

**AMENDMENT OF CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS
FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIES**

A Recommendation

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs - Public School Academies and Urban Partnerships, School of Education and Human Services.
2. **Introduction:** In 1995, Oakland University ("University") formed the Office of Public School Academies and Urban Partnerships ("PSA Office"), which is housed in the School of Education and Human Services ("SEHS"), to provide quality educational choices to students in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Since that time, the University has chartered ten (10) public school academies which serve over 6,000 students, many in economically disadvantaged areas. These schools provide students with a quality education and further the mission of the SEHS and the University to build partnerships to enhance students' intellectual abilities and prepare them to lead and serve in the local and world communities.

To this end, on October 5, 1995, the University's Board of Trustees ("Board") approved the University's Policy on Public School Academies ("Policy") that establishes guidelines for authorizing public school academies (Attachment A). The Policy incorporates the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications ("Criteria") and enumerates specific factors the PSA Office reviews and considers when assessing applications to charter a public school academy ("PSA"). On May 2, 2007, the Board approved revisions to the Policy due to changes in the law regarding the method of selection of PSA board members. The Criteria was also updated to include provisions on removal of PSA board members.

The PSA Office is requesting an amendment to the Criteria to comply with revisions to the Michigan Revised Code, the Michigan Statute that governs PSAs, MCLA 380.501 et seq. and to more accurately reflect current PSA Office processes.

The redlined and amended Criteria are Attachments B and C, respectively.

3. **Previous Board Action:** On October 5, 1995, the Board of Trustees approved the University's Policy on Public School Academies and the Criteria. On May 2, 2007, the Board approved revisions to the Policy and the Criteria.
4. **Budget Implications:** There are no budgetary implications associated with this resolution.
5. **Educational Implications:** There are no educational implications associated with this resolution.
6. **Personnel Implications:** There are no personnel implications associated with this resolution.

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7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The PSA Office's recommendation to amend the Criteria was reviewed and approved by the Dean of the School of Education and Human Services and the Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

8. **Recommendation:**

WHEREAS, the Oakland University Board of Trustees approved the Oakland University's Policy on Public School Academies and the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications on October 5, 1995; and

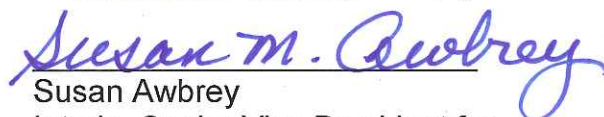
WHEREAS, the Oakland University Board of Trustees approved revisions to the Policy on and Criteria May 2, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the requested amendments to the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications in Attachment C are in the best interests of Oakland University, required to comply with applicable law and to more accurately reflect current PSA Office processes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications be amended to include the changes in Attachment C.


8. **Attachments:**
- A. University Policy on Public School Academies
 - B. Red-lined Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications
 - C. Amended Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications

Submitted to the President
on 8/11, 2012 by



Susan Awbrey
Interim Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 8/1, 2012
to the Board for Approval by


Gary D. Russi
President

**POLICY ON PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIES
(CHARTER SCHOOLS)**

**Approved by the Board of Trustees on October 5, 1995
Amended by the Board of Trustees on May 2, 2007**

The establishment of public school academies (charter schools), as authorized by recent state legislation, offers a means of improving the public elementary and secondary schools in the State of Michigan. Oakland University will assist in the establishment of public school academies in order to achieve those purposes set forth in the legislation, as follows:

To improve pupil achievement for all pupils, including, but not limited to, educationally disadvantaged pupils, by improving the learning environment.

To stimulate innovative teaching methods.

To create new professional opportunities for teachers in a new type of public school in which the school structure and educational program can be innovatively designed and managed by teachers at the school site level.

To achieve school accountability for pupil educational outcomes by placing full responsibility for performance at the school site level.

To provide parents and pupils with greater choices among public schools, both within and outside their existing school districts.

To determine whether state funds can be more effectively, efficiently, and equitably utilized by allocating funds on a per pupil basis directly to the school rather than through school district administration.

To achieve these purposes, Oakland University will authorize those public school academies which best meet the following guidelines:

- a. Further a mission and goals consistent with the mission and goals of Oakland University, as identified in Oakland University's Strategic Plan.
- b. Fill an identified and substantiated educational need or provide an opportunity for new learning experiences at a facility located in Wayne, Oakland, or Macomb County.
- c. Meet the identified and substantiated needs of its students through the use of an innovative instructional plan.

- d. Meet the needs of a culturally, economically and ethnically diverse student body and provide a diverse faculty and administrative staff.
- e. Utilize the best educational practices, as defined by the University, and attempt to develop even more effective educational programs and practices.
- f. Establish and implement a process for continuous self-evaluation and assessment, and a process for reporting the self-evaluation and assessment results to Oakland University.
- g. Establish linkages to Oakland University through allied research, educational and/or development partnerships with Oakland University faculty; and provide clinical experiences, internships and field experiences for Oakland University students.
- h. Demonstrate relationships with the business community and other community organizations.
- i. Present a fiscally sound and compelling business plan.
- j. Comply with applicable state and federal law.

Oakland University will select public school academies on a competitive basis from applicants which best demonstrate that they meet the purposes of the public school academies legislation, the guidelines set forth in this policy, and the Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications.

[Editor's note: The Criteria for the Evaluation of Applications, which was approved by the Board of Trustees on October 5, 1995 and amended by the Board of Trustees on May 2, 2007, is attached.]

**DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY CONCERNING
PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIES**

Approved by the Board of Trustees on October 9, 1997

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Oakland University wishes and intends to authorize and delegate to the President of Oakland University certain powers and authority as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the policies of the Board of Trustees and to administer the business of Oakland University in accordance with such policies and directives as may be promulgated from time to time by the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees wishes and intends by this resolution to delegate to the President of Oakland University full power and authority to carry out certain administrative functions of the university while retaining unto itself all legislative and discretionary powers which are not subject to delegation under law; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the university's Public School Academy Advisory Review Committee, the President or his designee is hereby authorized and directed to amend the contracts between the Board and the Public School Academies and take any other such action as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the business of Oakland University as authorizing body of the public school academies consistent with the Board policy on Public School Academies and the Criteria for Evaluation of Applications, the educational goals as set forth in the public school academy applications, and the law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any such amendment or other action of a material nature be reported to the University Affairs Advisory Committee at the first meeting following the amendment or action; and be it further

RESOLVED, that no amendment shall increase the liability or obligation of the university; and be it further

RESOLVED, that an annual report on the status of the public school academies shall be presented to the Board of Trustees at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

The ~~Oakland University Office of Public School Academies and Urban Partnerships~~ Office ("PSA Office") Public School Academy Application Review Committee ("Review Committee") shall use the following criteria, that incorporate requirements set forth in the Revised School Code for public school academies, MCLA 380.501 et seq ("School Code") and as the School Code requirements may be amended from time to time, in the evaluation of applications for charter process to assist in determining the strengths and weaknesses of proposed public school academies. At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the ~~PSA Office Review Committee~~ shall make a recommendation through the ~~Provost and University~~ President to the Board of Trustees to authorize or not to authorize the charter.

Section I: Demographic Characteristics

- A. Identification of Applicant. The applicant for the proposed public school academy must be clearly identified and his/her affiliation indicated as an individual, a representative of a government entity or non-government entity, or other designation.
- B. Name of proposed Public School Academy. The name of the proposed public school academy shall not duplicate that of another known public or private school.
- C. Proposed date of opening. The proposed opening date of the public school academy shall be identified and shall be reasonably achievable.
- D. School calendar and school day schedule. The proposed school calendar and school day schedule shall meet or exceed any state mandated minimum at the time of the application.
- E. Grade level(s) or ages of students to be enrolled. The application shall identify the grade level(s) and/or ages of students to be enrolled. Additionally, plans, if any, for expanding the number of grades and/or ages of students to be enrolled in future years must be clearly stated.
- F. Projected enrollment. The proposed number of students to be enrolled must be stated and the method of determining potential enrollment must be identified.
- G. Student population. A description of the target student population must be included.

Section II: Purposes and Goals

- A. Purposes of the Public School Academy

The purposes of the public school academy shall be congruent with the mission and goals of Oakland University, as reflected in the Oakland University Strategic Plan, and shall reflect a strong philosophical and educational focus that holds considerable promise for high quality teaching and learning for those students it is designed to serve.

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Indicators:

(1) The educational underpinnings on which the proposed public school academy is to be founded are supported in part (but not necessarily in entirety) by research or documented practice elsewhere. ~~Note: In an effort to foster innovation, non-traditional educational practices which are supported by a comprehensive and thorough rationale are encouraged.~~

(2) The proposed public school academy will effectively address the needs of students.

(3) The proposed public school academy utilizes sound practice (i.e., contemporary teaching methods, structures, etc.), and also incorporates innovative teaching strategies and/or instructional technology.

(4) The proposed public school academy is incorporated ~~pursuant to Section 512a of the School Code of 1976, as amended.~~)

(5) The proposed educational goals, programs and curricula are designed to fulfill ~~at least one of the purposes articulated in Section 511(1) of the School Code of 1976, as amended.~~ **[MCLA 380.502(3)(e)(ii)]**

B. Educational goals.

The educational goals of the public school academy may include statements of educational inputs; however, the goals must also include outcomes or performance based standards to be achieved by students.

Indicators:

(1) The proposed public school academy is committed to educating each student to his/her optimal level of learning.

(2) The proposed public school academy plans to develop a nurturing, child centered sense of educational atmosphere that contributes to the development of each student's confidence, sense of self-worth, personal enjoyment, and zest for learning.

(3) The proposed public school academy seeks to educate students to meet or exceed state and national standards of achievement.

(4) The proposed public school academy seeks to develop the critical thinking and problem solving skills of students.

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Section III: - Admission and Retention

A. Admission policy and criteria to be maintained.

A public school academy shall not charge tuition and shall not discriminate in its pupil admissions policies or practices on the basis of intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, status as a ~~disabled handicapped~~ person, or any other basis that would be illegal if used by a school district. A public school academy may, however, limit admission to pupils who are within a particular range of ages or grade levels or on any other basis that would be legal if used by a school district.

Indicators:

(1) The applicant must provide a description of its plans to recruit students and to advertise the school's availability. It must specifically describe its plans to advertise within the geographical area to be served. The plan to advertise and recruit will be evaluated on whether the plan is calculated to inform those persons who are likely to be interested in the public school academy. The applicant must describe the enrollment period which will be available for registration by interested families. The enrollment period must offer evening and/or weekend enrollment opportunities. The applicant must describe both its initial plans for recruitment and advertising as well as plans for these activities once the academy has been started and has an established student body.

(2) The applicant must describe the process it plans to use for the random selection of students in the event the number of students wishing to enroll exceeds the number of seats provided by the public school academy.

(3) The applicant must comply with the PSA Office Policy on Student Application and Enrollment and any subsequent changes to the policy or existing law as may occur.

B. Retention

The public school academy shall demonstrate a commitment to retain and to educate all students who enroll.

Indicators:

(1) The proposed public school academy demonstrates a commitment to the retention of all students enrolled.

(2) Procedures are established for intervention and special help or counseling for those students who do not perform up to their potential or who violate established codes of conduct.

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(3) The applicant presents a code of student conduct and set of procedures for discipline and dismissal.

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(4) The applicant includes a plan for regular involvement of the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) or other person(s) legally responsible for the student, both at home and school, and provisions for monitoring this participation.

(5) The procedure for dismissal of students shall include the requirement that the student's parent(s), guardian(s) or other person(s) legally responsible for the student will be counseled and provided a recommendation for future placement of the student.

Section IV: —Curriculum and Instructional Outcomes

A. Curricular and Instructional Design.

The curriculum shall be designed to meet the substantiated educational needs identified by the public school academy. The curriculum shall be coordinated in such a manner to allow for effective teaching and learning. Innovations that provide meaningful learning and incorporate the expertise and research of Oakland University faculty and students and the expressed goals and needs of the business community and the community at large are encouraged.

Indicators:

(1) Minimally, the public school academy curriculum must comply with Michigan's core curriculum, if any.

(2) The curricular plan may include a unique curricular element, a unique instructional delivery system, and/or a unique assessment process.

(3) The curriculum plan shall include a comprehensive program evaluation component.

B. Student Assessment.

Evaluation is an integral part of curriculum and instruction and should occur on a regular basis. Minimally, outcomes evaluation must be incorporated into the assessment plan. Alternative assessment strategies that highlight students' achievement of identified outcomes are strongly encouraged.

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Indicators:

~~(1) (1) Student performance shall be assessed using the mandated Michigan assessments designated under the School Revised School Code. [MCLA 380.502(3)(e)(ii)] The proposed assessment program must include at least one of the following: MEAP, California achievement test, Stanford achievement test, Iowa test of basic skills, metropolitan achievement test, or other State approved tests.~~

~~(1)(2) The Academy must administer bi-annually, at a minimal, a nationally recognized norm-referenced achievement test or program of testing approved by the University.~~

(23) Assessment strategies must be appropriate to the educational goals of the public school academy.

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(34) The public school academy will use the assessment results to improve teaching and learning for students.

Section V: Physical Facility

The public school academy shall be operated at a ~~single~~ site that is safe and appropriate for educational programming, and provides for the effective implementation of the curriculum. **[MCLA 380.502(3)(i)]**

A. Size.

The space and the configuration of the site shall be appropriate for effective implementation of the curriculum.

Indicators:

(1) The facility includes adequate instructional space.

(2) Instructional space is properly equipped with appropriate furnishings, teaching aids, and student learning materials.

(3) The public school academy either has, or has access to, specialized space as needed (e.g., library with appropriate holdings, laboratory with adequate equipment and supplies, musical instruments and practice rooms, studios, performance space, technology center, vocational shops, gymnasium, athletic fields, food preparation and dining facilities, etc.).

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(4) The facility has an adequate heating and ventilation system, and, whenever possible, air conditioning.

(5) The public school academy contains adequate office space and equipment for the professional staff.

(6) The public school academy has made arrangements for custodial and maintenance services.

B. Location.

The academy shall be located in Wayne, Oakland, or Macomb County.

Indicators:

(1) The application includes an address and description of the facility.

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(2) The application includes documentation demonstrating the applicant's legal right to occupy the facility on or before the proposed opening date for the public school academy, or the steps to be taken to obtain that legal right and demonstration of ability to take those steps.

C. Compliance with School Code and Other Applicable Laws.

The facility complies with the State School Code and laws relevant to health, safety, and accessibility standards.

Indicators:

(1) The facility and surrounding area is free from natural hazards and attractive nuisances.

(2) Design plans, blueprints or other documents demonstrate that the facility will be in compliance with the Persons with Disabilities Act Michigan Handicappers' Civil Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

(3) Documentation demonstrates that the facility complies with the National Fire Protection and Life Safety Codes 101, sections 10 and 11.

(4) The public school academy has property-all risk insurance in an amount sufficient to cover the total value of the academy's real and personal property.

Section VI: Budget and Finance

Adequate financial resources are available to meet operating, capital and start-up costs of the public school academy. The proposed operating budget is consistent with the needs of the public school academy.

Indicators:

(1) A five-year financial projection for the public school academy includes consideration of all operating, capital and start-up costs and related funding sources. The applicant must identify financial resources on hand or committed resources from donors or other sources to fund costs of the public school academy not included in State aid.

(2) The proposed operating budgets include consideration for all elements of school operations.

(3) Adequate reserves are available to meet unplanned emergencies.

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Section VII: Staffing and Governance Structure

A. Governance Structure

The governance structure is designed to provide for the orderly and effective operation of the public school academy, in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws.

Indicators:

(1) The public school academy utilizes a governance structure that through its board, in which considerable authority and responsibility is placed, engages in educational planning in collaboration with the school leader(s), staff, and community

~~such that the primary focus is on academic achievement and accountability, in line with the mission and goals of the public school academy. The public school academy demonstrates employment of a site-based cooperative governance structure, placing considerable authority and responsibility into the hands of the public school academy faculty and staff as it relates to the teaching methods and the implementation of the curriculum, and involving parents, the business community and the community at large.~~

(2) Descriptions of faculty-administrative and staff responsibilities, qualifications and certification demonstrate attention to site-based cooperative governance.

B. Board of Directors

The Oakland University Board of Trustees ("University Board") requires that a public school academy meet the following criteria with respect to the method of selection, length of term, and number of members of its board of directors ("Academy Board"):

(1) Method of Selection. Oakland University's Director of Public School Academies and Urban Partnerships ("Director") is authorized to develop and administer an Academy Board selection and appointment process in accord with the criteria below:

a. Initial Academy Board. The University Board shall appoint the initial Academy Board by formal resolution. The Director shall recommend nominees for the initial Academy Board based upon a review of a Public School Academy Board Member Questionnaire, interview, criminal background check, and reference checks. Each nominee shall be available for interview by the University Board or its designee. The University Board may reject any or all initial Academy Board nominees.

b. Subsequent Academy Board Members. The Oakland University Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost ("Provost"), upon recommendation from the Dean of the Oakland University School of Education and Human Services ("Dean"), shall appoint all subsequent Academy Board members. The Director shall recommend nominees to the Dean based upon a review of a Public School Academy Board Member Questionnaire, interview, criminal background check and reference checks. Each nominee shall be available for interview by the Provost or the Provost's designee. The Provost may reject any or all subsequent Academy Board nominees.

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c. The Academy Board, by resolution and majority vote, shall nominate its subsequent members, except as provided herein. Nominees shall submit the Public School Academy Board Member Questionnaire for review by the Director. If the Director elects not to recommend any of the Academy Board's nominees for a vacant position on the Academy Board, the Director may

nominate and recommend an Academy Board member of the Director's own choosing for the vacant position, or may request additional nominees from the Academy Board.

d. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy created other than by expiration of the term shall be appointed for the unexpired term of that vacant position.

(2) Length of Term. The term of each member of the Academy's Board shall be for a period of three (3) years, except that of the members first appointed, approximately one-third shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years, approximately one-third shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years, and approximately one-third shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year. At its organizational meeting, the Academy Board shall designate a term for each of the initial board members appointed by the University Board. All subsequent appointments shall be for three (3) year staggered terms. The terms for each position shall begin on July 1st and end on June 30th of the pertinent year, except the terms of the initial positions which shall begin upon appointment and end on June 30th of the pertinent year.

(3) Number of Directors. The initial number of board member positions on the Academy Board shall be five (5). The number of board member positions shall never be fewer than five (5) or more than nine (9). If the Academy Board fails to attain or maintain its full membership by making appropriate and timely nominations, the Provost, may deem that failure an exigent condition and appoint a replacement.

(4) Qualifications of Members. ~~The Academy Board shall include only those individuals who are United States citizens and residents of the State of Michigan. To Michigan. [MCLA 380.503(5) UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT]~~ To the extent possible, the Academy Board shall include (1) a parent or guardian of a child attending the school; ~~and~~ (2) one professional educator, preferably a person with either elementary or secondary school administrative experience; ~~and~~ (3) one person representing the local community in which the Academy serves. Further to be qualified, members must submit all material requested by the PSA Office including but not limited to, an authorization to process a criminal background check of the nominee and submission annually of a conflict of interest disclosure as prescribed by the PSA Office. [MCLA 380.507(1)(c) COMMUNITY REQUIREMENT] The Academy Board shall not include (1) any member appointed or controlled by another profit or non-profit corporation; (2) employees of the public school academy served by the Academy Board or independent contractors performing services for the public school academy; (3) any current or former director, officer, or employee of a management company that contracts with the public school academy served by the Academy Board; and (4) Oakland University officials or employees. ~~[MCLA 380.503(6)(k) PROHIBITS CERTAIN CONFLICTS OF INTEREST]~~. A vacancy may be left on the initial board for a parent of guardian representative.

(5) Oath. All members of the Academy Board shall take and sign the constitutional oath of office, and shall cause a copy of such oath of office to be submitted to the Director. No appointment shall be effective prior to the taking and signing of the oath of office.

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(6) Removal of Members. Any Academy Board member may be removed with or without cause by the Provost at any time, or with cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Academy Board.

With the approval of the Provost, the University's Director of the PSA Office may suspend an Academy's Board member's service, if in his/her judgement judgment the member's continued presence would constitute a risk to persons or property, or would impair the operations of the Academy.

(7) Tenure. Each Academy Board member shall hold office until that member's replacement, death, resignation, removal or until the expiration of the member's term, whichever occurs first.

(8) Resignation. Academy Board members may resign at any time by providing written notice to the Academy Board. Notice of resignation will be effective upon receipt or at a subsequent time designated in the notice. Any Academy Board member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive Academy Board meetings without prior notification to the Academy Board President, may, at the option of the Academy Board or the Provost, be deemed to have resigned, effective at a time designated in a written notice sent to the resigning Academy Board member. A successor shall be appointed as provided by the method described at B(1)(b).

(9) Board Vacancies. An Academy Board vacancy shall occur because of death, resignation, removal, failure to maintain residency in the State of Michigan, disqualification, enlargement of the Academy Board, or as required by applicable law. Any vacancy shall be filled as provided by the method of selection adopted by the University Board.

(10) Compensation. An Academy Board member shall serve as a volunteer. By resolution of the Academy Board, the Academy Board members may be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses related directly to their duties as an Academy Board member.

(11) ~~—~~Other University Action. ~~The University Board~~ authorizes and directs the Provost to take any other actions associated with the governance of Academy Board members as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the business of Oakland University as authorizing body of public school academies.

(12) Reservation of Rights. The foregoing notwithstanding, the University Board and its designee reserve the right at all times to review, rescind, remove, modify, ratify, or approve any Academy Board member.

(13) Compliance with Law. ~~-~~If at any time a change in applicable law makes illegal any of the requirements, obligations or actions set forth in or contemplated by the foregoing criteria, the affected parties shall comply with applicable law, as such law may be amended from time to time.

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C. By-Laws.

A set of by-laws must exist, setting forth the procedures and policies for the effective governance of the public school academy.

D. Administrators.

~~The head administrator must be an individual who has had three (3) or more years of previous experience as either a teacher or an administrator. Persons employed as a superintendent, principal, assistant principal or other person whose primary responsibility is administering instructional programs or as a chief business official shall meet the requirements mandated in School Code, as it may be the Revised, Section 380.1246 as amended from time to time. [MCLA 380.1246]~~

E. Teachers.

Teachers shall be either state certified teachers with the appropriate qualifications to teach the level or subjects they are to be assigned to teach, or ~~Oakland University faculty members currently employed full-time Oakland University faculty members who have been granted institutional tenure, or have been designated as being on tenure track by the University.~~ [MCLA 380.505(2)(a)] In general, the teaching staff shall be made up of teachers with varying degrees of experience.

~~F. Paraprofessionals. Non-School Staff.~~

~~Non-school staff Parents and other lay people,~~ including specifically Oakland University education students, may be employed or may volunteer to assist teachers in the instruction of children. In all cases, their activities within the classroom shall be directed and supervised by a certified teacher or Oakland University faculty member.

Section VIII: Contractual Relationship with Oakland University

The public school academy enters into a contract with the University on terms and conditions acceptable to the University and in compliance with the School Code ~~as may be amended from time to time, of 1976, as amended.~~

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CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

The Office of Public School Academies and Urban Partnerships ("PSA Office") shall use criteria that incorporate requirements set forth in the Revised School Code for public school academies, MCLA 380.501 et seq ("School Code") and as the School Code requirements may be amended from time to time, in the evaluation of applications for charter. At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the PSA Office shall make a recommendation through the Provost and President to the Board of Trustees to authorize or not to authorize the charter.

Section I: Demographic Characteristics

A. Identification of Applicant. The applicant for the proposed public school academy must be clearly identified and his/her affiliation indicated as an individual, a representative of a government entity or non-government entity, or other designation.

B. Name of proposed Public School Academy. The name of the proposed public school academy shall not duplicate that of another known public or private school.

C. Proposed date of opening. The proposed opening date of the public school academy shall be identified and shall be reasonably achievable.

D. School calendar and school day schedule. The proposed school calendar and school day schedule shall meet or exceed any state mandated minimum at the time of the application.

E. Grade level(s) or ages of students to be enrolled. The application shall identify the grade level(s) and/or ages of students to be enrolled. Additionally, plans, if any, for expanding the number of grades and/or ages of students to be enrolled in future years must be clearly stated.

F. Projected enrollment. The proposed number of students to be enrolled must be stated and the method of determining potential enrollment must be identified.

G. Student population. A description of the target student population must be included.

Section II: Purposes and Goals

A. Purposes of the Public School Academy

The purposes of the public school academy shall be congruent with the mission and goals of Oakland University, as reflected in the Oakland University Strategic Plan, and shall reflect a strong philosophical and educational focus that holds considerable promise for high quality teaching and learning for those students it is designed to serve.

Indicators:

- (1) The educational underpinnings on which the proposed public school academy is to be founded are supported in part (but not necessarily in entirety) by research or documented practice elsewhere. Note: In an effort to foster innovation, non-traditional educational practices which are supported by a comprehensive and thorough rationale are encouraged.
- (2) The proposed public school academy will effectively address the needs of students.
- (3) The proposed public school academy utilizes sound practice (i.e., contemporary teaching methods, structures, etc.), and also incorporates innovative teaching strategies and/or instructional technology.
- (4) The proposed public school academy is incorporated pursuant to the School Code.
- (5) The proposed educational goals, programs and curricula are designed to fulfill the purposes articulated in the School Code.

B. Educational goals.

The educational goals of the public school academy may include statements of educational inputs; however, the goals must also include outcomes or performance based standards to be achieved by students.

Indicators:

- (1) The proposed public school academy is committed to educating each student to his/her optimal level of learning.
- (2) The proposed public school academy plans to develop a nurturing, child centered sense of educational atmosphere that contributes to the development of each student's confidence, sense of self-worth, personal enjoyment, and zest for learning.
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Section III: Admission and Retention

A. Admission policy and criteria to be maintained.

A public school academy shall not charge tuition and shall not discriminate in its pupil admissions policies or practices on the basis of intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, status as a disabled person, or any other basis that would be illegal if used by a school district. A public school academy may, however, limit admission to pupils who are within a particular range of ages or grade levels or on any other basis that would be legal if used by a school district.

Indicators:

(1) The applicant must provide a description of its plans to recruit students and to advertise the school's availability. It must specifically describe its plans to advertise within the geographical area to be served. The plan to advertise and recruit will be evaluated on whether the plan is calculated to inform those persons who are likely to be interested in the public school academy. The applicant must describe the enrollment period which will be available for registration by interested families. The enrollment period must offer evening and/or weekend enrollment opportunities. The applicant must describe both its initial plans for recruitment and advertising as well as plans for these activities once the academy has been started and has an established student body.

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(3) The applicant must comply with the PSA Office Policy on Student Application and Enrollment and any subsequent changes to the policy or existing law as may occur.

B. Retention

The public school academy shall demonstrate a commitment to retain and to educate all students who enroll.

Indicators:

(1) The proposed public school academy demonstrates a commitment to the retention of all students enrolled.

(2) Procedures are established for intervention and special help or counseling for those students who do not perform up to their potential or who violate established codes of conduct.

(3) The applicant presents a code of student conduct and set of procedures for discipline and dismissal. (4) The applicant includes a plan for regular involvement of the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) or other person(s) legally responsible for the student, both at home and school, and provisions for monitoring this participation.

(5) The procedure for dismissal of students shall include the requirement that the student's parent(s), guardian(s) or other person(s) legally responsible for the student will be counseled and provided a recommendation for future placement of the student.

Section IV: Curriculum and Instructional Outcomes

A. Curricular and Instructional Design.

The curriculum shall be designed to meet the substantiated educational needs identified by the public school academy. The curriculum shall be coordinated in such a manner to allow for effective teaching and learning. Innovations that provide meaningful learning and incorporate the expertise and research of Oakland University faculty and students and the expressed goals and needs of the business community and the community at large are encouraged.

Indicators:

(1) Minimally, the public school academy curriculum must comply with Michigan's core curriculum, if any.

(2) The curricular plan may include a unique curricular element, a unique instructional delivery system, and/or a unique assessment process.

(3) The curriculum plan shall include a comprehensive program evaluation component.

B. Student Assessment.

Evaluation is an integral part of curriculum and instruction and should occur on a regular basis. Minimally, outcomes evaluation must be incorporated into the assessment plan. Alternative assessment strategies that highlight students' achievement of identified outcomes are strongly encouraged.

Indicators:

(1) Student performance shall be assessed using the Michigan assessments designated under the School Code.

(2) The Academy must administer bi-annually, at a minimal, a nationally recognized norm-referenced achievement test or program of testing approved by the University.

(3) Assessment strategies must be appropriate to the educational goals of the public school academy.

(4) The public school academy will use the assessment results to improve teaching and learning for students.

Section V: Physical Facility

The public school academy shall be operated at a site that is safe and appropriate for educational programming, and provides for the effective implementation of the curriculum.

A. Size.

The space and the configuration of the site shall be appropriate for effective implementation of the curriculum.

Indicators:

(1) The facility includes adequate instructional space.

(2) Instructional space is properly equipped with appropriate furnishings, teaching aids, and student learning materials.

(3) The public school academy either has, or has access to, specialized space as needed (e.g., library with appropriate holdings, laboratory with adequate equipment and supplies, musical instruments and practice rooms, studios, performance space, technology center, vocational shops, gymnasium, athletic fields, food preparation and dining facilities, etc.).

(4) The facility has an adequate heating and ventilation system, and, whenever possible, air conditioning.

(5) The public school academy contains adequate office space and equipment for the professional staff.

(6) The public school academy has made arrangements for custodial and maintenance services.

B. Location.

The academy shall be located in Wayne, Oakland, or Macomb County.

Indicators:

(1) The application includes an address and description of the facility.

(2) The application includes documentation demonstrating the applicant's legal right to occupy the facility on or before the proposed opening date for the public school academy, or the steps to be taken to obtain that legal right and demonstration of ability to take those steps.

C. Compliance with School Code and Other Applicable Laws.

The facility complies with the State School Code and laws relevant to health, safety, and accessibility standards.

Indicators:

(1) The facility and surrounding area is free from natural hazards and attractive nuisances.

(2) Design plans, blueprints or other documents demonstrate that the facility will be in compliance with the Persons with Disabilities Act Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

(3) Documentation demonstrates that the facility complies with the National Fire Protection and Life Safety Codes 101, sections 10 and 11.

(4) The public school academy has property-all risk insurance in an amount sufficient to cover the total value of the academy's real and personal property.

Section VI: Budget and Finance

Adequate financial resources are available to meet operating, capital and start-up costs of the public school academy. The proposed operating budget is consistent with the needs of the public school academy.

Indicators:

(1) A five-year financial projection for the public school academy includes consideration of all operating, capital and start-up costs and related funding sources. The applicant must identify financial resources on hand or committed resources from donors or other sources to fund costs of the public school academy not included in State aid.

(2) The proposed operating budgets include consideration for all elements of school operations.

(3) Adequate reserves are available to meet unplanned emergencies.

Section VII: Staffing and Governance Structure

A. Governance Structure

The governance structure is designed to provide for the orderly and effective operation of the public school academy, in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws.

Indicators:

(1) The public school academy utilizes a governance structure that through its board, in which considerable authority and responsibility is placed, engages in educational planning in collaboration with the school leader(s), staff, and community such that the primary focus is on academic achievement and accountability, in line with the mission and goals of the public school academy.

(2) Descriptions of administrative and staff responsibilities, qualifications and certification demonstrate attention to site-based cooperative governance.

B. Board of Directors

The Oakland University Board of Trustees ("University Board") requires that a public school academy meet the following criteria with respect to the method of selection, length of term, and number of members of its board of directors ("Academy Board"):

(1) Method of Selection. Oakland University's Director of Public School Academies and Urban Partnerships ("Director") is authorized to develop and administer an Academy Board selection and appointment process in accord with the criteria below:

a. Initial Academy Board. The University Board shall appoint the initial Academy Board by formal resolution. The Director shall recommend nominees for the initial Academy Board based upon a review of a Public School Academy Board Member Questionnaire, interview, criminal background check, and reference checks. Each nominee shall be available for interview by the University Board or its designee. The University Board may reject any or all initial Academy Board nominees.

b. Subsequent Academy Board Members. The Oakland University Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost ("Provost"), upon recommendation from the Dean of the Oakland University School of Education and Human Services ("Dean"), shall appoint all subsequent Academy Board members. The Director shall recommend nominees to the Dean based upon a review of a Public School Academy Board Member Questionnaire, interview, criminal background check and reference checks. Each nominee shall be available for interview by the Provost or the Provost's designee. The Provost may reject any or all subsequent Academy Board nominees.

c. The Academy Board, by resolution and majority vote, shall nominate its subsequent members, except as provided herein. Nominees shall submit the Public School Academy Board Member Questionnaire for review by the Director. If the Director elects not to recommend any of the Academy Board's nominees for a vacant position on the Academy Board, the Director may nominate and recommend an Academy Board member of the Director's own choosing for the vacant position, or may request additional nominees from the Academy Board.

d. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy created other than by expiration of the term shall be appointed for the unexpired term of that vacant position.

(2) Length of Term. The term of each member of the Academy's Board shall be for a period of three (3) years, except that of the members first appointed, approximately one-third shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years, approximately one-third shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years, and approximately one-third shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year. At its organizational meeting, the Academy Board shall designate a term for each of the initial board members appointed by the University Board. All subsequent appointments shall be for three (3) year staggered terms. The terms for each position shall begin on July 1st and end on June 30th of the pertinent year, except the terms of the initial positions which shall begin upon appointment and end on June 30th of the pertinent year.

(3) Number of Directors. The initial number of board member positions on the Academy Board shall be five (5). The number of board member positions shall never be fewer than five (5) or more than nine (9). If the Academy Board fails to attain or maintain its full membership by making appropriate and timely nominations, the Provost, may deem that failure an exigent condition and appoint a replacement.

(4) Qualifications of Members. The Academy Board shall include only those individuals who are United States citizens and residents of the State of Michigan. To the extent possible, the Academy Board shall include (1) a parent or guardian of a child attending the school; (2) one professional educator, preferably a person with either elementary or secondary school administrative experience; and (3) one person representing the local community in which the Academy serves. Further to be qualified, members must submit all material requested by the PSA Office including but not limited to, an authorization to process a criminal background check of the nominee and submission annually of a conflict of interest disclosure as prescribed by the PSA Office. The Academy Board shall not include (1) any member appointed or controlled by another profit or non-profit corporation; (2) employees of the public school academy served by the Academy Board or independent contractors performing services for the public school academy; (3) any current or former director, officer, or employee of a management company that contracts with the public school academy served by the Academy Board; and (4)

Oakland University officials or employees. A vacancy may be left on the initial board for a parent or guardian representative.

(5) Oath. All members of the Academy Board shall take and sign the constitutional oath of office, and shall cause a copy of such oath of office to be submitted to the Director. No appointment shall be effective prior to the taking and signing of the oath of office.

(6) Removal of Members. Any Academy Board member may be removed with or without cause by the Provost at any time, or with cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Academy Board.

With the approval of the Provost, the University's Director of the PSA Office may suspend an Academy's Board member's service, if in his/her judgment the member's continued presence would constitute a risk to persons or property, or would impair the operations of the Academy.

(7) Tenure. Each Academy Board member shall hold office until that member's replacement, death, resignation, removal or until the expiration of the member's term, whichever occurs first.

(8) Resignation. Academy Board members may resign at any time by providing written notice to the Academy Board. Notice of resignation will be effective upon receipt or at a subsequent time designated in the notice. Any Academy Board member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive Academy Board meetings without prior notification to the Academy Board President, may, at the option of the Academy Board or the Provost, be deemed to have resigned, effective at a time designated in a written notice sent to the resigning Academy Board member. A successor shall be appointed as provided by the method described at B(1)(b).

(9) Board Vacancies. An Academy Board vacancy shall occur because of death, resignation, removal, failure to maintain residency in the State of Michigan, disqualification, enlargement of the Academy Board, or as required by applicable law. Any vacancy shall be filled as provided by the method of selection adopted by the University Board.

(10) Compensation. An Academy Board member shall serve as a volunteer. By resolution of the Academy Board, the Academy Board members may be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses related directly to their duties as an Academy Board member.

(11) Other University Action. The University Board authorizes and directs the Provost to take any other actions associated with the governance of Academy Board members as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the business of Oakland University as authorizing body of public school academies.

(12) Reservation of Rights. The foregoing notwithstanding, the University Board and its designee reserve the right at all times to review, rescind, remove, modify, ratify, or approve any Academy Board member.

(13) Compliance with Law. If at any time a change in applicable law makes illegal any of the requirements, obligations or actions set forth in or contemplated by the foregoing criteria, the affected parties shall comply with applicable law, as such law may be amended from time to time.

C. By-Laws.

A set of by-laws must exist, setting forth the procedures and policies for the effective governance of the public school academy.

D. Administrators.

Persons employed as a superintendent, principal, assistant principal or other person whose primary responsibility is administering instructional programs or as a chief business official shall meet the requirements mandated in School Code, as it may be amended from time to time.

E. Teachers.

Teachers shall be either state certified teachers with the appropriate qualifications to teach the level or subjects they are to be assigned to teach, or currently employed full-time Oakland University faculty members who have been granted institutional tenure, or have been designated as being on tenure track by the University. In general, the teaching staff shall be made up of teachers with varying degrees of experience.

Non-School Staff. Non-school staff including specifically Oakland University education students, may be employed or may volunteer to assist teachers in the instruction of children. In all cases, their activities within the classroom shall be directed and supervised by a certified teacher or Oakland University faculty member.

Section VIII: Contractual Relationship with Oakland University

The public school academy enters into a contract with the University on terms and conditions acceptable to the University and in compliance with the School Codes may be amended from time to time.