

## Virtual Charter Schools Survey

As part of the Appropriations Act of 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly has directed the State Board of Education to study and determine the needed modifications for authorization and oversight of virtual charter schools, including application requirements, enrollment growth, and funding allocations. A virtual charter school is defined in State Board of Education policy as, “a nonsectarian and nondiscriminatory public charter school open to all North Carolina students who are enrolled full-time at the virtual charter school. Students enrolled at a virtual charter school receive their education predominately through the utilization of online instructional methods.”

The purpose of this study is to solicit feedback from key stakeholders across the state regarding the application requirements, operations (i.e., enrollment, growth, policy oversight), and funding allocations for virtual public charter schools in North Carolina. The survey should take about 15 minutes to complete and all information collected will be kept confidential. Findings will be used to inform the final virtual charter school study that will be provided to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee in early 2014.

Directions: Click the response(s) that best indicates your view regarding each of the following statements and questions. Please complete and submit this survey only once using one electronic device.

1. I am familiar with the concept of a virtual charter school.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I do not know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. My familiarity with virtual charter schools comes from the following (Select all that apply):

- Firsthand experience with a virtual charter school or with someone affiliated with a virtual charter school (or with an applicant to open a virtual charter school)
- Media reports on the potential creation of virtual charter schools in North Carolina
- Media reports on virtual charter schools in other states
- Discussions with professional colleagues
- I had not heard of virtual charter schools before receiving this survey
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. In your opinion, what grade configurations are developmentally appropriate for a student to attend a virtual charter school? (Select *all* that apply):

- K-1
- 2-5
- 6-8
- 9-12
- None

4. I support the opening of a virtual charter school in North Carolina.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I do not know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Virtual Charter School Application Requirements**

5. As an application requirement, a virtual charter school should offer a percentage of live instruction to students (as opposed to pre-recorded lessons or software modules).

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I do not know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. As an application requirement, a curriculum provider for a virtual charter school should be required to commit to meeting positive student performance outcomes as a condition of continuing operations or future expansion.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I do not know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. As an application requirement, a curriculum provider for a virtual charter school should be required to commit to ensuring that students complete their academic programs as a condition of continuing operations or future expansion.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I do not know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. There should be flexibility in licensure requirements for teachers in a virtual charter school.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I do not know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. There should be flexibility in licensure requirements for administrators in a virtual charter school.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I do not know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Enrollment and Growth**

10. A maximum should be placed on the number of students who can be enrolled in a virtual charter school until the school has an established a record of strong academic performance in North Carolina.

Strongly Agree                      Agree                      Neutral                      Disagree                      Strongly Disagree                      I do not know

                                                                                                            

11. The state should adopt a gradual approach in approving virtual charter schools until the academic performance of the first virtual charter school is authorized in North Carolina.

Strongly Agree                      Agree                      Neutral                      Disagree                      Strongly Disagree                      I do not know

                                                                                                            

12. Thought is being given to placing limitations on the number of virtual charter schools once they become operational in North Carolina. Which of the following do you think should be considered before lifting these limitations? (Please select all that apply):

- Performance of existing virtual charter schools in North Carolina
- Performance of virtual charter schools in other states
- Student and parent demand for virtual charter schools in North Carolina
- Overall enrollment in virtual charter schools in North Carolina
- Overall demand for virtual charter schools nationally
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

13. The state should create a specific student-to-teacher ratio requirement for virtual charter schools.

Strongly Agree                      Agree                      Neutral                      Disagree                      Strongly Disagree                      I do not know

                                                                                                            

14. The duration of the initial virtual charter school agreement should be

- No longer than two years
- No longer than three years
- No longer than five years
- The same length as initial agreements for non-virtual charter schools

15. The virtual charter school review/renewal process should contain the same core elements as the process for brick-and-mortar charter schools.

Strongly Agree                      Agree                      Neutral                      Disagree                      Strongly Disagree                      I do not know

**Funding**

Basically, state public and charter schools are funded through formulas that typically use student headcount and other specific factors. State funds are provided to local school districts and charters based on Average Daily Membership (ADM). ADM is the daily sum of all students in membership for a month divided by the total days in a month. Charter schools are entitled to both state and local funding.

16. In comparison to traditional charter schools, virtual charter schools should receive

- Much less funding
- Somewhat less funding
- The same funding
- Somewhat more funding
- Much more funding
- I do not know

17. Funding for a virtual charter school should depend on the number of students completing courses.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I do not know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. Funding for a virtual charter school should be based on mastery as demonstrated by a school’s own end-of-course examinations, or through an external/independent student assessment.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I do not know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. Funding for a virtual charter school should be based on student average daily membership (ADM) as with other public and charter schools.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I do not know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. Funding for a virtual charter school should be based on a percentage of students in average daily membership (ADM).

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	I do not know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. A virtual charter school that bases its funding on a percentage of students in average daily membership (ADM) should have an opportunity to earn more based on student performance.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	I do not know
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Demographic Information**

22. Select your gender.

- Male
- Female

23. Select your race/ethnicity.

- African American
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Hispanic
- Native American
- White, non-Hispanic
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

24. Select your age range.

- Under 20
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70+

25. Select the North Carolina geographical region in which you live.

- Western
- Central
- Eastern

26. Select the type of area in which you live.

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural

27. State the name of the North Carolina town/city where you live.

\_\_\_\_\_

28. Which of the following best represents your affiliation? Select *only* 1:

- Brick and mortar charter school
- Charter support organization
- Educational management company or curriculum provider
- Homeschool
- Institution of higher education (IHE)
- Local education agency (LEA)
- Professional education organization
- Public policy think-tank
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

29. Additional comments you would like to provide: \_\_\_\_\_

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***Thank you for your time and cooperation in completing the survey.***