



St. Martin Parish School Board

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Charter School Overview and Application

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In accordance with the Louisiana Charter School Demonstration Law, St. Martin Parish School Board accepts applications from qualified nonprofits to operate Type 1 and Type 3 charter schools. A Type 1 charter school is a new school operated as the result of and pursuant to a charter between the nonprofit corporation created to operate the school and a local school board. A Type 3 charter school is a preexisting public school converted and operated as the result of and pursuant to a charter between a nonprofit corporation and the local school board.

Educators, community and civic nonprofit boards, parents, and teachers have the opportunity to create schools that will provide high quality educational outcomes and respond to the needs of the community. Charter schools are public schools operated independently and are required to serve all eligible children, with the education of at-risk students being the overriding purpose.

Charter schools in Louisiana are required to provide appropriate curricula, aligned professional standards and support, engaging models of parental and partnership programs, and strategic planning to leverage and grow resources for the school. Charter schools are held accountable for academic results, responsible school leadership, and fiscal and operational management.

This Request for Applications (RFA) and the resulting evaluation process are rigorous and demanding. The process is meant to ensure that charter school operators possess the capacity to implement sound strategies, practices and methodologies. Successful applicants will clearly demonstrate high levels of expertise in the areas of education, school administration and management; experience in implementing various research-based pedagogy, response to intervention (RTI) and differentiated instruction; and high expectations for excellence in professional standards and student achievement.

The primary point of contact for St. Martin Parish is Superintendent Richard Lavergne. Charter School Applications, as well as any inquiries, should be directed to his attention using the contact information listed on the letterhead.

Charter School Application

2012-2013

Authorizer: St. Martin Parish School Board

I. Information and Forms:

- All charter school applications, regardless of type being sought, at a minimum, shall follow the guidelines and utilize all forms provided by the Louisiana Department of Education Office of Parental Options.
 - Website: <http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/17769.pdf> and <http://www.louisianaschools.net/divisions/charters/rfa.html>
 - Application forms: utilize documents and guidelines provided under the heading “Request for Applications”
 - Budgetary forms: utilize documents and guidelines provided under the heading “RFA Standard Budget Forms” and “Per Pupil Funding Estimates – MFP & Federal Grants.”
- Timelines for submission shall be followed in accordance with St. Martin Parish School Board Timelines included in Section III.
- Applicants should address the following: how at-risk students will be served in compliance with Federal and State law, and how improved behavior, good discipline, learning and achievement, increased learning opportunities, access to quality education, innovative teaching methods, governance, management, and administration will be addressed by the school.
- Methods of assessment, measurement of academic skills, accountability for results, and utilization of data to improve instruction should also be addressed.
- Applications must provide descriptions of professional development opportunities for teachers and other school employees and opportunities for faculty and staff to participate in decision-making at the school.

II. Review Process

- A Third Party Review Team shall be selected by the Superintendent of St. Martin Parish Schools. The team shall have expertise in educational, organizational, legal, and financial areas as they affect a quality school or system.
- The Team shall be selected from the faculty at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette or another area College or university and District Level Administrative Staff in Parish School Systems in Louisiana. Alternate reviewers may be suggested by the Louisiana Department of Education.
- The Team will use NACA Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing and criteria set forth in the Louisiana Charter School Demonstration Programs Law. Additionally, Louisiana Revised Statutes, BESE policies and bulletins, and policies of the St. Martin Parish School Board may also be utilized.
- The Team will contact the applicant to obtain clarity on any issue or concern with the application. The applicant will have a window following the Team review to make corrections or improvements in the application prior to submission to the Superintendent and School Board for final consideration and action.
- The Team will give the final written report on the application to the Superintendent and Board prior to the applicant interview conducted by the Superintendent and appropriate members of the St. Martin Parish School Board Staff.
- The Superintendent will then make a recommendation to the St. Martin Parish School Board for approval or disapproval of the application. The applicant will be notified in writing of the final decision, with an explanation of the decision attached. Minutes of the Board regarding the decision will also be included.
- The Primary Contact for the St. Martin Parish School Board will be Superintendent Richard Lavergne.

III. Timeline

January 10, 2012	Charter Application Applications Accepted
February 28, 2012	Application Deadline in accordance with Acts 334 and 722 of the 2010 Regular Legislative Session
February 28, 2012 to April 29, 2012	60-day window for Team review of application
April 30, 2012 to May 15, 2012	15-day window for application revision based on Team review and feedback
May 16, 2012 to May 29, 2012	15-day window for applicant interview for <ul style="list-style-type: none">• review of application and Team report• submission to school board for approval• written notification to applicant along with Board minutes of decision