



## College and University Charter School Authorizing in Florida

Proposed New Rule 6A-6.0790, Approval of Florida College System and State University System Institution Charter School Sponsors.



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# OVERVIEW

Charter school authorizing – what has changed in Florida

- Role of charter school authorizers
- Senate Bill 1028 (2021)
- New proposed rule

# Charter School Authorizing

- ***Quality charter school authorizing is key to quality charter schooling.***
- Authorizers are the entities that determine whether a charter school opens, and they help set the academic, financial and operational expectations of the school.
- “Strong authorizing can create and support high-quality charter schools ...” *Charter authorizers, EducationNext, Vol 13, Issue 3, Summer 2013, Hoover Institution Press*

# Examples of Authorizing in Other States

Authorizers nationwide include ...

- School districts
- Higher education institutions
- Independent charter boards (typically statewide panels with state-appointed members)
- State education agencies
- Mayor's offices
- Nonprofit institutions (libraries, museums, think tanks, advocacy groups)

# Charter Authorizing in Florida

In Florida:

- Colleges and universities now have joined school districts as charter school sponsors, or authorizers.
- There are now only five states with a charter school law where school districts are the only charter authorizer: Alaska, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, and Virginia.

## Senate Bill 1028 (2021)

- A state university may, upon approval of the Department of Education, solicit applications and sponsor a charter school to *meet regional education or workforce demands* by serving students from multiple school districts.
- A Florida College System institution may, upon approval of the Department, solicit applications and sponsor a charter school in any county within its service area *to meet workforce demands* and may offer postsecondary programs leading to industry certifications to eligible charter school students.

# Proposed Rule 6A-6.0790

- Sets forth the procedures and standards for review and approval of a Florida College System institution or a state university to act as a charter school sponsor.
- Establishes timelines for review and approval, as well as the criteria the Department will use to review a college or university proposal.
- Highlights the local educational agency (LEA) requirements to which colleges and universities must adhere for the charter schools they sponsor.

## Proposed Rule 6A-6.0790, cont.

- Incorporates a standard sponsor application and a statement of assurances.
- This application process will ensure that the college or university:
  - Has the capacity, as well as the mission and vision, to be a charter school sponsor;
  - Has the personnel and systems in place to function as an LEA; and
  - Has the commitment and processes to maintain a high-quality portfolio of charter schools.



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