



Addendum to Paving a New Path

November 2017

Paving a New Path was most recently updated in 2014. Since then, there have been a number of changes to the Illinois Charter Schools Law. Below, we highlight several changes that are most relevant for charter designers. We recommend that you read the Illinois Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/Art. 27A) in its entirety and seek additional guidance in any areas of uncertainty as you proceed with charter school design and startup.

- **English Learners:** Illinois charter schools are now required to follow both federal and state regulations with respect to English learners. This includes providing a Transitional Bilingual Education program or Transitional Program of Instruction for students who speak a home language other than English. Review Article 14C of the School Code and Administrative Code Part 228 for more details.
- **Student Discipline:** Charter Schools must follow Public Act 099-0456, which applies to all Illinois schools, with respect to Student Discipline. This act prohibits use of zero tolerance policies, limits use of exclusionary discipline (like suspensions), prohibits the use of disciplinary fines and fees, and promotes the use of disciplinary alternatives, like PBIS and restorative justice.
- **Truancy and Absenteeism:** Charter schools must comply with absenteeism and truancy policies and requirements applicable to public schools.
- **Lotteries and Marketing:** Additional requirements have been added regarding charter school lotteries, including that lotteries must be video taped and the recordings shared with authorizers. In addition, advertisements, including radio, television, print, Internet, social media, or billboard advertisements, purchased by a school district or public school, including a charter school, with public funds must include a disclaimer stating that the advertisement was paid for using public funds, unless the materials were created by the school itself (e.g. school website, informational pamphlets, or clothing with school logos).
- **Charter Caps:** A total of 120 charters may be granted in Illinois: 70 in Chicago and 45 outside Chicago. Within Chicago, up to 5 may be multi-campus dropout recovery schools.
- **Charter Renewal:** New charter schools will be authorized for a 5-year term. On renewal, district authorizers may award charters a term of up to 10 years. The Charter Commission may renew for up to 5 years.
- **Funding Range:** Charter schools will receive between 97% and 103% of the district's *Per Capita Tuition Charge* per enrolled student.
- **Federal Education Law:** The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has replaced No Child Left Behind (NCLB), resulting in reduced federal accountability for schools and districts.