



CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL

STATE LAW

Missouri law dictates minimum conditions and procedures required for renewal of a charter in RsMO 160.405.9. Specifically, the law requires that renewal be based on a thorough analysis of a comprehensive body of objective evidence that considers if:

- The charter school has maintained results on its annual performance report that meet or exceed the district in which the charter school is located, based on the performance standards applicable to the grade-level configuration of both the charter school and the district in which the charter school is located in three of the last four years.
- The charter school is organizationally and fiscally viable, determining at a minimum that the school does not have:
 - a negative balance in its operating funds;
 - a combined balance of less than three percent of the amount expended for such funds during the previous fiscal year; or
 - expenditures that exceed receipts for the most recently completed fiscal year.
- The charter is in compliance with its legally binding performance contract and sections [160.400](#) to [160.425](#) and section [167.349](#) of Missouri statutes.

If the charter school has an annual performance report consistent with a classification of *accredited* for three of the last four years and is fiscally viable, the charter school may have an *expedited* renewal process as defined by rule of the department of elementary and secondary education.

The law also identifies a process by which DESE and the State Board of Education will consider renewal:

- (3) (a) Beginning in August during the year in which a charter is considered for renewal, a charter school sponsor shall demonstrate to the State Board of Education that the charter school is in compliance with federal and state law as provided in sections [160.400](#) to [160.425](#) and section [167.349](#) and the school's performance contract including, but not limited to, those requirements specific to academic performance.
- (b) Along with data reflecting the academic performance standards indicated in paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the sponsor shall submit a revised charter application to the State Board of Education for review.
- (c) Using the data requested and the revised charter application under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subdivision, the State Board of Education shall determine if compliance with all standards enumerated in this subdivision has been achieved. The State Board of Education at its next regularly scheduled meeting shall vote on the revised charter application.
- (d) If a charter school sponsor demonstrates the objectives identified in this subdivision, the State Board of Education shall renew the school's charter.

PROCESS

When considering a school for renewal, Washington University carefully reviews performance data collected by the sponsor over the charter period to make renewal recommendations to the Missouri State Board of Education. The WU sponsor office will collaborate with the school to support revisions and updates to the application process.

STEPS TO RENEWAL

Step 1: Application Submission by Charter & Sponsor

In the renewal year, WU and the Charter will review the most current DESE application template to be completed, along with any additional recommendations. The new online renewal application process is more streamlined, and will include updates and changes from the original charter school application. The school board formally approves the application.

Required components:

A. Education Plan

- Clear and compelling mission and vision
- Highlight of educational program with goals addressing academic outcomes in the next 5 years
- Five-year Performance Contract
- List of sponsor/partnership efforts

B. Organizational Plan

- Summary of current operations
- Statement of continued effective governance and management structures
- Organizational chart
- Plans for the school's growth and development over the five-year renewal
- Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Missouri not-for-profit status

C. Business Plan

- Five-Year budget, projecting for any expansion

Step 2: DESE Submission to State Board of Education for Approval

Note: Inconsistent release dates of DESE's most recent state assessment data challenge efforts to adhere to a projected timeline for charter renewal.

DESE reviews the application on behalf of the State Board of Education, and may offer recommended changes to assure alignment with statute and regulations. At a Missouri State Board of Education meeting, DESE's charter office and the WU sponsor office will present the renewal application for review and approval.

Step 3: The Charter & WU Renew Their Contract

Upon approval of the renewal application from the SBOE, WU and the school agree to the terms of a separate contract defining the next five years of the schools' operations. The contract will be signed by the WU representative and the charter's Board Chairman.