

Re: Online posting of waivers from state statute and replacement plans

Please be aware that with passage of House Bill 17-1375, charter schools have a new reporting requirement that takes effect July 1.

New requirement

All charter schools must post on their public website the following information:

- 1. A list of their school's waivers from state statute (including both automatic and non-automatic waivers)
- 2. Replacement plans for all non-automatic waivers from state statute

Deadline for compliance: July 1, 2017

Why is this necessary?

While also supporting best practices around transparency, this is a new and immediate requirement as specified by passage of HB 17-1375 (concerning mill levy equalization for charter schools). The applicable section of the legislation is included below:

C.R.S. 22-44-305(1)(a) reads,

"Commencing July 1, 2017... [each] <u>charter school</u> shall post, in a location and format that can be easily accessed and downloaded, for free public access on its website...a list of the statutes for which the ... <u>charter school</u> has received a waiver from the state board of education and, for each waiver that is not an automatic waiver, a copy of the plan that explains the manner in which the ... <u>charter school</u> will meet the intent of the waived statute."

All charter schools must take action to meet the posting requirements of HB17-1375, effective July 1, 2017. There are additional requirements that will take effect in 2018 and in subsequent years. The Schools of Choice Unit will provide an alert on these requirements at a later date.

Common Questions:

Where Can I Find my Waivers?

Schools should have a list of their current waivers from state statute (and rationale & replacement plans); however, schools also can find their waivers and replacement policies in their last charter application. Most schools can download their plans from the State Board of Education Board Docs site at <u>http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cde/Board.nsf/Public</u>

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Is it enough to post my contract (or application) if it has the waivers in it?

Yes, but you will want to make sure that it includes your waivers and the replacement plans for all non-automatic waivers. The expectation is for the posting to be "easily accessed and downloaded" so you will want to make sure that a visitor to the school website can easily access this part of the plan. As a best practice, post the information on your financial transparency page and, if the waivers are part of a larger document, provide some clarification on where waivers and replacement plans can be found within the document.

If you have any follow-up questions, please contact Brian Martin in the Schools of Choice Office at (303) 866-6897 <u>Martin B@cde.state.co.us</u>