

R277. Education, Administration.

R277-480. Charter School Revolving Account.

R277-480-1. Definitions.

A. "Board" means the Utah State Board of Education.

B. "Charter schools" means schools acknowledged as charter schools by local boards of education under Section 53A-1a-515, by the Board under Section 53A-1a-505, and by boards of trustees of higher education institutions under Section 53A-1a-501.3.

C. "Charter School Revolving Account" means a restricted account created within the Uniform School fund to provide assistance to charter schools to:

(1) meet school building construction and renovation needs; and

(2) pay for expenses related to the start up of a new charter school or the expansion of an existing charter schools.

D. "Charter School Revolving Account Committee" means the committee established by the Board under Section 53A-1a-522(6).

E. "Superintendent" means the State Superintendent of Public Instruction as designated under 53A-1-301.

F. "Urgent facility need," as provided for in Section 53A-1a-522(5), means an unexpected exigency that affects the health and safety of students such as:

(1) to satisfy an unforeseen condition that precludes a school's qualification for an occupancy permit; or

(2) to address an unforeseen circumstance that keeps the school from satisfying provisions of public safety, public health, or public school laws or Board rules.

G. "USOE" means the Utah State Office of Education.

R277-480-2. Authority and Purpose.

A. This rule is authorized under Utah Constitution Article X, Section 3 which vests general control and supervision over public education in the Board, Section 53A-1a-522(2)(b) which requires the Board to administer the Charter School Revolving Account, and Section 53A-1-401(3) which allows the Board to adopt rules in accordance with its responsibilities.

B. The purpose of this rule is to establish procedures for administering the Charter

School Revolving Account to determine membership of the Charter School Revolving Account Committee, and to determine loan amounts and loan repayment conditions.

R277-480-3. Charter School Revolving Account Committee.

A. The Board shall establish a Charter School Revolving Account Committee consistent with Section 53A-1a-522(6).

B. The State Charter School Board shall submit a list of at least three nominees per vacancy who meet the requirements of Section 53A-1a-522(6)(b) for appointment by the Board consistent with timelines established by the Board.

C. The Board shall annually accept nominations of individuals provided by the State Charter School Board who meet the qualifications of 53A-1a-522(6)(b).

D. The Board may only select Charter School Revolving Account Committee members who satisfy conditions of Section 53A-1a-522(6).

E. Charter School Revolving Account Committee members appointed by the Board after May 1, 2010 shall be appointed for two year terms.

F. The USOE Charter School Director or designee shall be a non-voting Charter School Revolving Account Committee member.

R277-480-4. Charter School Revolving Account Application and Conditions.

A. The Charter School Revolving Account Committee shall develop and the USOE shall make available a loan application that includes criteria designated under Section 53A-1a-522, including urgent facility need criteria.

B. The Charter School Revolving Account Committee shall include other criteria or information from loan applicants that the committee or the Board determines to be necessary and helpful, including considerations of Section 53A-1a-522(5), in making final recommendations to the Superintendent, the State Charter School Board and the Board.

C. The Charter School Revolving Account Committee shall accept applications for loans on an ongoing basis, subject to eligibility criteria and availability of funds.

(1) To apply for a loan, a charter school shall submit the information requested on the Board's most current loan application form together with the requested supporting documentation.

(2) The application shall include a resolution from the governing board of the charter school that the governing board, at a minimum:

(a) agrees to enter into the loan as provided in the application materials;

(b) agrees to the interest established by the Charter School Revolving Account Committee and repayment schedule of the loan designated by the Charter School Revolving Account Committee and the Board;

(c) agrees that loan funds shall only be used consistent with the purposes of Section 53A-1a-522 and the purpose of the approved charter;

(d) agrees to any and all inspections, audits or financial reviews ordered by the Charter School Revolving Account Committee or the Board; and

(e) understands that repayment, including interest, shall be deducted automatically from the charter school's monthly fund transfers, as appropriate.

D. The Charter School Revolving Account Committee shall establish terms and conditions for loan repayment, consistent with Section 53A-1a-522. Terms shall include:

(1) A tiered schedule of loan fund distribution:

(a) 50 percent (up to \$150,000) disbursed no more than 12 months prior to August 15 in the school's first year of operations;

(b) 25 percent (up to \$75,000) disbursed no more than six months prior to August 15 in the school's first year of operation;

(c) the balance of loan funds disbursed no more than three months prior to August 15 in the school's first year of operations.

(2) The loan amount to a charter school board awarded under Section 53A-1a-522 shall not exceed:

(a) \$1,000 per pupil based on the most recent October 1 enrollment count for operational schools; or

(b) \$1,000 per pupil based on approved enrollment capacity of the first year of operation for pre-operational schools; or

(c) \$300,000 of the total of all current loan awards by the Board to a charter school board.

R277-480-5. Charter School Revolving Account Committee Recommendations and

Board Approval.

A. The Charter School Revolving Account Committee shall make recommendations to the State Charter School Board and the Board only upon receipt of complete and satisfactory information from the applicant and upon a majority recommendation from the Charter School Revolving Account Committee.

B. The submission of intentionally false, incomplete or inaccurate information from a loan applicant may result in immediate cancellation of any previous loan(s), the requirement for immediate repayment of any funds received, denial of subsequent applications for a 12 month period from the date of the initial application, and possible Board revocation of a charter.

C. The Board staff and State Charter Board staff shall review recommendations from the Charter School Revolving Account Committee.

D. Final recommendations from the Charter School Revolving Account Committee shall be submitted to the Board no more than 60 days after submission of all information and materials from the loan applicant to the Charter School Revolving Account Committee.

E. The Board may request additional information from loan applicants or a reconsideration of a recommendation by the Charter School Revolving Account Committee.

F. The Board's approval or denial of loan applications constitutes the final administrative action in the charter school building revolving loan process.

KEY: charter schools, revolving account

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: December 27, 2011

Notice of Continuation: June 10, 2014

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X, Sec 3; 53A-1a-522(2)(b); 53A-1-401(3)