

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction – Charter School Subgrant Application Reviewer Benchmarks

(Rev. 10-2024)

Instructions: Complete the tabs for Section VIII, as applicable. DPI will input the information in row 5 below, and your selected scores in the tabs for Section VI section VII, as applicable, will automatically populate below in rows 8-16. Peer reviewers must select a rating in the Overall Rating section based on their total score in row 16 and may add general comments to the Overall Comments section at the bottom of this tab.

16 and may add general comme	ents to the Overall Comments sec	tion at the bottom of this tab.	st select a rating in the Overa	in Rating section based on the	en total score in row
Chartering Authority Name	Charter School Name	Type of Subgrant	Planning Year	Subaward Amount Requested	Review Type
[ENTER AUTHORIZER HERE]	[ENTER CHARTER SCHOOL NAME HERE]			[ENTER REQUESTED AMOUNT HERE]	
Sec	tion	Sco	pre	Available P	oints
Section I - Program Description/Mission				5	
Section II - Proposed Activities				5	
Section III - Governance and Auto	nomy Criteria			10	
Section IV - Establishing High-qua	lity Authorizing Practices			5	
Section V - Budget				5	
Section VI - Equal Access & Suppo Student Populations	rts Traditionally Underserved			10	
Section VII - Implementation O	nly			10 (if applica	
Section VIII - Expansion Only				10 (if applicable - a minimu required to be fo	ım of 7 of points is undable)
Total (sum of points awarded f	rom all sections) I Rating	C		50	
Fundable R	ange (35-50)				
Eligible for Amended Not Fundable Ra	Review (30-34 points) inge (0-29 points)				
Overall Comments					

Section I - Program Description/Mission (5 points Max)	Does Not Meet Expectations (1)	Approaches Expectations (2)	Meets Expectations (3)	Exceeds Expectations (4)
Describes how the mission directly relates to at least two of the following:				
a. Increasing access to high-quality schools for traditionally underserved students				
b. Reducing and eliminating the achievement gap for traditionally underserved students				
c. Serving students at-risk of dropping out or who have previously dropped out				
d. Increasing the overall graduation rate				
e. Increasing career and college readiness				
2. Describes the educational/curricular model of the charter school being proposed, expanded, or replicated. Explains how the program promotes a diversity of educational options within the community served and is responsive to students most in need.				
3. Describes how, consistent with the definition of a charter school under federal law, the new, replicated, or expanded charter school will take advantage of the autonomy and flexibility afforded to charter schools.				
4. Using a timeline, describes the present state of the planning process; the activities undertaken to date; the variety of stakeholders involved in the process; the financial or other resources available; and the involvement of the authorizer, administration, and staff. Provides a description of how families and other members of the community have been involved in the planning and design of the new or expanded charter school and provides examples of how feedback from stakeholders has impacted the planning and design process.				
5. Review the <i>needs analysis</i> and the letters of support in Appendix B. Describes the community served and the level and extent of family and community support for the new or expanded charter school, including the need the new or expanded charter school will meet. Explains how community and family support for the new or expanded charter school has been assessed.				
6. For each year of the grant, uses one or more tables to provide the grades served and projected enrollment by grade level. Disaggregates student population data by ethnicity/race and by traditionally underserved student subgroups (economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, migrant students, English language learners, neglected or delinquent students, and homeless students). Only includes students attending on a fulltime basis. Explains the projections. Expansion grant applicants must explain the projected significant increase in enrollment and/or grades to be added to existing high-quality charter school. Review the authorizer approval in Appendix C. The projected enrollment and grades served described in this section must be consistent with the evidence of authorizer approval in Appendix C.				
Total Points Awarded For this Section (1-5)				
Comments				

Section II - Proposed Activities (5 points Max)	Does Not Meet Expectations (1)	Approaches Expectations (2)	Meets Expectations (3)	Exceeds Expectations (4)
Describes the specific activities to be completed under this grant; the variety of stakeholders involved in the process; the financial resources and community resources available; and the involvement of the authorizer, administration, staff, and community.				
2. Describes how student achievement will be measured each year. Identifies the nationally standardized achievement test to be used fall and spring in language arts and math. Explains how formative and summative assessments will be used to improve instruction, and how it will be used to measure progress over time.				
3. Review the response and the performance measures in Appendix D. Uses the table to identify between four and eight performance measures for the charter school. Performance measures are specific, measurable, and achievable. Performance measures include baseline data, if applicable, and annual targets. At least one of the performance measures must relate to a nationally standardized achievement test in language arts and math, and at least one must be measurable during the planning year, if applicable.				
a. Justifies each performance measure in terms of its value in improving student outcomes, growth, or achievement.				
b. Explains how at least one performance measure specifically addresses activities designed to improve academic outcomes for traditionally underserved students.				
c. Describes how each performance measure is specific and measurable at least once annually.				
4. As applicable, describes how subgrant funds will be used for: (a) training, (b) consultants, (c) coaches, (d) curriculum development, (e) purchases, (f) outreach, (g) student recruitment, (h) staff recruitment, (i) extended contracts, and substitute teachers. Expenses must align with the activities described in this section.				
5. Describes required collaboration between charter schools and traditional public schools. Provided information on how school will collaborate with traditional public school within 120 days of receiving subgrant award.				
a. Describes each member of the collaboration and whether the collaboration would be a new or existing commitment;				
b. States the purpose and duration of the collaboration				
c. Describes the anticipated roles and responsibilities of each member of the collaboration;				
d. Describes how the collaboration will benefit one or more members of the collaboration, including how it will benefit students or families affiliated with a member and lead to increased or improved educational opportunities for students, and meet specific and measurable, if applicable, goals;				
e. Describes the resources members of the collaboration will contribute; and				
f. Contains any other relevant information.				
Total Points Awarded For this Section (1-5)				
Comments				

Section III - Governance and Autonomy Criteria (10 points Max)	Does Not Meet Expectations (1)	Approaches Expectations (2)	Meets Expectations (3)	Exceeds Expectations (4)
1. Describes how the authorizer will monitor school performance and compliance with the contract and the quality controls agreed to between the charter school and the authorizer, including any performance agreements. Includes how the charter school's performance in the state's accountability system and impact on student achievement will be one of the most important factors for renewal or revocation of the school's charter. Also, describes how the authorizer will reserve the right to revoke or not renew the school's charter based on financial, structural, or operational factors involving the management of the school.				
2. For DPI use only.				
3. Charter schools must have a separate governance board that is legally able to contract with the authorizer. Under federal policy, no employees or officers of the authorizing entity may hold membership on the charter school's governing board. The governance board of a subgrantee must be a non-stock corporation/non-profit entity under Wisconsin law. Funding will not be made available until proof of non-stock/non-profit status and other required documents are provided.				
a. Provides a description of the governing board, including the roles of board members and the unique skills and diversity of perspectives sought. For schools with existing boards, provide the names of the board members and describe how board members are qualified to oversee the operation of the charter school.				
b. Describes the election of members, length of terms of office, and frequency of meetings. Describes how the governance board ensures arm's length transactions with the authorizer and all other entities transacting with the governance board.				
4. Describes the authority this governing board has to make decisions regarding the operation of the charter school including: (a) personnel, (b) curriculum, (c) local assessments, (d) policy development, (e) budget and expenditures, and (f) daily operations. Applicant must demonstrate how it will ensure that the governance board maintains a high-level of autonomy and independence.				
5. Includes a description of the administrative relationship between the charter school and the authorizer. Describes any services the authorizer will provide the school and describes how the charter school will be managed.				
6. Describes how the charter school will solicit and consider input from stakeholders, including parents and other community members on the implementation, expansion, or replication and the operation of the charter school, including how the charter school will support the use of effective parent, family, and community engagement strategies in its operation. It is clear the governance board has participated in the needs analysis as referenced in Appendix B.				
7. Describes the roles and responsibilities of the charter school, including any potential partners and charter management organizations, if applicable. Includes the administrative and contractual roles and responsibilities of the parties.				
8. If applicable, contract between charter and for-profit management organization describes the following: (a) contact information of management organization and costs/fees with amount of CSP funds; (b) business or financial relationships between school developer and CMO; (c) name and contact information to ensure compliance with 2 CFR 200.318(c); (d) governing board are not selected or removed by CMO and services are independently selected; (e) severance of contract with management organization.				
9. Describes the steps the applicant will take to ensure that it maintains control over all student records and has a process in place to provide those records to another public school or school district in a timely manner upon the transfer of a student from the charter school to another public school, including due to closure of the charter school, in accordance with section 4308 of the ESEA.				
Total Points Awarded For this Section (1-10)				
Comments				

Section IV - Description of High-quality Authorizing Practices (5 points Max)	Does Not Meet Expectations (1)	Approaches Expectations (2)	Meets Expectations (3)	Exceeds Expectations (4)
Provides a description of how the authorizer will engage in professional development during the school's subgrant period.				
2. Describes how the authorizer will hold the school accountable.				
3. For district-authorized charter schools, describes how the authorizer will uphold charter school governing board autonomy with specific consideration to staffing, curriculum, and fiduciary oversight.				
4. Provides a description of how the school leadership and governance board will prepare for ongoing oversight and evaluation of school performance by the authorizing entity.				
a. Describes what systems will be created to ensure regular and timely communication occurs between the school, governance board, and authorizer.				
b. Describes how the authorizer will collaborate with the governance board and school leadership to support high-quality authorizing practices in accordance with NACSA's Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing.				
Total Points Awarded For this Section (1-5)			•	•
Comments				

Section V - Budget (5 points Max)	Does Not Meet Expectations (1)	Approaches Expectations (2)	Meets Expectations (3)	Exceeds Expectations (4)
Review the Budget Summary form (PI-9600-BS) attached as Appendix E. Expenses must align with the outcomes, measurable objectives, and activities related to opening and preparing for the operation of the new or expanded charter school identified in the application narrative. Budget form (PI-9600-BS) must contain allowable costs related to the specific outcomes and proposed activities to be completed during the subgrant period.				
Allowable Costs: Per the federal regulations included in Section 4303(h) of the ESSA, an eligible applicant may use subgrant funds to support activities related to opening and preparing for the operation of a new charter school which can include:				
a. Preparing teachers, schools leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel 1) Professional development, 2) Hiring and compensating during planning – teachers, schools leaders, and/or specialized instructional support personnel.				
b. Acquiring necessary supplies, training, equipment (including technology), and educational materials (including developing and acquiring instructional materials).				
c. Carrying out necessary renovations to ensure that a new school building complies with applicable statutes and regulations, and minor facilities repairs (excluding construction).				
d. Providing one-time, startup costs associated with providing transportation to students to and from the charter school.				
e. Carrying out community engagement activities, which may include paying the cost of student and staff recruitment.				
f. Providing for other appropriate, non-sustained costs related to activities in opening and preparing for the operation of the charter school.				
Applicants must ensure that all costs included in the proposed budget are allowable, reasonable and necessary in light of the goals and objectives of the subgrant application. Any costs determined to be unallowable, unreasonable or unnecessary will be removed from the final budget and a revised budget will be required.				
1. Provides an explanation of the costs justifying how they relate to opening and preparing for the operation of a new or expanded charter school and why they are necessary. If requesting up to a 12-month planning period, clearly indicates which costs pertain to the planning period.				0
2. Describes how other federal program funds available to the charter school; e.g. Title I and IDEA funds, will be used.				
3. Describes the method by which controls over expenditures and records of expenditures will be maintained.				
4. Review the Expense and Revenue Worksheet attached as Appendix F. Includes the total projected cost of operating the charter school for each of the next five years. (Note: The budget worksheets should include all expenditures and revenues from state, local, federal and other funds, including the anticipated federal charter school subgrant funds.				
5. Provides explanatory information for the Expense and Revenue Worksheet.				
6. Provides a sustainability plan and explains how the school's innovative offerings and professional development will be sustained and continued after the charter school subgrant expires, including a multi-year financial and operating model. This should include fundraising activities by the charter board, maintenance of current staff, governance board sustainability, community involvement, etc. This plan must demonstrate that the charter school can continue to operate in a manner consistent with this application when subgrant funds are no longer available.				
Total Points Awarded For this Section (1-5)			1	
Comments				

Section VI - Equal Access (10 points Max)	Does Not Meet Expectations (1)	Approaches Expectations (2)	Meets Expectations (3)	Exceeds Expectations (4)
1. Provides a description of how the charter school assures equal access for all students regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.				
2. As required by section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), describes proposed steps that will be taken to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, the charter school. The statute, which allows applicants discretion in developing the required description, highlights six types of barriers (gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age) that can impede equitable access or participation.				
3. Describes how the school plans to attract, recruit, admit, enroll, serve, and retain educationally disadvantaged students equitably and inclusively.				
4. Describes how the school plans to recruit and retain a diverse staff.				
5. Provides a description of how students and families in the community are informed about the charter school and given an equal opportunity to attend.				
6. Describes how the charter school will meet the educational needs of all its students, including children with disabilities and English language learners.				
7. Provides the admissions policy for the school, including how the admissions policy is: (a) consistent with the statutory purposes of the federal charter schools program, (b) reasonably necessary to achieve the educational mission of the charter school, (c) consistent with civil rights laws and Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and (d) other applicable state and federal law.				
8. Provides a description of the random lottery process to be implemented if more students apply for admission than can be accommodated in the charter school.				
9. Describes how the charter school governance board has considered and planned for the transportation needs of students. If the school does not or will not provide transportation, explain how the school will ensure access for students without means of transportation.				
10. DPI use only.				
Total Points Awarded For this Section (1-10)				
Comments				

Section VII - Implementation Subgrants Only (10 points Max)	Does Not Meet Expectations (1)	Approaches Expectations (2)	Meets Expectations (3)	Exceeds Expectations (4)
1. Local school board policies will not apply to the charter school unless they are specifically listed in the charter contract. Identifies school board policies that will be waived for this charter school and how the waiver(s) will support the operation of the charter school. This question does not apply to independently authorized charter schools.				
Provides a detailed 2-3 year professional and curriculum development plan to ensure teacher and administrator competencies.				
3. Describes the training that will be provided to the charter board and when it will be delivered, e.g., governing authority, Roberts Rules, by-laws, finances/budgets, fund raising, equity, family involvement, policies/procedures, etc.				
4. Describes how the activities will lead to improved student academic achievement, including how the activities are grounded in evidence-based research and data. Describes the school and board's plan for evaluating the success of these activities.				
5. Describes what best practices will be utilized to close achievement gaps.				
6. If applicable, lists any charter schools that have closed in the community within the last five years. For each school that closed, explains the circumstances contributing to the closure(s) and explains how the proposed school will address those circumstances.				
7. Describes student discipline practices that are or will be employed at the school and how these practices are or will be implemented equitably.				
Total Points Awarded For this Section (1-10)				
Comments				

Section VIII - Replication and Expansion Subgrants Only (10 points Max)	Does Not Meet Expectations (1)	Approaches Expectations (2)	Meets Expectations (3)	Exceeds Expectations (4)
1. Review the data provided in Appendix G. These data must demonstrate three years of evidence of the charter school's significant improvement in student achievement, including positive outcomes for each subgroup of students (economically disadvantaged students, students from major racial and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and English language learners) and for educationally disadvantaged students (economically disadvantaged students, English language learners, neglected or delinquent students, and homeless students).				
a. Within Appendix G, provides student assessment results for all students and for each subgroup of students for the last three (3) years of the charter school's operation. Applicants are encouraged to submit data from multiple assessments that provide evidence of student academic improvement trends over time. The data and explanatory information provided must show substantial progress in improving student academic achievement. Provides any explanatory information for the data.				
b. Within Appendix G, provides attendance and student retention data for the three (3) most recently completed school years for all students and for each subgroup of students. Provides any explanatory information for the data.				
c. Within Appendix G, provides suspension and expulsion rates for the past three (3) years for all students and each subgroup of students. Provides any explanatory information for the data and explains the school's discipline practices.				
d. Within Appendix G, provides graduation rates, if applicable, for the last three (3) years of operation for all students and for each subgroup of students. Provides any explanatory information for the data.				
e. Within Appendix G, provides a copy of the school's last three (3) school accountability reports (School Report Card).				
f. Within Appendix G, if applicable, provides any additional data as evidence of significant improvement in student achievement, including positive outcomes for students with disabilities and educationally disadvantaged students.				
2. Provides information on significant compliance and management issues encountered within the last three (3) school years and how compliance issues were resolved.				
3. If the applicant previously received a subgrant under this funding, describes how the activities will be different from the activities in the previous subgrant.				
4. Discusses how the existing high-quality charter school is thriving and financially viable and how the newly replicated or expanded charter school will thrive and be financially viable.				
a. Review the authorizer's most recent charter school annual report attached as Appendix H. Provides any explanatory information for the authorizer report.				
b. Review the governance board minutes for the past 12 months attached as Appendix I. Provides any explanatory information for the governance board minutes.				
Total Points Awarded For this Section (1-10)				
Comments				