



New Frontiers Charter School

BUILDING MIND, CHARACTER AND COMMUNITY

_____Module 300: General School Operations
Charter Board Policy for New Frontiers Charter School

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300.020. SCHOOL YEAR AND ELIGIBILITY STATUS

The governing body (“Board”) of New Frontiers Charter School adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. School Year

The Board adopts the following dates as New Frontiers Charter School’s school year:
August – June

SECTION 2. Eligibility Status

New Frontiers Charter School shall maintain its status as an organization that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3)). Any change in status shall cause the Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent and/or designee to immediately notify the commissioner of education.

300.040. INSTRUCTIONAL FACILITIES

The governing body (“Board”) of New Frontiers Charter School adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Right to Occupy Facilities

The Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent and/or Designee shall maintain in school records a copy of the legally enforceable instrument conferring on the school the right to occupy and use facilities suitable for classroom use.

SECTION 2. Occupancy Certificate

If New Frontiers Charter School is approved for a new facility site by the commissioner of education, before commencing operations, the Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent and/or designee shall file a certificate of occupancy or its equivalent with the Texas Education Agency, Division of Charter Schools.

300.060 CHARTER AMENDMENTS

The governing body (“Board”) of New Frontiers Charter School adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

Before amending the terms of its charter, the Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent shall ensure that New Frontiers Charter School shall comply with all applicable regulations in regards to filing an amendment request with the Texas Education Agency.

300.080. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The governing body (“Board”) of New Frontiers Charter School adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

The Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent’s designee shall develop and implement a multi-hazard emergency operations plan for use in New Frontiers Charter School’s facilities. The plan must provide for:

1. The mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery in regards to an emergency
2. Employee training in responding to an emergency;
3. Mandatory school drill exercises to prepare students and employees for

- responding to an emergency, and
4. Measures to ensure coordination with the Department of State Health Services and local emergency management agencies, law enforcement, health departments, and fire departments in the event of an emergency.

Each campus of New Frontiers Charter School shall have a copy of the emergency management plan and all staff/personnel will be trained annually on the emergency procedures.

300.100. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The governing body ("Board") of New Frontiers Charter School adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board. The instructional material adoption process shall comport with relevant laws and regulations.

SECTION 1. Instructional Materials Allotment

SECTION 1.1. Certification of Use

The use of New Frontiers Charter School's instructional materials allotment ("IMA") shall comport with applicable law and regulation. The Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent or designee shall annually certify to the commissioner of education that New Frontiers Charter School's IMA has been used solely for expenses allowed by law.

SECTION 1.2. If the number of students attending New Frontiers Charter School will increase or decrease during the school year for which the IMA is provided, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent's designee shall ensure that by May 31 of each school year a request is submitted to the commissioner of education requesting an adjustment in the number of students for which New Frontiers Charter School is entitled to receive an IMA.

SECTION 2. Selection of Instructional Materials

SECTION 1.1. Instructional Materials Selection Committee

- a. Appointment. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent shall appoint an instructional materials selection committee to review and consider textbooks, as well as other instructional materials for adoption by New Frontiers Charter School.
- b. Recommendation to the Board. The committee shall review instructional and make a recommendation to the Board as to which instructional materials should be adopted by New Frontiers Charter School.

SECTION 1.2. Board Adoption and Recording

The Board will consider the committee's recommendation for adoption at a scheduled Board meeting. If the Board chooses not to adopt any or part of the committee's recommendation, the committee shall reconvene to determine alternate instructional materials for adoption. This process shall continue until the Board chooses to adopt all of the instructional materials recommended by the committee. Final selections of instructional materials adopted by the Board shall be recorded in the Board minutes.

SECTION 1.3. Supplemental Instructional Materials

If New Frontiers Charter School requisitions supplemental instructional materials, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent or CEO's designee shall ensure that New Frontiers Charter School certifies to the Texas Education Agency that the supplemental instructional materials, in combination with any other instructional materials or supplemental instructional materials used by New Frontiers Charter School, cover the essential knowledge and skills identified in law.

SECTION 1.4. Notification to SBOE

Each year, during the period established by the State Board of Education ("SBOE"), the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent or CEO's designee, shall notify the SBOE of the instructional materials selected for the following school year as required by law.

SECTION 1.5. TEA Report

By April 1st of each year, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent or CEO's designee shall transmit to the TEA a report listing the instructional materials selected for use at New Frontiers Charter School.

SECTION 1.6. Annual Certification of Provision of Materials

Before the beginning of each school year, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent or CEO's shall certify to the SBOE and the commissioner of education that New Frontiers Charter School for each subject in the required curriculum and each grade level, provides instructional materials that cover all elements of the essential knowledge and skills adopted by the SBOE.

SECTION 1.7. Board Ratification of the Annual Certification

The certification shall be ratified by the Board in a public, noticed meeting and shall be submitted in a format approved by the commissioner of education.

SECTION 2. Handling and Requisition

SECTION 2.1. Textbook Coordinator

The Board delegates to Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent or CEO's designee the authority to requisition, distribute, and manage the inventory of instructional materials in a manner consistent with all laws and regulations.

SECTION 2.2. Requisitions

By June 1st each year, New Frontiers Charter School shall requisition instructional materials using the online requisition program maintained by the commissioner of education.

SECTION 2.3. Inventory

Annually, the Instructional Materials Coordinator shall conduct a physical inventory of all currently adopted instructional materials. The results of the inventory shall be recorded in New Frontiers Charter School's files.

SECTION 3. Responsibility for Instructional Materials and Technological Equipment

SECTION 3.1. Student

A student must return all instructional materials and/or technological equipment to the teacher at the end of the school year or when the student withdraws from school.

- A. A student who fails to return in an acceptable condition all instructional materials and technological equipment forfeits the right to free instructional materials and technological equipment until all instructional materials and technological equipment previously issued, but not returned in an acceptable condition, are paid for by the student, student's parent, or student's guardian.

At the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent or CEO's designee New Frontiers Charter School may waive or reduce the required payment for a student who is eligible for free or reduced price school meals.

- B. New Frontiers Charter School shall allow the student to use instructional materials and technological equipment during each school day.

SECTION 3.2. Employee

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent or CEO's designee, shall ensure that in consideration for the ability of an employee to use, for personal business, electronic instructional material or technological equipment off school property or outside of a school-sponsored event, the employee enters into a written agreement with New Frontiers Charter School whereby the employee assumes financial responsibility for the electronic instructional material and/or technological equipment. Such agreement shall clearly inform the employee of the amount of the financial responsibility and advise the employee to consider obtaining appropriate insurance. The employee may not be required to agree to such an agreement as a condition of employment.

SECTION 4. Disposal Procedures

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent shall recommend procedures to the Board for how New Frontiers Charter School will dispose of discontinued printed instructional materials, electronic instructional materials, and technological equipment.

300.120. GRIEVANCE PROCESS

The governing body ("Board") of New Frontiers Charter School adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board. This policy governs student and parent complaints, employee grievances, and citizen complaints.

For purposes of this policy, "days" means school calendar days.

With the exception of a complaint against the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent each complaint must initially be brought at the lowest level of review, at the Campus Principal Review level.

The Board encourages all complaints to be resolved at the lowest level possible.

SECTION 1. Campus Principal Review of Complaint

Where a(n) New Frontiers Charter School employee, student, guardian of a student, or a member of the public has a complaint or concern regarding New Frontiers Charter School, the individual shall first bring their complaint or concern in writing to the appropriate campus principal. The complaint must be brought within 15 school days of the date that the complainant knew or should have known of the alleged harm. The complaint must be specific, and where possible suggest a resolution. The principal must hear the complainant, attempt to remedy the complaint in the best interest of the affected parties, and document the outcome. The principal must respond to the complainant and issue a final decision in writing within 10 days of the principal's receipt of the complaint.

SECTION 2. Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/ Superintendent Review of Complaint

If the individual bringing the complaint is not satisfied with the campus principal's final decision, then the individual may file a written appeal to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent or CEO's designee of New Frontiers Charter School. This written appeal shall be filed with the CEO's office within 10 days of the individual's receipt of the campus principal's final decision. The complaint shall include a copy of the written complaint to the campus principal along with a copy of the campus principal's final decision. A copy of the appeal shall also be delivered to the campus principal.

The appeal must be specific, and where possible suggest a resolution. The complaint shall not include any new issues or complaints unrelated in the original complaint expressed to the campus principal.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent or the CEO's designee, shall respond to the complaint and issue a final decision in writing within 15 days of receipt of the written appeal.

SECTION 3. Board of Directors Review of Complaint

Individuals who are dissatisfied with the response of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent may present their complaint to the Board of Directors during the time of CITIZEN'S PRESENTATIONS at the next regular meeting of the board of directors. The board shall "stop, look, and listen" to the complaint, but may not deliberate or act on the complaint except in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

A complaint against the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent shall begin at this level of review and shall follow the complaint process in accordance with this policy section and the Texas Open Meetings Act.

The failure of the Board to act on a complaint has the effect of upholding the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent's decision.

300.140. MEDIA RELATIONS

The governing body ("Board") of New Frontiers Charter School adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board. The purpose of this policy is for New Frontiers Charter School to be prepared to cooperate with media representatives and gain favorable media coverage.

SECTION 1. Compliance

New Frontiers Charter School shall comply with all laws and rules governing media relations.

SECTION 2. Designation of Spokespersons for New Frontiers Charter School

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent and/or Director of Public Relations and/or designee, will serve as the primary spokesperson with the media for New Frontiers Charter School on all matters of school interest, except the Board President, or the Board President's designee of the Board shall serve as the spokesperson for matters specifically involving the Board of New Frontiers Charter School.

SECTION 3. Procedures Governing Media Access

Requests to interview, film, videotape, and/or photograph students and/or school personnel on school grounds shall go through the Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent, and/or Director of Public Relations and/or designee. Whenever possible, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent, and/or Director of Public Relations and/or designee shall contact the school principal before a media visit.

300.160. ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT

The governing body ("Board") of New Frontiers Charter School adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Compliance

New Frontiers Charter School shall comply with all federal and state laws and regulations in regards to the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act ("AHERA"). New Frontiers Charter School designates the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent and/or Director of Facilities and/or designee, as the individual who will ensure such compliance. The Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent and/or Director of Facilities and/or designee shall receive appropriate and relevant training on the AHERA.

SECTION 2. Annual Notice

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent and/or Director of Facilities and/or designee, shall send an annual notice to students, parents, guardians, and employees regarding the AHERA as required by law.

Model AHERA Yearly Notification Form

[Date]

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, & Employees:

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which requires school inspections to identify any asbestos containing building materials. In accordance with AHERA, New Frontiers Charter School hereby notifies all parties of the availability of the Asbestos Management Plan for New Frontiers Charter School.

The plan has several ongoing requirements: publish a notification on management plan availability and the status of asbestos activities; educate and train its employees about asbestos and how to deal with it; notify short-term or temporary workers on the locations of the asbestos containing building materials; post warning labels in routine maintenance areas where asbestos was previously identified or assumed; follow set plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of asbestos containing building materials; and survey the condition of these materials every six months to assure that they remain in good condition.

The plan and a copy of the inspections and assessments are available for review Monday through Friday during regular office hours in all school offices and at the New Frontiers Charter School administrative building. If any interested parties would like to view the plan, contact the principal, assistant principal, or the New Frontiers Charter School Asbestos Program Manager. Please refer to the management plan for specific details regarding whether or not this campus' building(s) has asbestos-containing building materials, and if applicable at your school, a program for regular surveillance inspection of asbestos-containing materials. Also, every three years, an asbestos re-inspection of this campus will be conducted to comply with the AHERA law.

It is the intention of New Frontiers Charter School to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos in an effort to ensure students and employees a healthy and safe environment in which to learn and work.

300.180. MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES

The governing body (“Board”) of New Frontiers Charter School adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Compliance

New Frontiers Charter School shall comply with all applicable municipal ordinances. New Frontiers Charter School designates the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent and/or Director of Facilities and/or designee, as the individual who will ensure such compliance.

300.200. MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

None

The governing body (“Board”) of New Frontiers Charter School adopts the following policy which shall be effective on the date that the policy is adopted by the Board.

SECTION 1. Delegation

Pursuant to a delegation amendment approved by TEA, New Frontiers Charter School has entered into a management services contract with no one to manage New Frontiers Charter School.

300.220. RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

New Frontiers Charter School strives to ensure that risks to New Frontiers Charter School are identified, analyzed, and managed so that they are maintained at acceptable levels. New Frontiers Charter School employees are responsible for ensuring New Frontiers Charter School programs, activities, and policies are conducted in a manner that considers the risk of loss or injury.

SECTION 1. Risk Management Officer

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent will designate a Risk Management Officer (RMO) who is responsible for providing guidance on risk management issues and the interpretation of specific policy requirements. Additionally, the RMO is responsible for:

1. Coordinating the development and maintenance of risk management policies, procedures, standards and forms for New Frontiers Charter School.
2. Identifying strategic risks;
3. Identifying tasks and implementing such tasks to ensure risk management becomes part of day-to-day management;
4. Ensuring staff are aware of risks and how to manage them; and
5. Monitoring our strategic risk profile and implementing a continuous improvement approach to risk management.

The RMO will forward recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Superintendent, who will present those recommendations to the Board.

SECTION 2. General Liability Insurance

New Frontiers Charter School shall purchase appropriate liability insurance to protect itself, its board members, officers, employees, and volunteers from the cost of defending litigation brought against them in their official capacity as board members, officers, employees, and/or volunteers of New Frontiers Charter School for acts or omissions committed by them in the good faith discharge of their official New Frontiers Charter School duties.

Such insurance shall include, but not be limited to, insurance protection against claims for property damage, personal injury, or death proximately caused by the negligence, wrongful act, or omission of New Frontiers Charter School's officers or employees, acting within the scope of their employment or office, and arising from the operation or use of a motor vehicle under circumstances where such officers or employees would be personally liable to the claimant in accordance with the laws of this state.

