

Johnson, Leanne 6-9248

From: Nicholson, Laura 6-9190
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 11:14 AM
To: Johnson, Leanne 6-9248
Subject: FW: Charter Schools
Attachments: img-312091810-0001.pdf

Please post to Q&A for 2015 tax credits. Thanks,

Laura Nicholson, Development Director
300-C Outlet Pointe Blvd. | Columbia, SC 29210
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-----Original Message-----

From: Nicholson, Laura 6-9190
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 11:05 AM
To: 'j.wilkinson@commonwealthco.net'
Subject: RE: Charter Schools

Charter schools can be public schools and if they are they would receive points. However, if the school in question is a private charter school then it doesn't count as a public school and would not receive points. Attached is information on public charter schools.

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Jennifer Wilkinson [<mailto:j.wilkinson@commonwealthco.net>]
> Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 3:27 PM
> To: Nicholson, Laura 6-9190
> Subject: Charter Schools

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> Is it true that Charter Schools are acceptable this year. I have several in my project areas, but they are private charter schools.

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> Sincerely,

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> Jennifer H. Wilkinson

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Frequently Asked Questions About SC's Public Charter Schools

What is a Charter School? Is it a public school?

Yes, charter schools are public schools allowed the freedom to be more innovative while being held accountable for improving student achievement.

How many students are attending public charter schools in South Carolina?

This school year there will be over 22,000 students enrolled in South Carolina's 60 public charter schools. There will be approximately 9,500 enrolled in the 7 virtual public charter schools.

Can charter schools have admissions tests or have other requirements to enroll?

No, entrance exams are not allowed for admission to any Public Charter School in South Carolina. By law, charter schools must have a fair and open admission process, conducting outreach and recruitment to all segments of the community they serve. SC Charter Act requires there be no barriers to entrance. The SC Charter Act requires schools to hold a lottery if there are more applications than open slots. Public charter schools are nonsectarian and nondiscriminatory in admission and employment practices.

How many "for profit" charter schools are there?

Zero. Public charter schools must be nonprofit corporations governed by a board of directors. Public charter schools, just like district run schools, purchase goods and contract for services based on the needs of their students. All of SC's Public Charter Schools must submit an annual audit to their sponsor and the SCDE and must file 990s with the IRS.

Can public charter schools hire non-certified teachers?

Start-up charter schools may hire up to 25% of noncertified faculty, however these teachers must still meet the highly qualified standards of the Federal No Child Left Behind requirements. Many of the non-certified teachers are university professors, professionals with critical career expertise, or teachers certified in other states.

What does the Alliance do?

Our work focuses on transforming public education by advancing the missions of SC's public charter schools through:

- Technical Assistance and Professional Development with Schools
- Public Policy Development
- New School Development

