SENATE BILL NO. 293–SENATOR HAMMOND

MARCH 17, 2017

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to charter schools. (BDR 34-800)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact. Effect on the State: No.

EXPLANATION - Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets {omitted material} is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; expanding the authority of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to revise the schedule of apportionments of state money to a charter school; requiring the Department of Education to assign a unique identifier to each charter school and certain academic programs and new school models at a charter school; authorizing the establishment of an experimental academic program or new school model in certain charter schools; deeming each charter school a local educational agency for certain purposes; authorizing the governing body of a charter school with certain high-achieving experimental programs or new school models to submit a request to divide the school into multiple schools or establish a new charter school; authorizing a charter school that began as an experimental program or new school model to give priority in enrollment to certain pupils; revising provisions relating to written charters and charter contracts; revising provisions relating to the zoning of charter schools; expanding the applicability of certain provisions relating to impact fees; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Charter schools and other public schools in this State are supported by 2 apportionments of money made on specified dates by the Superintendent of Public 3 Instruction from the State Distributive School Account in the State General Fund. 4 (NRS 387.124) Existing law permits the governing body of a charter school to 5 request that the apportionments be made to the charter school, during its first year





6 of operation, 30 days earlier than is otherwise provided. (NRS 387.1241, 7 388A.417) Section 1 of this bill permits a similar request to be made by the 8 governing body of a charter school for any other year of operation based upon a 9 year-over-year increase in enrollment of 5 percent or more. Section 8 of this bill 10 makes a conforming change.

Section 3 of this bill requires the Department of Education to assign a unique identifier to each charter school. **Section 3** also requires the Department to assign a unique identifier to each: (1) campus or academic program at a charter school for which a separate charter contract has been negotiated and executed; and (2) experimental academic program or new school model established at a charter school.

Section 4 of this bill authorizes the governing body of a high-achieving charter school to submit a written request for the sponsor of the school to authorize the establishment of an experimental academic program or new school model at the school. **Section 4** also authorizes the governing body of a charter school that has established a high-achieving experimental program or new school model to: (1) submit to the sponsor of the charter school a request to divide the school into multiple charter school operating under the same governing body; or (2) establish a new, independent charter school using the experimental program or new school model. **Section 4** also authorizes a charter school that began as an experimental program or new school model to give priority in enrollment to a child who was previously enrolled in the program or model. Existing law deems the State Public Charter School Authority a local educational agency for the purpose of directing the proportionate share of any money available from federal and state categorical grant programs to certain charter

Existing law deems the State Public Charter School Authority a local educational agency for the purpose of directing the proportionate share of any money available from federal and state categorical grant programs to certain charter schools that are eligible to receive such money. (NRS 388A.159) Section 15 of this bill repeals this provision. Section 5 of this bill instead deems each charter school a local educational agency for the purpose of receiving any money available from federal and state categorical grant programs. Existing law authorizes the governing body of a charter school to submit to the

Existing law authorizes the governing body of a charter school to submit to the 36 sponsor of the charter school a request for an amendment of the written charter or 37 38 charter contract. Existing law also provides that if the proposed amendment complies with certain statutory provisions, the sponsor and the governing body may 39 amend the written charter or charter contract accordingly. (NRS 388A.276) Section 40 **6** of this bill authorizes the governing body of a high-achieving charter school that 41 operates more than one campus or a separate academic program to submit to the 42 sponsor of the school a request to divide the charter school into multiple charter 43 schools operating under the same governing body. Section 6 requires the sponsor to 44 grant such a request and negotiate and execute a charter contract with the governing 45 body of the charter school for each campus or academic program.

Existing law authorizes a charter school to give priority in enrollment to certain
 children. (NRS 388A.456) Section 9 of this bill additionally authorizes a charter
 school to give priority in enrollment pursuant to an articulation agreement approved
 by the sponsor of the charter school.

Section 10 of this bill: (1) requires that a charter school be treated in the same manner as a public school operated by a school district in all matters relating to zoning; and (2) provides that voluntary compliance by a public school operated by a school district with any local ordinance relating to zoning does not obligate a charter school to comply with the ordinance. Section 10 also requires that any process of review or approval relating to zoning that involves a charter school be expedited. Finally, section 10 allows a charter school to authorize any person or entity to act as a representative of the charter school in any matter relating to zoning. Existing law exempts property owned by a school district from the requirement

59 Existing law exempts property owned by a school district from the requirement 60 of paying certain impact fees. (NRS 278B.160) **Section 11** of this bill extends the





- 61 exemption to all property owned, leased or otherwise used by a school district or 62 charter school.
- A local government is required by existing law to reimburse, upon request, a school district for the cost of certain off-site facilities. (NRS 278B.240) Section 12
- of this bill makes this requirement also applicable to charter schools.

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

1 Section 1. NRS 387.1241 is hereby amended to read as 2 follows:

3 387.1241 Except as otherwise provided in this section and 4 NRS 387.124, 387.1242, 387.1244 and 387.528:

5 The apportionment to a charter school, computed on a yearly basis, is equal to the sum of the basic support per pupil in the county 6 in which the pupil resides plus the amount of local funds available 7 per pupil pursuant to NRS 387.163 and all other funds available for 8 9 public schools in the county in which the pupil resides minus the sponsorship fee prescribed by NRS 388A.414 and minus all the 10 funds attributable to pupils who are enrolled in the charter school 11 but are concurrently enrolled part-time in a program of distance 12 education provided by a school district or another charter school. If 13 the apportionment per pupil to a charter school is more than the 14 amount to be apportioned to the school district in which a pupil who 15 is enrolled in the charter school resides, the school district in which 16 the pupil resides shall pay the difference directly to the charter 17 school. 18

19 2. The apportionment to a charter school that is sponsored by the State Public Charter School Authority or by a college or 20 university within the Nevada System of Higher Education, 21 computed on a yearly basis, is equal to the sum of the basic support 22 per pupil in the county in which the pupil resides plus the amount of 23 24 local funds available per pupil pursuant to NRS 387.163 and all other funds available for public schools in the county in which the 25 pupil resides, minus the sponsorship fee prescribed by NRS 388A.414 and minus all funds attributable to pupils who are 26 27 enrolled in the charter school but are concurrently enrolled part-time 28 in a program of distance education provided by a school district or 29 another charter school. 30

31 3. The governing body of a charter school may submit a 32 written request to the Superintendent of Public Instruction to 33 receive, in the first year of operation of the charter school, an 34 apportionment 30 days before the apportionment is required to be 35 made pursuant to NRS 387.124. *Such a request may be made for* 36 *any other year of operation of a charter school if the governing*





1 body of the charter school establishes to the satisfaction of the 2 Superintendent of Public Instruction that the number of pupils enrolled or to be enrolled in the charter school in that year is not 3 less than 5 percent greater than the number of pupils enrolled in 4 the charter school in its last preceding year of operation. Upon 5 6 receipt of such a request, the Superintendent of Public Instruction 7 may make the apportionment 30 days before the apportionment is 8 required to be made. A charter school may receive all four 9 apportionments in advance in its first year of operation.

10 Sec. 2. Chapter 388A of NRS is hereby amended by adding 11 thereto the provisions set forth as sections 3, 4 and 5 of this act.

12 Sec. 3. The Department shall assign a unique identifier to 13 each charter school. If the sponsor of the charter school has:

14 1. Negotiated and executed a charter contract with the 15 governing body of a charter school for more than one campus or 16 academic program, the Department shall assign a unique 17 identifier to each campus or academic program.

18 2. Approved the request of a governing body of a charter 19 school that an experimental academic program or new school 20 model be established in the charter school pursuant to section 4 of 21 this act, the Department shall assign a unique identifier to each 22 such program or model.

23 Sec. 4. 1. The governing body of a charter school that 24 receives one of the three highest ratings of performance pursuant to the statewide system of accountability for public schools may 25 submit a written request for the sponsor to authorize the 26 27 establishment of an experimental academic program or new school model in the charter school. If the sponsor of the charter 28 29 school approves the request, such a program or model must be 30 established in the charter school. Enrollment in such a program 31 or model:

32 (a) Must not exceed 50 pupils during the first year in which 33 the program or model is in operation.

34 (b) Must not exceed 100 pupils during the second year in 35 which the program or model is in operation.

(c) Must not exceed 150 pupils during the third year in which
 the program or model is in operation.

(d) Must not exceed any number prescribed by the sponsor of
 the charter school during the fourth year or any year thereafter.

40 2. If an experimental program or new school model 41 established pursuant to subsection 1 receives one of the three 42 highest ratings of performance pursuant to the statewide system of 43 accountability for public schools, the governing body of the 44 charter school in which the program or model is established may:





1 (a) Submit to the sponsor of the charter school a written 2 request for an amendment of the written charter or charter 3 contract, as applicable, to divide the charter school into multiple 4 charter schools operating under the same governing body; or

5 (b) Establish a committee to form a charter school and submit 6 to a proposed sponsor an application to form a charter school 7 using the experimental program or new school model.

8 3. If the sponsor of a charter school grants a request for an 9 amendment of the written charter or charter contract submitted 10 pursuant to subsection 2, the sponsor shall negotiate and execute 11 a charter contract with the governing body of the charter school 12 for each program or model.

13 4. Before a charter school formed pursuant to this section 14 enrolls any pupil who is eligible for enrollment pursuant to NRS 15 388A.453 and 388A.456, the charter school may enroll a child 16 who was enrolled in the experimental program or new school 17 model before the charter school was formed.

18 Sec. 5. 1. Each charter school is hereby deemed a local 19 educational agency for the purpose of receiving any money 20 available from federal and state categorical grant programs. A 21 charter school that receives money pursuant to such a program 22 shall comply with any applicable reporting requirements to receive 23 the grant.

24 2. If a charter school is eligible to receive special education 25 program units, the Department shall pay the special education 26 program units directly to the charter school.

27 3. As used in this section, "local educational agency" has the 28 meaning ascribed to it in 20 U.S.C. § 7801 (30)(A).

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Sec. 6. NRS 388A.276 is hereby amended to read as follows:

30 388A.276 **1**. The governing body of a charter school may 31 submit to the sponsor of the charter school a written request for an 32 amendment of the written charter or charter contract, as applicable. 33 If the proposed amendment complies with the provisions of this 34 chapter and any other statute or regulation applicable to charter 35 schools, the sponsor and the governing body of the charter school 36 may amend the written charter or charter contract, as applicable, in 37 accordance with the proposed amendment. A sponsor may require, as a condition of granting a request for an amendment to a 38 39 governing body that has been granted a written charter, such a governing body to agree to the revocation of the written charter and 40 41 to enter into a charter contract. If the sponsor denies the request for an amendment, the sponsor shall provide written notice to the 42 governing body of the charter school setting forth the reasons for the 43 44 denial.





1 2. If a charter school that operates more than one campus or 2 a separate academic program receives one of the three highest 3 ratings of performance pursuant to the statewide system of accountability for public schools, the governing body of the 4 charter school may submit to the sponsor of the charter school a 5 6 written request for an amendment of the written charter or charter 7 contract, as applicable, to divide the charter school into multiple 8 charter schools operating under the same governing body.

3. The sponsor of a charter school shall:

10 (a) Grant a request for an amendment of the written charter or 11 charter contract submitted pursuant to subsection 2; and

12 (b) Negotiate and execute a charter contract with the 13 governing body of the charter school for each campus or academic 14 program.

Sec. 7. NRS 388A.276 is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 388A.276 1. The governing body of a charter school may 17 submit to the sponsor of the charter school a written request for an 18 amendment of the written charter or charter contract. [, as 19 applicable.] If the proposed amendment complies with the provisions of this chapter and any other statute or regulation 20 21 applicable to charter schools, the sponsor and the governing body of 22 the charter school may amend the written charter or charter 23 contract [, as applicable,] in accordance with the proposed 24 amendment. [A sponsor may require, as a condition of granting a request for an amendment to a governing body that has been granted 25 a written charter, such a governing body to agree to the revocation 26 of the written charter and to enter into a charter contract.] If the 27 sponsor denies the request for an amendment, the sponsor shall 28 29 provide written notice to the governing body of the charter school 30 setting forth the reasons for the denial.

31 2. If a charter school that operates more than one campus or a 32 separate academic program receives one of the three highest ratings 33 of performance pursuant to the statewide system of accountability for public schools, the governing body of the charter school may 34 35 submit to the sponsor of the charter school a written request for an 36 amendment of the written charter or charter contract [, as 37 applicable, to divide the charter school into multiple charter schools 38 operating under the same governing body.

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3. The sponsor of a charter school shall:

40 (a) Grant a request for an amendment of the [written charter or] 41 charter contract submitted pursuant to subsection 2; and

42 (b) Negotiate and execute a charter contract with the governing 43 body of the charter school for each campus or academic program.



Sec. 8. NRS 388A.417 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 388A.417 1. To determine the amount of money for distribution to a charter school in its first year of operation, the 3 count of pupils who are enrolled in the charter school must initially 4 5 be determined 30 days before the beginning of the school year of the 6 school district, based on the number of pupils whose applications for 7 enrollment have been approved by the charter school.

8 2. The count of pupils who are enrolled in the charter school 9 must be revised each quarter based on the average daily enrollment 10 of pupils in the charter school that is reported for that quarter 11 pursuant to NRS 387.1223.

12 **[Pursuant to]** Under the circumstances described in 3. subsection 3 of NRS 387.1241, the governing body of a charter 13 14 school may request that the apportionments made to the charter 15 school *fin its first year of operation* be paid to the charter school 30 16 days before the apportionments are otherwise required to be made.

4. If a charter school ceases to operate as a charter school 17 18 during a school year, the remaining apportionments that would have been made to the charter school pursuant to NRS 387.124 and 19 387.1241 for that year must be paid on a proportionate basis to the 20 21 school districts where the pupils who were enrolled in the charter 22 school reside.

23 **Sec. 9.** NRS 388A.456 is hereby amended to read as follows:

388A.456 1. Before a charter school enrolls pupils who are 24 25 eligible for enrollment pursuant to NRS 388A.453, a charter school 26 may enroll a child who:

27 (a) Is a sibling of a pupil who is currently enrolled in the charter 28 school.

29 (b) Was enrolled, free of charge and on the basis of a lottery 30 system, in a prekindergarten program at the charter school or any 31 other early childhood educational program affiliated with the charter 32 school. 33

(c) Is a child of a person:

(1) Who is employed by the charter school;

35 (2) Who is a member of the committee to form the charter 36 school;

37 (3) Who is a member of the governing body of the charter 38 school: or

39 (4) Who resides on or is employed on the federal military 40 installation, if the charter school is located on a federal military 41 installation:

(d) Is enrolled at a charter school with whom the charter 42 43 school has an articulation agreement, approved by the sponsor, 44 providing for priority enrollment.



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(e) 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.

(e) At the time his or her application is submitted, is 4 5 enrolled in a public school of a school district with an enrollment that is more than 25 percent over the public school's intended 6 7 capacity, as reported on the list maintained by the school district 8 pursuant to subsection 4. If a charter school enrolls pupils who are 9 enrolled in such a public school before enrolling other pupils who 10 are eligible for enrollment, the charter school must enroll such pupils who reside within 2 miles of the charter school before 11 12 enrolling other such pupils.

13 (f) (g) At the time his or her application is submitted, is 14 enrolled in a public school that received an annual rating established 15 of the two lowest ratings possible indicating as one 16 underperformance of a public school, as determined by the 17 Department pursuant to the statewide system of accountability for 18 public schools for the immediately preceding school year. If a 19 charter school enrolls pupils who are enrolled in such a public school before enrolling other pupils who are eligible for enrollment, 20 21 the charter school must enroll such pupils who reside within 2 miles 22 of the charter school before enrolling other such pupils.

23 (g) (h) Resides within the school district and within 2 miles of 24 the charter school if the charter school is located in an area that the 25 sponsor of the charter school determines includes a high percentage of children who are at risk. If space is available after the charter 26 27 school enrolls pupils pursuant to this paragraph, the charter school 28 may enroll children who reside outside the school district but within 29 2 miles of the charter school if the charter school is located within 30 an area that the sponsor determines includes a high percentage of 31 children who are at risk.

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

36 3. A lottery held pursuant to subsection 2 must be held not 37 sooner than 45 days after the date on which a charter school begins 38 accepting applications for enrollment unless the sponsor of the 39 charter school determines there is good cause to hold it sooner.

40 4. Each school district shall create and maintain a list which 41 specifies for each public school of the school district, the maximum 42 enrollment capacity for each school, the actual number of pupils 43 enrolled at each school and the percentage by which enrollment at 44 each school exceeds the intended enrollment capacity, if applicable. 45 Each school district shall post the list on the Internet website





maintained by the school district as soon as practicable after the
count of pupils is completed pursuant to NRS 387.1223 but not later
than November 1 of each year.

4 **Sec. 10.** Chapter 278 of NRS is hereby amended by adding 5 thereto a new section to read as follows:

6 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a charter 7 school must be classified in the same manner as a public school 8 that is operated by a school district for the purposes of this chapter 9 or any other provisions of state or local law relating to zoning 10 which are applicable to public schools in this State.

11 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and 12 subsection 5, any ordinance relating to zoning adopted or 13 amended by a governing body must allow a charter school to be 14 located anywhere a public school operated by a school district can 15 be located. An ordinance relating to zoning adopted or amended 16 by a governing body may prohibit a charter school from being 17 located on a parcel that is:

18 (a) Less than 1 acre in size; and

19 (b) Located in an area that is zoned for single-family 20 residences.

3. A governing body shall not impose on a charter school any
 requirement relating to municipal building codes or the use of
 buildings for educational purposes that is not imposed on a public
 school operated by a school district.

4. A governing body shall not enforce or use any ordinance,
procedure or process against a charter school that is not enforced
or used against a public school operated by a school district.
Voluntary compliance by such a public school or school district
with any ordinance relating to zoning does not obligate a charter
school to comply with the ordinance.

5. A charter school may not be located on a parcel in an unincorporated area within a county that is zoned for dwelling units intended and operated exclusively for persons 55 years of age and older.

6. Any process of review or approval relating to zoning that
involves a charter school must be conducted in such a manner as
to ensure the process is completed within:

(a) Thirty days for any process that does not require a public
 hearing; and

40 (b) Ninety days for any process that requires a public hearing.

41 7. A charter school shall be deemed a political subdivision of 42 this State for the purposes of purchasing or leasing public land 43 pursuant to 43 U.S.C. §§ 869 et seq.





8. A charter school may authorize any person or entity to act 1 2 as a representative of the charter school in any matter relating to 3 zoning.

4 Sec. 11. NRS 278B.160 is hereby amended to read as follows: 5 278B.160 1. A local government may by ordinance impose

6 an impact fee in a service area to pay the cost of constructing a 7 capital improvement or facility expansion necessitated by and attributable to new development. Except as otherwise provided in 8 9 NRS 278B.220, the cost may include only:

10 (a) The estimated cost of actual construction, including, without 11 limitation, the cost of connecting a capital improvement or facility expansion to a line or facility used to provide water or sewer 12 13 service;

(b) Estimated fees for professional services;

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(c) The estimated cost to acquire the land; and (d) The fees paid for professional services required for the

16 17 preparation or revision of a capital improvements plan in 18 anticipation of the imposition of an impact fee.

19 All property owned, *leased or otherwise used* by a school 2. 20 district *or charter school* is exempt from the requirement of paying 21 impact fees imposed pursuant to this chapter.

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Sec. 12. NRS 278B.240 is hereby amended to read as follows:

23 278B.240 1. If an owner is required by a local government, 24 as a condition of the approval of the development, to construct or 25 dedicate, or both, a portion of the off-site facilities for which impact 26 fees other than for a park project are imposed, the off-site facilities 27 must be credited against those impact fees.

28 2. If a school district *or charter school* is required by a local 29 government to construct or dedicate, or both, a portion of the off-site 30 facilities for which impact fees are imposed, the local government 31 shall, upon the request of the school district **H** or charter school, as 32 *applicable*, reimburse or enter into an agreement to reimburse the 33 school district or charter school, as applicable, for the cost of the off-site facilities constructed or dedicated, or both, minus the cost of 34 the off-site facilities immediately adjacent to or providing 35 36 connection to the school development which would be required by 37 local ordinance in the absence of an ordinance authorizing impact 38 fees.

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3. If an owner is required by a local government to: (a) Pay a residential construction tax pursuant to NRS 278.4983;

41 (b) Dedicate land pursuant to NRS 278.4979 or otherwise 42 dedicate or improve land, or both, for use as a park; or

(c) Construct or dedicate a portion of the off-site facilities for 43 44 which impact fees for a park project are imposed,





1 \rightarrow the owner is entitled to a credit against the impact fee imposed 2 for the park project for the amount of the residential construction tax 3 paid, the fair market value of the land dedicated, the cost of any 4 improvements to the dedicated land or the cost of the off-site 5 facilities dedicated or constructed, as applicable.

6 Sec. 13. Section 4 of this act is hereby amended to read as
7 follows:
8 Sec. 4. 1. The governing body of a charter school that

Sec. 4. 1. The governing body of a charter school that receives one of the three highest ratings of performance pursuant to the statewide system of accountability for public schools may submit a written request for the sponsor to authorize the establishment of an experimental academic program or new school model in the charter school. If the sponsor of the charter school approves the request, such a program or model must be established in the charter school. Enrollment in such a program or model:

(a) Must not exceed 50 pupils during the first year in which the program or model is in operation.

(b) Must not exceed 100 pupils during the second year in which the program or model is in operation.

(c) Must not exceed 150 pupils during the third year in which the program or model is in operation.

(d) Must not exceed any number prescribed by the sponsor of the charter school during the fourth year or any year thereafter.

26 2. If an experimental program or new school model 27 established pursuant to subsection 1 receives one of the three 28 highest ratings of performance pursuant to the statewide 29 system of accountability for public schools, the governing 30 body of the charter school in which the program or model is 31 established may:

(a) Submit to the sponsor of the charter school a written
request for an amendment of the [written charter or] charter
contract [, as applicable,] to divide the charter school into
multiple charter schools operating under the same governing
body; or

(b) Establish a committee to form a charter school and submit to a proposed sponsor an application to form a charter school using the experimental program or new school model.

3. If the sponsor of a charter school grants a request for an amendment of the [written charter or] charter contract submitted pursuant to subsection 2, the sponsor shall negotiate and execute a charter contract with the governing body of the charter school for each program or model.



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1	4. Before a charter school formed pursuant to this
2	section enrolls any pupil who is eligible for enrollment
3	pursuant to NRS 388A.453 and 388A.456, the charter school
4	may enroll a child who was enrolled in the experimental
5	program or new school model before the charter school was
6	formed.
7	Sec. 14. NRS 388A.159 is hereby repealed.
8	Sec. 15. 1. This section and sections 1 to 6, inclusive, 8 to
9	12, inclusive, and 14 of this act become effective upon passage and
10	approval.
11	2. Sections 7 and 13 of this act become effective on January 1,
12	2020.

TEXT OF REPEALED SECTION

388A.159 Authority deemed local educational agency for certain purposes.

1. The State Public Charter School Authority is hereby deemed a local educational agency for the purpose of directing the proportionate share of any money available from federal and state categorical grant programs to charter schools which are sponsored by the State Public Charter School Authority or a college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education that are eligible to receive such money. A college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education that sponsors a charter school shall enter into an agreement with the State Public Charter School Authority for the provision of any necessary functions of a local educational authority. A charter school that receives money pursuant to such a grant program shall comply with any applicable reporting requirements to receive the grant.

2. As used in this section, "local educational agency" has the meaning ascribed to it in 20 U.S.C. 7801(26)(A).





