



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

2024 PRE-K Charter Application Questions

1. For the performance task portion of the interview, should there be a specific person to answer or is this a group activity?

The performance task is designed for your founding team, including your governing board, to participate. While your team will have time to discuss the task together, how you choose to respond is entirely up to your team.

2. Can the school open in August 2025 prior to the pre-opening assurances being completed?

No, the school cannot open in August 2025 or at any time until **ALL** pre-opening assurances have been completed and the charter contract has been fully executed.

3. Is there a relationship/partnership with the AG office to allow for expedited approvals?

Yes, the State Public Charter School Commission, and charter schools, are assigned a designated Deputy Attorney General in charter school statutory requirements. Once an application advances to Phase II: Pre-Contracting, the Commission will facilitate a connection between the applicant and Deputy Attorney General to assist with the approval process. However, our office cannot control nor comment regarding "expedited approvals."

4. Is this application primarily for pre-existing Pre-K programs?

Priority will be given to existing Pre-K programs, as they are expected to be ready to open by August 2025. However, new Pre-K programs are also eligible to apply and will be considered.

5. Is it still a requirement to have 5 year requirement with DHS?

While existing Department of Human Services (DHS) Group Child Care licensed community programs are prioritized, having such a license is not a mandatory requirement for application. New Pre-K programs without prior DHS licensing are also eligible to apply.

6. Are there any restrictions on the medium of instruction besides English and Hawaiian?

This question cannot be answered without first understanding the intent of the charter mission and the full scope of the proposed program through the application process. Currently, the State of Hawai'i recognizes two official languages, which are English and Hawaiian ('Ōlelo Hawai'i). In addition, charter schools are required to follow all statewide content and performance standards in accordance with [BOE Policy 102-3](#) and §302D-39.



7. If we are proposing a Samoan immersion school, would this also be possible?

Currently, the State of Hawai'i recognizes two official languages: English and Hawaiian ('Ōlelo Hawai'i). Additionally, charter schools are required to align with all statewide content and performance standards, as outlined in Board of Education Policy 102-3 and §302D-39.

While it does not exclude an immersion school conducting instruction in another language, such a proposal would require a comprehensive approach approval by the Commissioners.

We encourage you to present a comprehensive application that addresses these considerations.

8. If we have additional questions during the application process, can we send questions via email or should we sign up for T&A session?

For general questions, yes, you can send those to applications@spcsc.hawaii.gov. For specific scenarios that need further discussion, technical assistance will be offered to applicants by Commission Staff, in accordance with HRS §302D-5(g). This will consist of one (1) thirty-minute session with staff for clarifying questions. The purpose of the session is to provide clarity for potential applicants. Technical support provided shall not "directly and substantially impact any authorizer decision related to the approval or denial of the charter application." To schedule your technical assistance before the submittal date, email applications@spcsc.hawaii.gov.

9. How do we sign up for technical assistance?

To sign up for one (1) thirty-minute session with staff for clarifying questions, email applications@spcsc.hawaii.gov with a few proposed dates, times, and your preferred location. The staff will coordinate with you to schedule the session.

10. I have legal type of questions, such as oversight. Where can I go for those answers?

For legal questions, such as those concerning oversight, you can schedule a 30-minute technical assistance session with Commission staff by emailing applications@spcsc.hawaii.gov. Additionally, the Pre-K only charter contract, which provides detailed information on oversight and other legal matters, is available on the Commission's website ([here](#)).



11. Will there be a sample application available from the previous year?

Yes, a sample application from the previous year is now available. The State of Hawaii Public Charter School Commission website has been updated to include the previous application for reference. You can access it directly on the website ([here](#)).