

Comparison of Charter School Provisions
 Legislative Educational Planning Committee
 November 13, 2012

Jason B. Long, Senior Assistant Revisor

Issue	Kansas Law	Arizona Law
(1) Charter school sponsors	Only the local school district board of education may be a sponsor.	The following may be possible sponsor (1) school district governing board; (2) state board of education; (3) state board of charter schools; (4) board of regents of a university; (5) community college; or (6) group of community colleges with a combined enrollment of at least 15,000.
(2) Approval of charter school	The petition for a charter school must be approved by both the local board of education and the state board of education.	The application for a charter school must be approved by the sponsoring entity, and the review and approval must be done in accordance with the statutory requirements for that sponsor.
(3) State law exemptions	The charter petition must specify the laws and regulations relating to public schools that the charter school wants to be exempt from.	The law exempts charter schools from all laws and rules relating to public schools except as otherwise specified in statute or in the charter.
(4) Charter term	Five years for both the initial term and each renewal term.	Fifteen years for the initial term and twenty years for each renewal term.

5-2

(5) Renewal of charter	The renewal of a charter is reviewed every five years by the local board of education, and renewal is subject to state board of education approval.	Each charter is reviewed every five years by the sponsor and may be renewed for up to 20 years upon approval by the sponsor.
(6) Nonrenewal or revocation of charter	Nonrenewal or revocation of a charter by local board of education is not subject to appeal.	Any decision by a sponsor to revoke a charter is subject to administrative review and judicial review.
(7) Enrollment requirements	The charter petition must specify the lottery system to be used if too many pupils seek enrollment.	The law requires a lottery system be used if too many pupils seek enrollment, but allows enrollment preferences for certain pupils. Also allows for single gender schools, and enrollment limits by age group or grade level.
(8) Operation of school	The charter petition must include details of school policies and procedures. Other operational matters are determined between the charter applicant and the sponsoring school district.	Due to the variety of potential charter school settings, the AZ law contains many provisions regarding the operation of charter schools.
(9) Financing of school	The charter school is deemed a public school of the sponsoring school district and is financed in the same manner as other public schools in the district.	(A) If sponsored by a school district, then the charter school receives funding through the school district the same as other public schools of the district. (B) If not sponsored by a school district, then the charter school receives funding on a per pupil basis under the state school funding formula.

		The charter school stimulus fund provides grants of up to \$100,000 at a time for renovation or remodeling costs incurred by the charter school. The law contains a clawback provision if a school fails to open within 18 months of receiving grant funds.
(10) Start-up cost assistance	No provision in KS law.	
(11) Use of public buildings and equipment	No provision in KS law.	The State publishes a list of vacant and unused public buildings that may be suitable for a charter school. School districts are permitted to sell equipment to charter schools prior to offering it for sale to the public.
(12) Miscellaneous issues, such as purchasing laws, zoning laws, audit requirements, eminent domain, insurance, etc.	No provision in KS law because charter school is operated under oversight of the local school district.	The AZ law provides for these various miscellaneous issues because of the various ways in which a charter school may be authorized and operated.