

## Charter School Discussion Matrix

Why?		Yes	No	Comment/Explain/ Concerns
Updating the LWV-VA Position on K-12 Education is needed, and needed promptly. Changes and additions are proposed to expand the position to address Charter Schools, funding of private schools with tuition tax credits, funding of private schools and students with vouchers, and the recent establishment of online learning programs.				
<p>Why? Statement/questions re Charter Schools:</p> <p>Charter schools are a given in Virginia. The Virginia Code that regulates Charter schools is extensive and very specific.</p> <p>Legislation in 1998 established the authority in Virginia Code for approving Charter Schools. Virginia currently has 8 (eight) Charter Schools with a small student population of approximately <u>1,234</u>.</p> <p><i>The primary question is whether steps should be taken to adjust or “tighten” the Virginia Code to provide for the best process for authorization, management and high-quality educational results.</i></p>				
Why? Why discuss Charter Schools? Current LWV-VA Positions on Education (2003) do not address Charter schools.				
1 Principle #1 Public schools should prevail as the highest priority for school choice in Virginia.				
2 Principle #2 Public schools sustain democracy by being open to all children.				
3 Principle #3: Public schools serve the public and prepare citizens to maintain our government.				
4 Principle #4: A Public school system allows the public to vote on school governance and school policy.				
5 Principle #5: Public schools allow the exchange of ideas and participation in decision-making.				
6 Ergo, Public money should go to Public Schools not to Private schools.				
7 Charter School Principles: Specific regulations (per legislation) for authorization, management, governance, operations, policies and funding need to be established and followed.				
8 Charter School Principle/Purpose: Allow for, and promotion of, opportunities for innovation and collaboration. (LWVPWA) Allow production of models for replication in other public schools (and to communicate effective innovations).				

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9	Clear rationale: An application should have a clear statement of the circumstances as they exist and what is to be gained by opening a charter school. (LWVPA)			
10	There should be on-going and timely communications with the applicant, the local school board, parents, teachers, students, and the public. (LWVPA, VA)			
11	Authorization of charter schools should be made after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the impact of a charter school, such as on students and parents, the broader community, environment and public employees. (LWVPA)			
12	<b>Virginia Code:</b> The Charter School Application should be a proposed agreement and should <b>include items 1 through 33 as presented in §22.1-212.8</b> <a href="https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-212.8/">https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-212.8/</a> In one document: <a href="http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/charter_schools/charter_school_law_code_of_virginia.pdf">http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/charter_schools/charter_school_law_code_of_virginia.pdf</a>			
13	What, if anything, should be changed in Virginia's Charter School Regulations and <b>Code</b> to assure proper authorization, management, operations, and policies?. (See VA Code: 22.1-212.6 through 22.1-212.8) Should these current provisions in the Code be supported? <a href="https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-212.6/">https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-212.6/</a>			Code could be changed by law; Be vigilant re adding regional charter school boards. See "National Association of Charter School Authorizers."
14	Under what added conditions (such as other authorizers) should charter schools be approved, e.g. Regional School Boards? (Currently approved <u>only</u> by local school boards and not by the State Board.)			
15	Does the Virginia <b>Constitution</b> assure valid policies for authorization of Charter Schools and for management of Charter Schools? What changes, if any, should be made/proposed?			Not specifically addressed (silent) in the <b>Constitution</b> . Bills have been introduced to give the State Board of Education authority to establish Charter Schools. <a href="http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?151+sum+SJ256">http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?151+sum+SJ256</a>

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16	Virginia Charter Schools are public schools and should continue to be managed by a local management <u>committee</u> and not by a for-profit entity. (Such as an EMO) (CMO is nonprofit, EMO is a for-profit entity.) [The presence of private, for-profit companies in the governance of public education should be opposed as there could be a conflict of interest between the interests of shareholders in the corporation and the citizens of the state. LWVIL position.]				
17	There should be on-going and timely communication with the charter school management committee, local school board, parents, teachers, students, and the public.				
	Do the 8 (eight) current Charter Schools comply with the Virginia Code and provide for the purpose of Charter Schools?				
18a	1. Charter: Is Green Run Charter School's Governing Board a good example of "management committee?" (400 students)				<a href="http://www.greenruncollegiate.vbschools.com/pages/aboutus/admin/">http://www.greenruncollegiate.vbschools.com/pages/aboutus/admin/</a>
18b	2. Charter: Is Middleburg (Loudoun County) Charter School's Board of Directors a good example of a "management committee?" They have a "Mission Team." (120 students)				Parents, Teachers, Administrators, Community members: <a href="http://www.middleburgcharterschool.org/about-us/school-management-team/">http://www.middleburgcharterschool.org/about-us/school-management-team/</a>
18c	3. Charter: Albemarle: "Community Public Charter School) (40 students in Sept. 17), Middle school, grades 6 to 8, opened in 2008; arts-infused, "Choice Theory". Charter school can have different governance structure, alternative curriculum, promote innovative programs; students do not pay; has own school management team of parents and teachers. See website for demographics. Housed in Murray High School.				<u>School Management Team:</u> An important aspect of Community Public Charter School is our School Management Team which directs the policies and mission of the school. This board consists of the founders, parents, school personnel, and community members. (9/11/16)
18d	4. Charter: Albemarle Charter: Murray High School (100 students) Opened				

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	2001 as a conversion from high school; “at-risk” students; William Glasser Quality School program; management committee includes Albemarle County School Board (?). See website for demographics.				
18e	5. Charter: Hillsboro Charter School: Purcellville in Loudoun County (Management Committee) (100 students)				<a href="https://www.lcps.org/Page/192239">https://www.lcps.org/Page/192239</a>
18f	6. Charter: York River Academy: (75 students; grades 9 to 12) Innovative academic and career-preparatory education in core subject areas with emphasis on computer technology and web design. Students must meet at least one of certain characteristics. No tuition but must purchase school uniforms. Parent partnerships. Management Committee composition and role?? Not found.				
18g	7. Charter: Richmond Career Education and Employment Academy (RCEEA) 40 students, grade level 9-12; ages 14-21). Students have cognitive disabilities...; enhance vocational capacities. Unique curriculum; ...licensed special education staff; partner with community agencies and businesses, outreach for awareness of resources for transition from school to community. Opened 2013.				<a href="http://www.rvaschools.net/domain/1233">www.rvaschools.net/domain/1233</a>
18h	8. Charter: Richmond: Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts; K-5; for environmental awareness and social responsibility. Management Committee: School Planning and Management Team (SPMT). School Improvement Committee with 10 to 15 members makes recommendations to a 3-member Board. ByLaws list types of stakeholders who form the SPMT				
19	What should Contracts for Charter Schools include as performance assessment criteria and methods as described here: §22.1-212.7? (Contracts) Is more needed? <a href="https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-212.7/">https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-212.7/</a>				§22.1-212.7 (Contracts)
20	Is the current VA code acceptable regarding Enrollment? “...open to any child residing within the relevant school division”				
21	Enrollment: Should a lottery process for enrollment continue to be used? Is it the best process? Does it give equal access to charter schools for all students?				
22	Administration: What stakeholders should compose the charter school management committee?				
23	Operation: How much should charter schools be allowed to operate free from specified school division policies and state regulations? In what way?				Specialty Charter Schools allowed?
24	Operations: Shall charter schools be strictly subject to the requirements of the				

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	Standards of Quality, including SOL and Standards of Accreditation?				
25	Operations: What entity should be responsible for a charter school's budget preparation, contracts for services, and personnel matters?				
26	Operations: What limits or authority should there be for negotiating and <u>contracting with third parties</u> for the provision of any service, activity, or undertaking which the public charter school is required to perform in order to carry out the educational program described in its charter?				
27	Operations: A public charter school shall not charge tuition. Should this requirement be continued and supported? Should there be any exceptions? §22.1-212.6 E.				
28	<p>Laws required: §22.1-212.6:1  <a href="https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-212.6:1/">https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-212.6:1/</a></p> <p>Civil rights, health and safety requirements should apply.  Student assessment and accountability requirements should apply.  Management committees should comply with VA FOIA.  No discrimination based on disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services, or other unlawful basis shall be allowed.  No discrimination will be allowed on the basis of limited proficiency in English and each public charter school shall provide services for such students.  No public charter school shall engage in any sectarian practices in its educational program, admissions or employment policies, or operations.  ?Should <u>other discriminatory categories</u> be disallowed?</p>				Disallow any other discrimination categories?
29	Operations: Revenue sources should be the same as non Charter public schools in the same jurisdiction. Donations should be acceptable.				
30a	Resources: Choice options: legislative considerations				<a href="http://www.ncsl.org/documents/educ/ComprehensiveSchoolChoicePolicy.pdf">http://www.ncsl.org/documents/educ/ComprehensiveSchoolChoicePolicy.pdf</a>
30b	Resources for online learning				<a href="https://www.inacol.org/InternationalAssociationforK-12OnlineLearning">https://www.inacol.org/International Association for K-12 Online Learning</a>
30c	Resources for authorizing methods and standards				<a href="http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/charter-">http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/charter-</a>

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				<a href="http://schools-in-the-states-charter-school-fina.aspx">schools-in-the-states-charter-school-fina.aspx</a> National Association of Charter School Authorizers: <a href="http://www.qualitycharters.org/">http://www.qualitycharters.org/</a> <a href="https://www.publiccharters.org/our-work/charter-law-database/states/virginia">https://www.publiccharters.org/our-work/charter-law-database/states/virginia</a>
30d	Resources			<a href="http://www.ncsl.org/documents/educ/AuthorizingCharterSchools.pdf">http://www.ncsl.org/documents/educ/AuthorizingCharterSchools.pdf</a> National Conference of State Legislatures
30e	Resources: Samuel E. Abrams, “Education and the Commercial Mindset” at National Center for the Study of Private Education. (nonpartisan)			National Center for the Study of Private Education: <a href="http://ncspe.tc.columbia.edu/">http://ncspe.tc.columbia.edu/</a> Director: Smauel E. Abrams KIPP: CMO = non-profit management
30f	Resource: Charter School : “Make Public Education a <u>Market Economy...</u> ”  “Introducing charter schools will allow us to reclaim the true purpose of education in a democratic society.” As Friedrich A. Hayek, another Nobel laureate, pointed out, democracy only makes sense if you can form an opinion independent of your government. Government education for all certainly hampers a citizen’s ability to think originally and freely.  In light of all this, we should wish Betsy DeVos the best in her efforts...			<a href="https://www.edweek.org/e w/articles/2018/01/08/make-public-education-a-market-economy--not-a.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1&amp;M=58334515&amp;U=1672612">https://www.edweek.org/e w/articles/2018/01/08/make-public-education-a-market-economy--not-a.html?cmp=eml-enl-eu-news1&amp;M=58334515&amp;U=1672612</a>

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	Should Charter school policy in Virginia include the market economy as described by Mr. Hayek?			
30g	Resources: National Charter School Resource Center; U.S. DOE funded <a href="https://charterschoolcenter.ed.gov/">https://charterschoolcenter.ed.gov/</a>			National Alliance for Public Charter Schools: <a href="https://www.publiccharters.org/">https://www.publiccharters.org/</a>
31	Virtual Schools (Online Learning Programs) (“CyberCharterSchools”) should be operated by nonprofit entities with robust state requirements for Authorization, Regulations, Standards, Accreditation, Administration, Academic Achievement methods and Reporting. (Similar to current Charter School requirements.)			
32	Virtual School funding: Should be based on actual costs, rather than the same level of SOQ funding provided to brick and mortar schools.			
	Problems with Private cyber school in Ohio: disaster. Does Virginia have adequate safeguards to prevent cyber school negative impacts?			<a href="https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/01/the-gops-biggest-charter-school-experiment-just-imploded/">https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/01/the-gops-biggest-charter-school-experiment-just-imploded/</a>
33	Options other than Charter Schools available: 19 Governor’s Schools			<a href="http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/governors_school_programs/">http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/governors_school_programs/</a>