded	Planning
New London-Greenway Environmental Education Charter School	Planning	4/30/07	Not Funded	Did not open
New London-School of Enterprise Marketing	Implementation I	4/26/07	Funded	Open 2007
New Richmond-NR4Kids Charter School	Implementation I	5/29/07	Withdrawn	Open 2007
Oak Creek Franklin-Early Learning Center	Implementation II	5/31/07	Not Funded	Open 2006

Oconto-Oconto Early Literacy Charter School	Implementation I	5/22/07	Funded	Open 2007
Oconto Falls-New Path Charter School	Implementation I	5/31/07	Funded	Open 2007
Osceola-Osceola Career Charter School	Implementation II	5/23/07	Withdrawn	Open 2006
Oshkosh-Franklin Key to Learning Charter School	Implementation I	5/9/07	Funded	Open 2007
Oshkosh-Jacob Shapiro Brain Based Instruction Laboratory School	Planning	9/28/06	Funded	Open 2007
Oshkosh-Jacob Shapiro Brain Based Instruction Laboratory School	Implementation I	5/23/07	Funded	Open 2007
Oshkosh-Merrill Elementary Healthy Living	Implementation II	5/9/07	Funded	Open 2006
Oshkosh-Ready for Learning Charter School	Implementation I	5/3/07	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
Rhinelander-Rhinelander Environmental Stewardship Academy	Implementation I	5/29/07	Funded	Open 2007
Ripon-Ripon Exploration and Application	Implementation II	5/8/07	Funded	Open 2006
Sauk Prairie-Merrimac Community Charter School	Implementation II	5/31/07	Funded	Open 2006
Sauk Prairie-WINGS Academy for Early Learning	Planning	10/2/06	Funded/Declined	Did not open
Sheboygan- A2 Charter School	Implementation I	5/30/07	Funded	Open 2007
Sheboygan-Elementary School of the Arts and Academics	Implementation I	5/30/07	Funded	Open 2007
Sheboygan-Face to Face with Learning Online Charter	Implementation I	5/30/07	Funded	Open 2007
Sheboygan-Lake Country Academy	Implementation I	5/31/07	Funded	Open 2007
Sheboygan-SUCCESS Academy Charter School	Implementation I	5/30/07	Funded	Open 2007
Sheboygan-Northeast Wisconsin Montessori	Planning	9/26/06	Funded	Open 2007
Sheboygan-Northeast Wisconsin Montessori	Implementation I	5/30/07	Funded	Open 2007
Sheboygan-Riverview Academy Charter School	Implementation II	10/2/06	Funded	Open 2005
Sheboygan-The Etude School	Implementation I	5/30/07	Funded	Open 2007
Sheboygan-Washington School for Comprehensive Literacy	Implementation I	9/26/06	Funded	Open 2006
Shorewood-New Horizons for Learning	Implementation II	9/12/06	Funded	Open 2005
Silver Lake-Rising Starts Early Learning School	Planning	6/1/07	Not Funded	Did not open
St. Croix Falls-River Valley Charter School	Planning	9/27/06	Not Funded	Did not open
Tigerton-Tigerton Virtual Charter School	Planning	5/30/07	Not Funded	Did not open
UW Milwaukee-Inland Seas School of Expeditionary Learning	Implementation II	1/11/07	Funded	Open 2006
UW Milwaukee-Milwaukee Renaissance Academy	Implementation I	5/16/07	Funded	Open 2007
UW Milwaukee-Seeds of Health Elementary	Planning	9/27/06	Funded	Open 2007
UW Milwaukee-Seeds of Health Elementary	Implementation I	5/15/07	Funded	Open 2007
Waukesha-Montessori School of Waukesha, Inc.	Planning	No Sig.	Withdrawn	Did not open
Waukesha-Waukesha Engineering Preparatory Academy	Implementation I	5/30/07	Not Funded	Open 2007
Wausau-Excel, Enrich, Achieve Learning Center	Planning	5/31/07	Not Funded	Open 2007
Wausau-New Horizons Charter School	Implementation II	9/28/06	Funded	Open 2005
Wausau-Wausau Area Montessori Charter School	Implementation II	9/29/06	Funded	Open 2005
Wauwatosa-Tosa School of Health Science and Technology	Planning	9/27/06	Funded	Open 2007
Wauwatosa-Tosa School of Health Science and Technology	Implementation I	5/31/07	Funded	Open 2007
West Allis-James E. Dottke Charter H.S.	Planning	5/29/07	Not Funded	Did not open
West Allis-West Allis-West Milwaukee Success Academy	Planning	9/28/06	Funded	Planning
West De Pere- Phantom Knight School of Opportunity	Planning	9/27/06	Funded	Open 2007
West De Pere-Phantom Knight School of Opportunity	Implementation I	5/23/07	Funded	Open 2007
Whitnall-CORE 4	Implementation II	5/31/07	Withdrawn	Open 2006
Winter-Pathways Charter School	Implementation I	5/30/07	Funded	Open 2007
Wisconsin Rapids-Central Cities Health	Implementation II	8/7/06	Funded	Open 2005

Institute				
Wisconsin Rapids-G.W. Mead Elementary School	Planning	5/7/07	Not Funded	Did not open
Wisconsin Rapids-G.W. Mead Elementary School	Planning	9/10/07	Funded	Planning

Nine of the fifteen schools that were not funded or withdrew their application were open during the 2006-2007 reporting period. Conversely, two charter schools that were funded did not open, they instead opted to decline grant funds or withdraw the application. Many of the schools that were not funded and subsequently opened, opted to resubmit their grant application that was later approved for funding.

Several school districts participated in multi-district charter activity during the 2006-2007 reporting period. Survey results show that 110 school districts and the Oneida Nation were involved in multi-district charter activity during the 2006-2007 survey reporting period. A list of the sponsor districts and the consortium districts involved are listed below in Table 10.

■ Table 10

School Districts Engaged in Multi-District/Partner Charter Activity

Sponsor District	Consortium Districts	Sponsor District	Consortium Districts
Medford	Abbotsford Colby Prentice Rib Lake	Kohler/CESA 7	Algoma Ashwaubenon Brillion Cedar Grove Chilton Denmark De Pere Elkhart Lake Gibraltar Green Bay Hilbert Howard Suamico Howards Grove Kewaunee Luxemburg-Casco Manitowoc Mishicot New Holstein Oneida Nation Oostburg Plymouth Pulaski Random Lake Reedsville Sevastopol Seymour Sheboygan Sheboygan Falls Southern Door Stockbridge Sturgeon Bay Two Rivers Valders West De Pere Wrightstown
Neillsville	Granton		
Cambridge	Deerfield Fort Atkinson Jefferson Johnson Creek Lake Mills Marshall Palmyra Eagle Whitewater		
Argyle	Benton Darlington Pecatonica		
Lena	Coleman		
Menasha	Appleton		
Butternut	Glidden Mellen Mercer		
New Lisbon	Elroy Hillsboro Necedah Mauston Wonewoc		
Wilmot	Silver Lake Trevor Grade		
Rice Lake	Barron Cameron Cumberland Chetek Turtle Lake	Oak Creek-Franklin	South Milwaukee Cudahy
		West Allis	Brown Deer Cudahy Franklin South Milwaukee
Weyawega-Fremont	Iola-Scandinavia Manawa New London Waupaca	Viroqua	De Soto Kickapoo La Farge Westby
Wisconsin Rapids	Nekoosa Port Edwards	Elkhorn	Big Foot Delavan-Darien Lake Geneva Genoa City UHS Williams Bay
Hamilton	Cudahy Franklin Greenfield Wauwatosa		

The map below depicts those districts engaged in consortium activity in 2006-2007 as well as the status of charter schools that submitted grants to the department during the 2006-2007 survey reporting period (see figure 3).



Figure 3: Status as of September 2007 of charter schools that submitted grants to the department in 2006-2007. Picture includes districts that submitted grants and multi-district charter school consortium partners in all 12 Cooperative Education Service Agency (CESA) areas.

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Appendix A



Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Charter School Contract Reviewer Benchmarks

School District/Chartering Authority Name	Charter School Name	
General Information	Rating	
	Present	Absent
Indicates name of the person seeking to establish the charter school. §118.40(1m)(b)1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indicates name of the person who will be in charge of the charter school. §118.40(1m)(b)2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describes the manner in which administrative services will be provided. §118.40(1m)(b)2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identifies the status of the school as a non-instrumentality or instrumentality of the school district. §118.40(7)(a)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charter School Program Description <i>Well organized description of school.</i>	Present	Absent
Describes the charter school educational program offered and students served. §118.40(1m)(b)3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describes the method used to enable pupils to attain educational goals under Wisconsin Statutes 118.01. §118.40(1m)(b)4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describes the method by which evidence of student achievement or progress in attaining academic skills and knowledge will be measured. §118.40(1m)(b)5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governance/Structure	Present	Absent
Describes how the school will be governed, including method to be followed to ensure parental involvement. §118.40(1m)(b)6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes methods employed to review qualifications that must be met by individuals employed by the school, assuring that every teacher, supervisor, administrator or professional staff member holds a certificate, permit or license issued by the department before entering duties for such a position [Wisconsin Statutes 118.19(10 and 121.02(1)(a)2.] §118.40(1m)(b)7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provides procedures by which the school will follow to ensure the health and safety of the pupils. §118.40(1m)(b)8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provides the procedures used to achieve a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils that is reflective of the school district population. §118.40(1m)(b)9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provides the requirements for admission to the school. §118.40(1m)(b)10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Describes procedures school will follow if more students apply for admission than can be admitted, including a lottery process. §5210(1)(h) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describes the level of autonomy afforded the charter school relative to policy and budget development, staffing and evaluation. §5210(1)(a) of the ESEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria	Present	Absent
Describes the procedures by which students will be disciplined. §118.40(1m)(b)12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identifies the public school alternatives for pupils who reside in the school district and do not wish to attend or are not admitted to the charter school. §118.40(1m)(b)13	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indicates how the program and attendance at the charter school is voluntary. §118.40(6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clearly states that the charter school does not charge tuition. §118.40(4)(b)1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial/Operational Criteria	Present	Absent
Describes the manner in which annual audits of the financial and programmatic operations of the school will be performed. §118.40(1m)(b)11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provides a description of the facilities and the types and limits of the liability insurance that the school will carry. §118.40(1m)(b)14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describes the effects of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the school district and the effect of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the contracting entity. §118.40(1m)(b)15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The contract specifies the amount to be paid to the charter school each year of the contract. §118.40(3)(b)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contract addresses how the school district will allocate federal funding for which the charter school is eligible. §5203(b)(2) of the ESEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describes a program which is nonsectarian in its practices, programs, admission policies, employment practices and all other operations. §118.40(4)(a)2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Includes a nondiscrimination clause stating the charter school will not deny admission or participation in any program or activity on the basis of a person's sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. §118.40(4)(b)2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Addresses the procedures or reasons by which either party may withdraw or revoke the contract. §118.40(5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describes or identifies any waivers of school district policy agreed to by the authorizer and the operator of the charter school. §5210(1)A of the ESEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specifies any administrative fee paid to the authorizer and agreed to by the authorizer and the operator of the charter school. §5204(f)(4)(B) of the ESEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	Present	Absent

The length of the contract is specified, not to exceed 5 years. §118.40(3)(b)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The contract is dated and signatures of the authorizer and the operator of the charter school are provided. §118.40(3)(a)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describes the effect of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the authorizer where the authorizer is not a school district. §118.40(2r)(b)2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If the charter school replaces a public school in whole or part, describes how it will give preference in admission to any pupil who resides in the attendance area or the former attendance area of that public school. §118.40(4)(a)1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
By September 1, 2004 operators of high school grades describe policy specifying criteria for granting high school diploma. §118.33(1)(f)2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describes manner of transportation, if provided, to and from the charter school. (<i>Note—school districts are not required to provide transportation to charter schools.</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix B



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

August 7, 2007

Dear District Administrator:

State law requires the Department of Public Instruction to report annually to the legislature the status of existing charter schools, the number of petitions for new charter schools, as well as any school board or departmental action taken on petitions for new charter schools.

In compliance with this requirement, the department has developed an electronic survey to gather necessary data to include in our report to the legislature. Most of you will finish the survey in less than five minutes. This survey can be accessed via the following web address: <https://www2.dpi.wi.gov/sms-css/home.do>. Please note that the survey cannot be accessed through the Department of Public Instruction website.

Your password, which is case sensitive, is **ozn294**.

The information requested in the survey specifically complies with s. 115.28(49), Wis. Stats., and corresponds to charter activity between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007. Thank you for a 100 percent response rate last year and for your feedback regarding survey improvement.

All districts are asked to complete and submit the survey electronically no later than September 30, 2007. If you have questions regarding the survey, you may contact Latoya Holiday at latoya.holiday@dpi.state.wi.us or Sharon Wendt at sharon.wendt@dpi.state.wi.us. Your timely completion of the survey is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Burmaster
State Superintendent

EB:lh

Appendix C

School Management Services

Charter School Proposal Report 2006-2007

School District (0000)

PII-0008 Collection of this information is a requirement of s.115.28(49), Wis. Stats.

Dear District Administrator,

The Department of Public Instruction must annually report to the Legislature on the status of existing charter schools, the number of petitions/proposals for new charter schools, and school board and departmental action on petitions/proposals for new charter schools.

You are asked to participate regardless of whether your district has charter schools or whether your district made decisions about charter school petitions/proposals.

Please respond to the questions below regarding approval or denial for each proposal filed, and select a reason(s) for approval or denial for each proposal filed. If multiple proposals have been approved or denied, provide clarification of reasons in the space for comments at the end.

The form seeks information on first and second level decisions on new charter school petitions or proposals within your school district **between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 only.**

A first level decision is defined as a concept approval for the purposes of further study, participation in a consortium or a signed charter school planning grant. A second level decision is defined as an approved charter contract between the district and the operator of a charter school, a written agreement to participate in a consortium or a signature on a charter school implementation grant.

The form may be electronically submitted by pressing the "Submit" button at the bottom of the survey.

If you have questions while completing the survey or encounter difficulty when transmitting the survey please contact Latoya Holiday at 608-266-8066 or latoya.holiday@dpi.state.wi.us.

[View more information on Wisconsin Charter Schools including the 2004-2005 Legislative Report](#)

1. District: School District (0000)
CESA: 0

2. Name of person completing form:

3. Title of person completing form:

4. From July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 how many first level decisions were made by the district? First level decisions are defined as a concept approval for the purposes of further study, participation in a consortium or a signed charter school planning grant.

Note: If your district did NOT have any charter school activity between the dates above, please enter "0" and go to question 16.

5. Number of approved 1st level decisions:

6. If applicable, reason(s) for approving first level decisions (Select all that apply):

- a. Serves a special population
- b. Increases student achievement
- c. Increases parent/community involvement
- d. Attracts students
- e. Realizes an alternative vision for schooling
- f. Participates in a charter school consortium

If so, list the districts in the consortium:

g. Other

7. Number of denied 1st level decisions:

8. If applicable, reason(s) for denying proposals (Select all that apply):

- a. Declining enrollment
- b. Financial reasons
- c. Program not unique or innovative
- d. Lack of teacher, parent or community support
- e. Liability of district
- f. Withdrew from a multi-district consortium

If so, list the districts in the consortium:

g. Other

9. From July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 how many second level decisions were made by the district? Second level decisions are defined as an approved charter contract, a written agreement to participate in a consortium or a signature on a charter school implementation grant.

10. Number of approved 2nd level decisions:

11. If applicable, reason(s) for approving second level decisions (Select all that apply):

- a. Serves a special population
- b. Increases student achievement
- c. Increases parent/community involvement
- d. Attracts students
- e. Realizes an alternative vision for schooling
- f. Participates in a charter school consortium

If so, list the districts in the consortium:

g. Other

12. Number of denied 2nd level decisions:

13. If applicable, reason(s) for denying second level decisions
(Select all that apply):

- a. Declining enrollment
- b. Financial reasons
- c. Program not unique or innovative
- d. Lack of teacher, parent or community support
- e. Liability of district
- f. Withdrew from a multi-district consortium

If so, list the districts in the consortium:

g. Other

14. Who initiated the charter school concept(s) or proposal(s)?
(Select all that apply)

- a. District Superintendent
- b. School Administration (principal, curriculum director, etc.)
- c. CESA
- d. Teachers
- e. Parents
- f. Community (Not for Profit)
- g. Business For Profit
- h. Other

15. Identify members of the planning group (Select all that apply):

- a. District Superintendent
- b. School Administration (principal, curriculum director, etc.)
- c. CESA

- d. Teachers
- e. Parents
- f. Community (Not for Profit)
- g. Business For Profit
- h. Other

16. Open comments about charters or the Wisconsin Charter School Program:



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