



## Council for Lifelong Learning Charter School Districts

## Fact Sheet

September 2001

<p>1. What are charter school districts?</p>	<p>In 1999, the Legislature established the Charter School Districts Pilot Program authorizing the State Board of Education to enter into a performance contract with a maximum of six school districts for the purpose of establishing them as charter school districts.</p> <p>A charter school district is a school district in which the school board agrees to comply with certain performance goals contained in a performance contract that is approved by the State Board of Education. In return, a charter school district is granted statutory and rule exemptions.</p>
<p>2. How many charter school districts exist in Florida?</p>	<p>Presently, there are <i>two</i> charter school districts in Florida (Volusia County School District and Hillsborough County School District).</p>
<p>3. Is a charter school district required to have charter schools residing within its district?</p>	<p>No. A charter school district is not statutorily required to have charter schools residing within its district. However, the Hillsborough County School District has 14 charter schools operating in its district, while the Volusia County School District has one charter school operating in its district.</p>
<p>4. Are traditional public schools located in a school district that has been established as a charter school district required to convert to charter schools?</p>	<p>No. Traditional public schools located in a school district that has been established as a charter school district are not statutorily required to convert to charter schools. In fact, both the Hillsborough County School District and the Volusia County School District do not have any conversion charter schools operating within their districts.</p>
<p>5. How long can a school district receive charter school district status?</p>	<p>A charter school district must be chartered for three years. At the end of the three years, the school district must have its performance evaluated and the State Board of Education may renew the school district's charter.</p>
<p>6. Does a charter school district have a governing board?</p>	<p>Yes. The governing board of a charter school district must be the school district's elected board members. The school board (governing board) is responsible for supervising all schools in the school district. Additionally, the school board is authorized to charter each of its existing public schools; deregulate each of its existing public schools; or establish performance-based contractual relationships with its existing public schools for the purpose of providing them with greater</p>

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	autonomy in return for performance accountability.
7. Are charter school districts exempt from state statutes?	<p>Yes. Charter school districts are exempt from the Florida School Code (Chapters 228-246, F.S.), except those statutes specifically applying to charter schools; pertaining to the provision of services to students with disabilities; pertaining to civil rights; and pertaining to student health, safety, and welfare.</p> <p>Charter school districts <i>are not</i> exempt from any statute governing the election of school board members; public meetings and public records requirements; financial disclosure; conflicts of interest; operation in the sunshine; or other provisions not included in the Florida School Code.</p>
8. What are the applicable statutes and rules?	Section 228.058, F.S. -- Charter School Districts Pilot Program.
9. Where can I get additional information?	<p>Florida Department of Education Office of Public School Choice (850) 488-5011 or DOE Hotline (800) 447-1636 <a href="http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org">www.floridaschoolchoice.org</a></p> <p>Hillsborough County School District (813) 272-4050 <a href="http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/">www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/</a></p> <p>Volusia County School District (904) 734-7190 <a href="http://www.volusia.k12.fl.us/">www.volusia.k12.fl.us/</a></p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Education Innovation (850) 488-7451</p>