

# Charter School Proposal Review Process

Ball State's Office of Charter Schools has established a rigorous application process to ensure that any group or individual planning to open a new charter school meets high standards of quality public education. Schools organizers must meet a set of General Indicators of Success established by Ball State. These indicators address a number of areas critical to the success of a school, including:

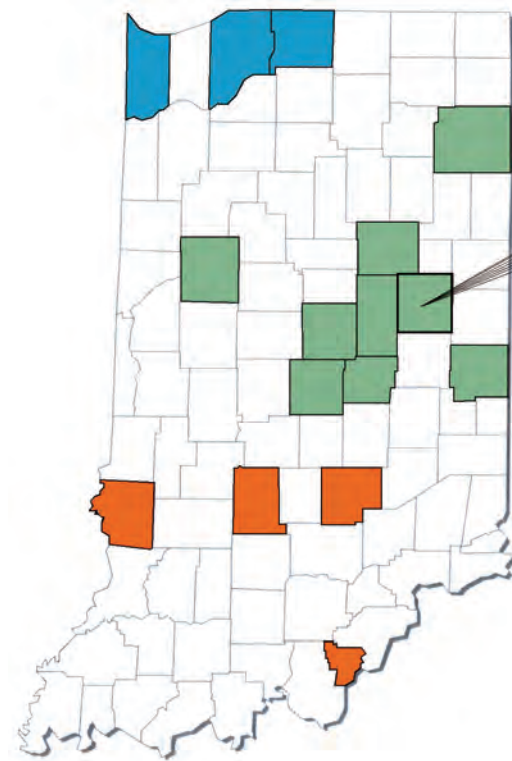
- clear and well-articulated mission
- solid governance structure
- parent/guardian participation
- sound administrative management
- relationship with an educational management organization
- strong educational program
- qualified and dedicated teachers
- plan to serve students with special needs
- health and safety
- evidence of increasing student achievement
- school climate and student discipline
- sound financial management
- recruitment and admissions procedures
- school-as-a-choice option
- appropriate facilities
- transportation
- satisfactory reporting relationships



The proposal review process begins with the school organizers submitting a Charter School Proposal to the Office of Charter Schools. A review team then evaluates the Preliminary Proposal and holds an informal interview with school organizers. Depending on the strength of the Preliminary Proposal in meeting the general indicators of success for charter schools, the school may be asked to submit a Full Charter School Proposal. This part of the review process also includes a formal interview. From here, a public meeting and additional evaluations may occur. Finally, a formal recommendation is forwarded to the president of Ball State University, who decides whether to offer the school a charter.

For more details about the proposal review process and to download forms, visit [www.bsu.edu/teachers/charter](http://www.bsu.edu/teachers/charter).

## Counties Where BSU Charter Schools are Located



NORTHERN REGION

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTRAL REGION

SOUTHERN REGION

## Contact Information

Office of Charter Schools  
Ball State University  
Teachers College, 910  
Muncie, IN 47306  
(765) 285-1336

[www.bsu.edu/teachers/charter](http://www.bsu.edu/teachers/charter)

Ball State University practices equal opportunity in education and employment and is strongly and actively committed to diversity within its community.



B A L L S T A T E  
U N I V E R S I T Y  
E D U C A T I O N R E D E F I N E D

“The national charter school movement gives Indiana an opportunity to provide alternative educational options for its children and youth while exploring innovative teaching and learning methods. From its very beginnings as a college that prepares outstanding educators, Ball State has always led the nation in innovative educational practices. Therefore, Ball State University's role as a sponsor that oversees program quality of its charter schools is consistent with the founding notions as well as aligns with the institutions current vision and mission.”

John E. Jacobson  
Dean, Teachers College

The information presented here, correct at time of publication, is subject to change.

# BALL STATE UNIVERSITY



## Office of Charter Schools

# Providing Choice in Public School Education

[www.bsu.edu/teachers/charter](http://www.bsu.edu/teachers/charter)

# Accountability Framework Encourages Success

The Ball State Office of Charter Schools has developed an accountability framework to help our schools succeed. Within the accountability framework, the office monitors performance in academic achievement, organizational management, financial stability, school satisfaction, and compliance with Ball State requirements and charter school law.

As part of the accountability framework, schools undergo annual reviews that include site visits, classroom observations, evaluations of standardized tests, financial reviews, and analyses of school-specific measures. The reviews are structured to help schools continue to improve and develop.

## Mission Statement

The Indiana Charter Law (IC 20-24-1) allows freedom and flexibility to public charter schools in exchange for exceptional levels of accountability. As a charter sponsor (or “Authorizer” as the role is referred to in a number of other states), Ball State University (“the University”) adheres to this requirement by accepting the autonomy of charter schools to operate with considerable flexibility while holding those schools to a high level of accountability.

The University has delegated to the Office of Charter Schools responsibilities related to recommending to the President which applicant groups should be granted charters, the oversight of approved charters to ensure they are meeting the terms of their charter contracts and applicable laws, and recommendations on whether or not to renew a charter contract prior to its expiration. In essence, these three activities serve as the primary mission of the Office of Charter Schools.



### INDIANA'S CHARTER SCHOOL LAW

Passed in 2001, Indiana's charter school law states that charter schools are to:

- ◆ Offer public school students appropriate and innovative choices
- ◆ Allow public schools freedom and flexibility in exchange for exceptional levels of accountability
- ◆ Serve the different learning styles and needs of public school students
- ◆ Provide parents, students, community members, and local entities with an expanded opportunity for involvement in the public school system
- ◆ Afford varied opportunities for professional educators



## Charter Schools Are Public Schools

Charter schools are independent public schools that are open to all students and are state funded. Students do not pay tuition to attend these schools. The schools are designed and operated by educators, parents, and community leaders. In Indiana, charter schools may be authorized by governing bodies, such as the executive of a consolidated city or a state university offering four-year degrees. Currently, Ball State is the only public university in Indiana to serve as a proud sponsor of charter schools.

Like all public schools, charter schools are held to high academic standards, require participation in state testing programs, hire certified teachers, and publish annual reports to the public. Unlike some traditional public schools, the curriculum often includes new and innovative approaches for teaching and can be tailored to the specific needs of students.

Charter schools operate under a performance contract known as a charter that gives the school more independence than a traditional public school. In exchange for increased freedom, charter schools are held accountable for results. If a school fails to maintain standards or meet the obligations of its charter, the charter may be revoked and the school closed.

“By enacting thorough reporting standards, the university is ensuring the schools in its public charter school network are held accountable for providing excellent educational experiences for the children they serve.”

**JO ANN M. GORA**  
President  
Ball State University

## Committed to Academic Excellence

The public charter schools sponsored by Ball State University offer Indiana students a variety of choices in education. Each school chartered by the university pursues academic excellence and has a well-defined mission that is tailored to the community's needs.

Ball State is the only university in Indiana—and one of the few in the country—that sponsors charter schools. As a leader in innovation in education and with a strong background in teaching and learning, the university is well positioned to help ensure that charter schools provide high-quality educational experiences for the students they serve. Ball State currently sponsors more than 30 charter schools, located across the state.

