

Eastern Michigan University Charter Schools Office New School Application Process

The Eastern Michigan University Charter Schools Office (EMU-CSO) seeks to expand its portfolio of public school academies (charter schools). The actual number will be based upon the demonstrated need and viable opportunities to serve kids well.

The vision for the EMU-CSO is to authorize a portfolio of schools that will serve as institutions of opportunity where students are equipped for college matriculation and career attainment. With this vision in mind, the EMU-CSO seeks to build capacity to support leadership development, educational exposure and school improvement efforts to enhance school efforts to achieve our vision of “a world class education for all students”.

Charter Schools Office Priorities for Awarding New Charters

The Charter Schools Office is seeking charter schools that will meet a variety of academic needs throughout the region, serving as an extension of Eastern Michigan’s commitment to high quality academic programming and community commitment.

Priority Consideration will be given to proposed schools who emphasize the following:

- Proposed schools will be located in an area of demonstrated educational need, utilizing innovative, proven methods to serve historically underserved populations.
- Proposed schools will address the continuum of educational levels through various configurations (K-5, K-8, K-12, 6-8 6-12, 9-12); while the EMU-CSO is open to all grade configurations, there is a critical need for high quality secondary school options.
- Proposed schools will have a well-defined theme or focus (i.e., STEM, leadership, environmental sustainability, social justice, classical, globalization, etc.).
- Proposed schools will establish strong, collaborative partnerships with higher education institutions to enhance the post-secondary pipeline to career and further academic training.
- Proposed schools will make socio-economic diversity a priority among their student populations, building staffs and governing boards.

Phase 1 – Application

- The Charter Schools Office determines goals for soliciting new charters in targeted communities (e.g. location, community, socio-economics, past educational performance).
- Applications will be accepted beginning on September 5, 2017 and will be accepted continually through a rolling application process, with reviews beginning upon receipt of the application materials and moving forward per the applicant's status.
- The Phase 1 application, available online at the Eastern Michigan University Charter Schools Office website, includes information about expectations, the role of the authorizer, and the review process at Eastern Michigan University.
- Applications will be screened and evaluated by the Eastern Michigan University Charter Schools Office and selected subject matter experts.
- Applicants will be notified in writing of the selection decision and/or the status of their application within 60 days of receipt.

Phase 2 – Discussion/Due Diligence

- Based upon the recommendation of the review team, selected applicants will be invited for a formal in-person discussion regarding the proposed school.
- Applicants may be asked to provide additional information related to questions or issues found during the application review. This additional information is needed to ensure quality and viability of the proposed school.
- The Charter Schools Office leadership will determine whether or not to move the application forward for consideration by EMU's Executive Leadership and Regents.
- Phase 2 applicants will be notified (in writing and/or possibly by phone) of selection decisions within 14 business days from the in-person meeting.

Phase 3 – Contract Approval and Building of Charter Contract

- Upon the recommendation of the review committee and CSO Director the EMU-CSO will submit proposed schools for approval by EMU’s Executive Leadership and Regents.
- Upon approval from EMU Executive Leadership and EMU Board of Regents, the EMU-CSO will work with the applicant to construct a timeline for submission of charter contract documents.
- At the discretion of the EMU-CSO, a project manager may be assigned to oversee the building of the contract as well as ensure compliance with federal, state, local and authorizer guidelines in opening and operating a public school academy. A project timeline will be created and agreed upon for implementation.

Phase 4 – Implementation

The Charter Schools Office will work closely with the leadership (governance and administration) of the organizations receiving charters to help ensure their successful opening as outlined in their contract agreement. The CSO will assist school leadership/management team in addressing the following areas:

- Academic Achievement
- Regulatory Compliance (governance and federal, state and local reporting)
- Financial Stability