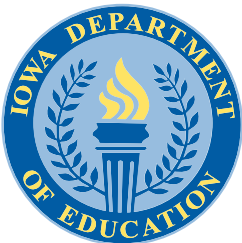


Charter Schools Legislative Report



November 16, 2022

State of Iowa
Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
400 E. 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

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INTRODUCTION

AUTHORITY

In May 2021, Governor Reynolds signed two bills into law that affect the operations of new charter schools in Iowa. House File (HF) 813 establishes new procedures for charter schools effective July 1, 2021. The new procedures are codified in [Iowa Code chapter 256E](#). Note that HF813 created a new charter school framework that will be utilized to establish and govern charter schools going forward. This is in addition to Iowa Code chapter 256F, charter and innovation zone schools, and though the statute remains in effect, no new charter schools may be authorized under chapter 256F. Division IX of HF 847 modifies chapter 256E by clarifying charter school governing board requirements, chief administrator requirements, student enrollment deadlines, and requirement for submission of an annual report.

Included in Iowa Code chapter 256E is the requirement for the Iowa State Board of Education (State Board) to prepare and file with the general assembly by December 1, annually, a comprehensive report with findings and recommendations relating to the charter school program in the state in compliance with Iowa Code subsection 256E.12(2) - *The state board shall prepare and file with the general assembly by December 1, annually, a comprehensive report with findings and recommendations relating to the charter school program in the state and whether the charter school program under this chapter is meeting the goals and purposes of the program. The report also shall contain, for each charter school, a copy of the charter school's mission statement, attendance statistics and dropout rate, aggregate assessment test scores, projections of financial stability, and the number and qualifications of teachers and administrators.*

REPORT SUMMARY

At this time two charter schools have been approved in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 256E:

- Choice Charter School (Grades 9-12) – Founding group , state board model
- Hamburg Charter High School (Grades 9-12) – School board, state board model

Charter school application and approval processes were developed and implemented by the Iowa Department of Education, which were utilized for the approval of Choice and Hamburg charter schools. The process to apply for a new charter school and the procedures followed once the application is received are available on the Department's charter school [webpage](#).

Choice and Hamburg charter schools opened in the fall of 2022 and are currently operating with students enrolled. Due to the fact that the new charters were approved for the 2022-2023 school year, no data will be available until the 2023-2024 school year.

Amendments to [Iowa Administrative Code chapter 19](#) were noticed by the State Board at the August meeting. The amendments reflect the changes established by HF2575, which modified Iowa Code chapter 256E regarding charter school funding.