

# Louisiana Believes

## Charter School Performance Compact: Charter Board

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

<b>Non-Profit Board Composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only non-profit corporations and their boards are eligible to operate charter schools in Louisiana.</li> <li>Charter boards with corporate partners may have corporate representation on the board, though those representatives may not make up the board's majority.</li> <li>Non-profits may not be affiliated with or supported by any religious organization.</li> </ul>		
<b>Size</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boards must consist of at least seven members.</li> </ul>		
<b>Employment and Compensation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board members cannot be employed by any of the schools operated by the board.</li> <li>Members cannot receive any compensation outside of reimbursement for any actual costs related to their work on the board.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>		
<b>Family</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No board members can be members of the same immediate family.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>		
<b>Expertise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board members should have a diversity of professional skills, expertise, and interests in areas including education, organizational operations, community development, finance, and law.</li> </ul>		
<b>Residency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>		
	Boards operating one or more schools in the same parish:	Type 2 Boards operating one school with multi-parish enrollment zones:	Charter boards operating multiple schools in multiple parishes:
	Community: the parish where the school is located or in immediately neighboring parishes.	Community: any parish that is included in the charter school's attendance zone.	Communities: parishes and immediately neighboring parishes in which the charter schools are located, with equal representation from each community to the greatest extent possible.
<b>Conflicts of Interest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Additionally, no BESE board member may serve on the board for any Type 2, 4, or 5 charter.</li> <li>Former elected officials must wait at least one year before serving on a charter school board.</li> <li>Board members must recuse themselves from any votes from which they might derive a personal or economic benefit.</li> </ul>		
<b>On-Going Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board members must submit a financial disclosure statement to the LA Board of Ethics annually.</li> <li>Board members must develop and follow an annual training schedule per the guidance of the LDOE Office of Portfolio.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>		

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.