



2024–25 Annual Charter School Assurances Instructions

Background

In 2011, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) settled a lawsuit, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) v. Tarek ibn Ziyad Academy, et al., in which the Commissioner of Education was named as a party. As part of the Settlement Agreement, MDE agreed to adopt certain assurances for charter schools and authorizers. Each charter school that will be operational in the 2024–25 school year must sign Annual Charter School Assurances, which consist of nine separate assurances related to ensuring nonsectarian public education in all charter school operations, in accordance with state and federal law. Applicable laws include prohibitions against government promotion, establishment, or endorsement of religion, and protections preventing funds distributed to public charter schools from unconstitutionally promoting or establishing religion. The assurances are part of oversight of charter school operations by MDE and charter school authorizers.

Instructions

All operational charter schools must complete the 2024–25 Annual Charter School Assurances form, taking care that the entire form is filled out, and signed by both the director of the charter school and the charter school board chair. Submission of the 2024–25 Annual Charter School Assurances form also requires additional documentation. Please note several assurances (numbered 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 9 (if applicable)) require additional school-specific information. Note also several assurances (numbered 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9) require copies of adopted board policies concerning religious and other matters.

Submission

The Annual Charter School Assurances must be kept on file by the charter school's authorizer and a copy must also be submitted to MDE. Please complete and sign the 2024–25 Annual Charter School Assurances. Return the completed Annual Charter School Assurances form, together with all required attachments, to your authorizer and provide a copy to MDE **no later than October 31, 2024**. Documents may be submitted to MDE as one or more PDF files emailed to mde.charterschools@state.mn.us.

Assistance

If you have further questions regarding these required charter school assurances, please contact the MDE Charter Center at mde.charterschools@state.mn.us or 651-582-8297.