

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; revising provisions relating to the enrollment of certain pupils in charter schools; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law authorizes a charter school which is dedicated to providing certain services to pupils who are at risk to enroll a child who is the sibling of a pupil enrolled in the charter school or who resides within 2 miles of the charter school if the charter school is located in an area with a high percentage of children who are at risk before the charter school enrolls other pupils who are eligible for enrollment. (NRS 386.580) **Section 3** of this bill amends existing law to authorize such a charter school to enroll a child who is in a particular category of at-risk pupils if the child meets the eligibility for enrollment prescribed by the charter school for that particular category. **Section 1** of this bill requires a charter school to include in its application to form a charter school a statement of whether the charter school will enroll pupils who are in a particular category of at-risk pupils before enrolling other eligible children and the method for determining eligibility for enrollment in each such category. (NRS 386.520)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 386.520 is hereby amended to read as follows:
386.520 1. A committee to form a charter school must consist of at least three teachers, as defined in subsection 4. In addition to the teachers who serve, the committee may consist of:

- (a) Members of the general public;
- (b) Representatives of nonprofit organizations and businesses;

or

(c) Representatives of a college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education.

➔ A majority of the persons described in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) who serve on the committee must be residents of this State at the time that the application to form the charter school is submitted to the Department.

2. Before a committee to form a charter school may submit an application to the board of trustees of a school district, the Subcommittee on Charter Schools, the State Board or a college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education, it must submit the application to the Department. The application must include all information prescribed by the Department by regulation and:



(a) A written description of how the charter school will carry out the provisions of NRS 386.500 to 386.610, inclusive.

(b) A written description of the mission and goals for the charter school. A charter school must have as its stated purpose at least one of the following goals:

(1) Improving the opportunities for pupils to learn;

(2) Encouraging the use of effective methods of teaching;

(3) Providing an accurate measurement of the educational achievement of pupils;

(4) Establishing accountability of public schools;

(5) Providing a method for public schools to measure achievement based upon the performance of the schools; or

(6) Creating new professional opportunities for teachers.

(c) The projected enrollment of pupils in the charter school.

(d) The proposed dates of enrollment for the charter school.

(e) The proposed system of governance for the charter school, including, without limitation, the number of persons who will govern, the method of selecting the persons who will govern and the term of office for each person.

(f) The method by which disputes will be resolved between the governing body of the charter school and the sponsor of the charter school.

(g) The proposed curriculum for the charter school and, if applicable to the grade level of pupils who are enrolled in the charter school, the requirements for the pupils to receive a high school diploma, including, without limitation, whether those pupils will satisfy the requirements of the school district in which the charter school is located for receipt of a high school diploma.

(h) The textbooks that will be used at the charter school.

(i) The qualifications of the persons who will provide instruction at the charter school.

(j) Except as otherwise required by NRS 386.595, the process by which the governing body of the charter school will negotiate employment contracts with the employees of the charter school.

(k) A financial plan for the operation of the charter school. The plan must include, without limitation, procedures for the audit of the programs and finances of the charter school and guidelines for determining the financial liability if the charter school is unsuccessful.

(l) A statement of whether the charter school will provide for the transportation of pupils to and from the charter school. If the charter school will provide transportation, the application must include the proposed plan for the transportation of pupils. If the charter school



will not provide transportation, the application must include a statement that the charter school will work with the parents and guardians of pupils enrolled in the charter school to develop a plan for transportation to ensure that pupils have access to transportation to and from the charter school.

(m) The procedure for the evaluation of teachers of the charter school, if different from the procedure prescribed in NRS 391.3125. If the procedure is different from the procedure prescribed in NRS 391.3125, the procedure for the evaluation of teachers of the charter school must provide the same level of protection and otherwise comply with the standards for evaluation set forth in NRS 391.3125.

(n) The time by which certain academic or educational results will be achieved.

(o) The kind of school, as defined in subsections 1 to 4, inclusive, of NRS 388.020, for which the charter school intends to operate.

(p) A statement of whether the charter school will enroll pupils who are in a particular category of at-risk pupils before enrolling other children who are eligible to attend the charter school pursuant to NRS 386.580 and the method for determining eligibility for enrollment in each such category of at-risk pupils served by the charter school.

3. The Department shall review an application to form a charter school to determine whether it is complete. If an application proposes to convert an existing public school, homeschool or other program of home study into a charter school, the Department shall deny the application. The Department shall provide written notice to the applicant of its approval or denial of the application. If the Department denies an application, the Department shall include in the written notice the reason for the denial and the deficiencies in the application. The applicant must be granted 30 days after receipt of the written notice to correct any deficiencies identified in the written notice and resubmit the application.

4. As used in subsection 1, "teacher" means a person who:

(a) Holds a current license to teach issued pursuant to chapter 391 of NRS; and

(b) Has at least 2 years of experience as an employed teacher.

↳ The term does not include a person who is employed as a substitute teacher.

Sec. 2. NRS 386.527 is hereby amended to read as follows:

386.527 1. If the State Board, the board of trustees of a school district or a college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education approves an application to form a charter



school, it shall grant a written charter to the applicant. The State Board, the board of trustees, the college or the university, as applicable, shall, not later than 10 days after the approval of the application, provide written notice to the Department of the approval and the date of the approval. If the board of trustees approves the application, the board of trustees shall be deemed the sponsor of the charter school.

2. If the State Board approves the application:

(a) The State Board shall be deemed the sponsor of the charter school.

(b) Neither the State of Nevada, the State Board nor the Department is an employer of the members of the governing body of the charter school or any of the employees of the charter school.

3. If a college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education approves the application:

(a) That institution shall be deemed the sponsor of the charter school.

(b) Neither the State of Nevada, the State Board nor the Department is an employer of the members of the governing body of the charter school or any of the employees of the charter school.

4. The governing body of a charter school may request, at any time, a change in the sponsorship of the charter school to an entity that is authorized to sponsor charter schools pursuant to NRS 386.515. The State Board shall adopt:

(a) An application process for a charter school that requests a change in the sponsorship of the charter school, which must not require the applicant to undergo the requirements of an initial application to form a charter school; and

(b) Objective criteria for the conditions under which such a request may be granted.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, a written charter must be for a term of 6 years unless the governing body of a charter school renews its initial charter after 3 years of operation pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 386.530. A written charter must include all conditions of operation set forth in ~~[paragraphs (a) to (e), inclusive, of]~~ subsection 2 of NRS 386.520 and include the kind of school, as defined in subsections 1 to 4, inclusive, of NRS 388.020 for which the charter school is authorized to operate. If the State Board or a college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education is the sponsor of the charter school, the written charter must set forth the responsibilities of the sponsor and the charter school with regard to the provision of services and programs to pupils with disabilities who are enrolled in the charter school in



accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400 et seq., and NRS 388.440 to 388.520, inclusive. As a condition of the issuance of a written charter pursuant to this subsection, the charter school must agree to comply with all conditions of operation set forth in NRS 386.550.

6. The governing body of a charter school may submit to the sponsor of the charter school a written request for an amendment of the written charter of the charter school. Such an amendment may include, without limitation, the expansion of instruction and other educational services to pupils who are enrolled in grade levels other than the grade levels of pupils currently approved for enrollment in the charter school if the expansion of grade levels does not change the kind of school, as defined in NRS 388.020, for which the charter school is authorized to operate. If the proposed amendment complies with the provisions of this section, NRS 386.500 to 386.610, inclusive, and any other statute or regulation applicable to charter schools, the sponsor may amend the written charter in accordance with the proposed amendment. If a charter school wishes to expand the instruction and other educational services offered by the charter school to pupils who are enrolled in grade levels other than the grade levels of pupils currently approved for enrollment in the charter school and the expansion of grade levels changes the kind of school, as defined in NRS 388.020, for which the charter school is authorized to operate, the governing body of the charter school must submit a new application to form a charter school. If such an application is approved, the charter school may continue to operate under the same governing body and an additional governing body does not need to be selected to operate the charter school with the expanded grade levels.

7. The State Board shall adopt objective criteria for the issuance of a written charter to an applicant who is not prepared to commence operation on the date of issuance of the written charter. The criteria must include, without limitation, the:

(a) Period for which such a written charter is valid; and

(b) Timelines by which the applicant must satisfy certain requirements demonstrating its progress in preparing to commence operation.

↳ A holder of such a written charter may apply for grants of money to prepare the charter school for operation. A written charter issued pursuant to this subsection must not be designated as a conditional charter or a provisional charter or otherwise contain any other designation that would indicate the charter is issued for a temporary period.



8. The holder of a written charter that is issued pursuant to subsection 7 shall not commence operation of the charter school and is not eligible to receive apportionments pursuant to NRS 387.124 until the sponsor has determined that the requirements adopted by the State Board pursuant to subsection 7 have been satisfied and that the facility the charter school will occupy has been inspected and meets the requirements of any applicable building codes, codes for the prevention of fire, and codes pertaining to safety, health and sanitation. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the sponsor shall make such a determination 30 days before the first day of school for the:

(a) Schools of the school district in which the charter school is located that operate on a traditional school schedule and not a year-round school schedule; or

(b) Charter school,

↳ whichever date the sponsor selects. The sponsor shall not require a charter school to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this subsection more than 30 days before the date selected. However, it may authorize a charter school to demonstrate compliance less than 30 days before the date selected.

Sec. 3. NRS 386.580 is hereby amended to read as follows:

386.580 1. An application for enrollment in a charter school may be submitted to the governing body of the charter school by the parent or legal guardian of any child who resides in this State. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and subsection 2, a charter school shall enroll pupils who are eligible for enrollment in the order in which the applications are received. If the board of trustees of the school district in which the charter school is located has established zones of attendance pursuant to NRS 388.040, the charter school shall, if practicable, ensure that the racial composition of pupils enrolled in the charter school does not differ by more than 10 percent from the racial composition of pupils who attend public schools in the zone in which the charter school is located. If a charter school is sponsored by the board of trustees of a school district located in a county whose population is 100,000 or more, except for a program of distance education provided by the charter school, the charter school shall enroll pupils who are eligible for enrollment who reside in the school district in which the charter school is located before enrolling pupils who reside outside the school district. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, if more pupils who are eligible for enrollment apply for enrollment in the charter school than the number of spaces which are available,



the charter school shall determine which applicants to enroll pursuant to this subsection on the basis of a lottery system.

2. Before a charter school enrolls pupils who are eligible for enrollment, a charter school that is dedicated to providing educational programs and opportunities to pupils who are at risk may enroll a child who:

(a) Is a sibling of a pupil who is currently enrolled in the charter school; ~~or~~

(b) *Is in a particular category of at-risk pupils and the child meets the eligibility for enrollment prescribed by the charter school for that particular category; or*

(c) Resides within the school district and within 2 miles of the charter school if the charter school is located in an area that the sponsor of the charter school determines includes a high percentage of children who are at risk. If space is available after the charter school enrolls pupils pursuant to this paragraph, the charter school may enroll children who reside outside the school district but within 2 miles of the charter school if the charter school is located within an area that the sponsor determines includes a high percentage of children who are at risk.

↳ If more pupils described in this subsection who are eligible apply for enrollment than the number of spaces available, the charter school shall determine which applicants to enroll pursuant to this subsection on the basis of a lottery system.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 8, a charter school shall not accept applications for enrollment in the charter school or otherwise discriminate based on the:

- (a) Race;
- (b) Gender;
- (c) Religion;
- (d) Ethnicity; or
- (e) Disability,

↳ of a pupil.

4. If the governing body of a charter school determines that the charter school is unable to provide an appropriate special education program and related services for a particular disability of a pupil who is enrolled in the charter school, the governing body may request that the board of trustees of the school district of the county in which the pupil resides transfer that pupil to an appropriate school.

5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, upon the request of a parent or legal guardian of a child who is enrolled in a public school of a school district or a private school, or a parent or



legal guardian of a homeschooled child, the governing body of the charter school shall authorize the child to participate in a class that is not otherwise available to the child at his school or homeschool or participate in an extracurricular activity at the charter school if:

(a) Space for the child in the class or extracurricular activity is available;

(b) The parent or legal guardian demonstrates to the satisfaction of the governing body that the child is qualified to participate in the class or extracurricular activity; and

(c) The child is a homeschooled child and a notice of intent of a homeschooled child to participate in programs and activities is filed for the child with the school district in which the child resides for the current school year pursuant to NRS 392.705.

↳ If the governing body of a charter school authorizes a child to participate in a class or extracurricular activity pursuant to this subsection, the governing body is not required to provide transportation for the child to attend the class or activity. A charter school shall not authorize such a child to participate in a class or activity through a program of distance education provided by the charter school pursuant to NRS 388.820 to 388.874, inclusive.

6. The governing body of a charter school may revoke its approval for a child to participate in a class or extracurricular activity at a charter school pursuant to subsection 5 if the governing body determines that the child has failed to comply with applicable statutes, or applicable rules and regulations. If the governing body so revokes its approval, neither the governing body nor the charter school is liable for any damages relating to the denial of services to the child.

7. The governing body of a charter school may, before authorizing a homeschooled child to participate in a class or extracurricular activity pursuant to subsection 5, require proof of the identity of the child, including, without limitation, the birth certificate of the child or other documentation sufficient to establish the identity of the child.

8. This section does not preclude the formation of a charter school that is dedicated to provide educational services exclusively to pupils:

(a) With disabilities;

(b) Who pose such severe disciplinary problems that they warrant a specific educational program, including, without limitation, a charter school specifically designed to serve a single gender that emphasizes personal responsibility and rehabilitation; or



(c) Who are at risk.

➔ If more eligible pupils apply for enrollment in such a charter school than the number of spaces which are available, the charter school shall determine which applicants to enroll pursuant to this subsection on the basis of a lottery system.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2009.

