

Extracurricular Activities

The Charter School Law requires a charter school student's school district of residence to allow the student to participate in the school district's extracurricular activities if the student is able to fulfill the requirements of participation and the charter school does not provide the same extracurricular activity. The requirements of participation shall apply equally to charter school students and students attending schools of the school district. The student's school district of residence must accept the charter schools written confirmation, which may include providing copies of the student's attendance record and grades, that the student has met the established standards for the extracurricular activity. Charter schools must inform parents that they must authorize release of such information, which may constitute the student's education record, in order for the resident school district to verify that their children are eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities. School districts cannot limit participation of charter school students in extracurricular activities on the basis that the activity is "full" with school district students. Charter school students must be given an equal opportunity to compete for "spaces" in extracurricular activities. School districts are not required to provide transportation for a charter school student to or from the extracurricular activity. There may be additional requirements that the district of residence and charter school need to consider if the student participating or seeking to participate in extracurricular activities is a student with a disability.

The resident school district may charge the charter school for charter student participation in extracurricular activities, since these costs were part of the per-pupil payment that is paid to charter schools. This fee is on a "cost basis", with the resident school district neither losing nor making money, as determined by the school district using the expenses of each activity, including coach or director, uniforms, transportation and miscellaneous costs.

The resident school district may develop policies to establish which school building charter school students may participate in extracurricular activities, such as the building closest to the charter school or the building the student would be assigned to if s/he attended the public school district.

Disputes regarding a charter school student's participation in the school district's extracurricular activities should be resolved between the school district and the charter school. The Department of Education, Bureau of Community and Student Services, Charter Schools team will assist where necessary in the process.