How to Start a Charter School



In Wisconsin, a charter school may be authorized by a **School District** or an **Independent Charter School (ICS) Authorizer.**

First, you will need to determine who will be authorizing your charter school. You can learn more about the importance differences between the two at DPI's <u>Charter Schools webpage</u>

District Authorizer

Develop a school model and plan. Regardless of whether you are petitioning the local board or contracting with them, your design plan must include every element under 118.40(1m)(b).

A school board, of its own initiative, decides to create a charter school.

Petition the local board with the requisite number of signatures. The local board may have additional requirements, specific processes, or timelines you need to follow to be considered. Be sure to check with your District's charter office/contact.

Contract with the local board to meet the school board's initiative.

Within 30 days of submitting your petition, the local board holds a hearing and votes on whether to authorize your school.

denied

approved

If approved, enter into contract negotiations and ensure the contract meets all applicable requirements by using the <u>charter contract</u> benchmarks resource.

Review the <u>Charter School</u>
<u>Assurances of Readiness</u>
resource for additional
requirements.

Independent Authorizer

Develop a school model and plan.

Identify the ICS authorizer with whom your governing board seeks to partner. There are multiple 2r authorizers and one 2x authorizer.

Petition the ICS authorizer. The authorizer may have additional requirements, specific processes, or timelines you need to follow to be considered. Be sure to check with the authorizer's charter office.

denied

If denied, either amend your application and resubmit in the next cycle or bring your application before an independent authorizer or different ICS authorizer.

There is no right to appeal, unless your application has been denied by a "First Class City." Currently, that is only Milwaukee Public Schools.

approved

