Charter school boards must meet board structure requirements in Bulletin 126; and charter school boards must adhere to the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics through La.R.S. 42:1101, et. seq., applicable to charter schools via La.R.S. 17:3996(B)(20).

The guidelines below are general; proper application of these rules should be examined on a case-by-case basis.

## Charter Board Requirements

| **Non-Profit Board Composition** | • Only non-profit corporations and their boards are eligible to operate charter schools in Louisiana.  
• Charter boards with corporate partners may have corporate representation on the board, though those representatives may not make up the board's majority.  
• Non-profits may not be affiliated with or supported by any religious organization. |
| **Size** | • Boards must consist of at least seven members. |
| **Employment and Compensation** | • Board members cannot be employed by any of the schools operated by the board.  
• Members cannot receive any compensation outside of reimbursement for any actual costs related to their work on the board.  
• Members cannot accept personal gifts from any entity which is doing or has the potential to do business with the board. Board members may accept food/drink at an event for a value up to $50. |
| **Family** | • No board members can be members of the same immediate family.  
• Members must disclose to the Board of Ethics any situation in which the board member or a member of his family might benefit from a proposed action of the board. |
| **Expertise** | • Board members should have a diversity of professional skills, expertise, and interests in areas including education, organizational operations, community development, finance, and law. |
| **Residency** | • At least 60% of board members must reside in the community where the school is located, which is defined as the parish where the school is located or in immediately neighboring parishes.  
| **Boards operating one or more schools in the same parish:** | Type 2 Boards operating one school with multi-parish enrollment zones:  
Community: the parish where the school is located or in immediately neighboring parishes.  
Charter boards operating multiple schools in multiple parishes:  
Communities: parishes and immediately neighboring parishes in which the charter schools are located, with equal representation from each community to the greatest extent possible. |
| **Conflicts of Interest** | • No elected official or school board official in whose jurisdiction a Type 5 charter school is to be located may serve on the board of the Type 5 charter school.  
• Additionally, no BESE board member may serve on the board for any Type 2, 4, or 5 charter.  
• Former elected officials must wait at least one year before serving on a charter school board.  
• Board members must recuse themselves from any votes from which they might derive a personal or economic benefit. |
| **On-Going Responsibilities** | • Board members must submit a financial disclosure statement to the LA Board of Ethics annually.  
• Board members must develop and follow an annual training schedule per the guidance of the LDOE Office of Portfolio.  
• Board members must abide by their own bylaws and all applicable state laws and requirements including the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics, Louisiana Non-Profit Corporation law, Louisiana Secretary of State requirements, and Open Meetings and Public Records laws. |

This informational document is a general guide to inform schools of basic requirements. It is NOT a substitute for federal, state guidelines and/or the appropriate state and local policies. Please visit the websites above for more information or contact the Office of Portfolio with questions.