



Audubon Center of the North Woods

Request for New Charter School Applications

Background

The Audubon Center of the North Woods (ACNW) authorizes 35 charter schools throughout Minnesota. Our vision is to authorize a portfolio of high performing charter schools that instill a connection and commitment to the environment in their school communities, while working towards a healthy planet where all people live in balance with the Earth. Our authorizing mission is to ensure quality academic and environmental literacy outcomes for Minnesota students through effective charter school authorizing.

New School Priorities

ACNW aims to expand learning opportunities for students in Minnesota; therefore, we seek high quality new school applications from individuals and groups who have the skill, capacity, and vision to initiate and sustain high quality, innovative public charter schools. Successful applications will present plans to provide all students, including those with special needs and English learners, with a quality education that develops the whole child, ensure efficient use of public resources, and develop the environmental literacy of children and youth. A successful application will also describe how the proposed school will meet the primary purpose of Minnesota's charter school law, which is to improve all pupil learning and all student achievement.

ACNW is specifically interested in applications in the following four categories:

- Models that include environmental education as a central component of the educational program, especially those serving students in low income communities, rural communities, indigenous communities, and / or communities of color.
- School planning teams and start-up boards of directors that include youth.
- Schools that used personalized or individualized learning as a central component of the educational approach, ensuring that students' education is relevant to how they learn, who they are and what they aspire to do in the future.
- Schools that intentionally bring together students and founding teams of different socioeconomic, ethnic, and / or cultural backgrounds.

In addition, ACNW seeks charter school applications that prioritize the following additional statutory purposes as outlined in Minnesota Statute 124E.01:

- Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods; and / or
- Measure learning outcomes and create different and innovative forms of measuring outcomes.

ACNW New Charter School Application Process

1. Developers should become familiar with Minnesota statutes [Chapter 124E](#) which govern charter school formation and operation. Visit [ACNW's website](#) to learn about our authorizing activities and expectations.
2. Contact ACNW's Charter School Division at (612) 331-4181 or admin@auduboncharterschools.org to schedule a time to discuss initial ideas for the new school as well as the application process.
3. Review ACNW's [New Charter School Proposal Guide](#).
4. Submit a **Notice of Intent to Apply** to ACNW by **September 16, 2019**.
5. Submit a **full application** to ACNW by **January 6, 2020**.
6. Interviews with qualified applicant groups will be held in late February 2019 at the Audubon Center of the North Woods in Sandstone, MN. Dates will be confirmed by January 31, 2020.