



NJDOE News

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DOE Receives 25 Charter School Applications

The New Jersey Department of Education has received 25 new applications for prospective charter schools that their founders hope to open in September, 2006 or September, 2007.

Under DOE's Charter School development process, applications are filed each summer. The following January, the Commissioner of Education announces the names of the groups whose applications were deemed eligible for a charter. The final awarding of the charter takes place just prior to the opening of the school, after the organizers have worked closely with DOE through an eight- to 18-month planning process.

Since New Jersey charter school law took effect in 1996, the Department of Education has received more than 250 applications.

The list of new applicants can be found here:

http://www.nj.gov/njded/news/2005/0808chart_a1.pdf

"Charter schools continue to exemplify the best in community led efforts to improve the quality of education in New Jersey's schools K-12," added Commissioner of Education William L. Librera. "We will review all of the applications to determine their abilities to provide students with the tools to succeed and learn."

New Jersey's Fiscal Year 2006 budget appropriated \$20,058,000 for charter school education.

This September, 48 currently operating and three new charter schools are expected to serve approximately 14,900 students.

Several New Jersey charter schools have garnered recognition and praise for their academic achievement. Robert Treat Academy Charter School in Newark was recognized as a Title I Distinguished School and Princeton Charter School was recognized as a 2004 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School.

A charter school is a public school open to all students on a space-available basis that is funded by taxpayers but operates independently of the district board of education under a charter granted by the Commissioner. Once the charter is approved by the Commissioner for a four-year period, the school is managed by a board of trustees deemed to be public agents authorized by the State Board of Education to supervise and control the school.

A charter school submits a renewal application to the Commissioner during its fourth year of operation for an additional five-year period. The renewal process involves a comprehensive review of the charter school including, but not limited to, a renewal application, on-site visit, annual reports, student performance on statewide assessments and other tests, monitoring by the county superintendent and the Commissioner's designees, comments from the district of residence or districts in the region of residence, the annual assessments of student composition and a substantive in-depth interview.

For more information, please contact the New Jersey Department of Education, Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126.