

**THE REVISED SCHOOL CODE (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 451 of 1976**

**380.502 Public school academy; organization; operation; bodies authorized to issue contract; application to obtain contract; contents; oversight; suspension of powers; fees; presumption of legality; intergovernmental agreement to issue public school academy contracts.**

Sec. 502. (1) A public school academy must be organized and administered under the direction of a board of directors in accordance with this part and with bylaws adopted by the board of directors. A public school academy corporation must be organized under the nonprofit corporation act, 1982 PA 162, MCL 450.2101 to 450.3192, except that a public school academy corporation is not required to comply with sections 170 to 177 of 1931 PA 327, MCL 450.170 to 450.177. To the extent disqualified under the state or federal constitution, a public school academy must not be organized by a church or other religious organization and must not have any organizational or contractual affiliation with or constitute a church or other religious organization.

(2) Subject to subsection (9), any of the following may act as an authorizing body to issue a contract to organize and operate 1 or more public school academies under this part:

(a) The board of a school district. However, the board of a school district shall not issue a contract for a public school academy to operate outside the school district's boundaries, and a public school academy authorized by the board of a school district shall not operate outside that school district's boundaries.

(b) An intermediate school board. However, the board of an intermediate school district shall not issue a contract for a public school academy to operate outside the intermediate school district's boundaries, and a public school academy authorized by the board of an intermediate school district shall not operate outside that intermediate school district's boundaries.

(c) The board of a community college. However, except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, the board of a community college shall not issue a contract for a public school academy to operate in a school district organized as a school district of the first class, a public school academy authorized by the board of a community college shall not operate in a school district organized as a school district of the first class, the board of a community college shall not issue a contract for a public school academy to operate outside the boundaries of the community college district, and a public school academy authorized by the board of a community college shall not operate outside the boundaries of the community college district. The board of a community college also may issue a contract for not more than 1 public school academy to operate on the grounds of an active or closed federal military installation located outside the boundaries of the community college district, or may operate a public school academy itself on the grounds of such a federal military installation, if the federal military installation is not located within the boundaries of any community college district and the community college has previously offered courses on the grounds of the federal military installation for at least 10 years.

(d) The governing board of a state public university. There is no limit on the combined total number of contracts for public school academies that may be issued by all state public universities.

(e) Two or more of the public agencies described in subdivisions (a) to (d) exercising power, privilege, or authority jointly pursuant to an interlocal agreement under the urban cooperation act of 1967, 1967 (Ex Sess) PA 7, MCL 124.501 to 124.512.

(3) To obtain a contract to organize and operate 1 or more public school academies, 1 or more persons or an entity may apply to an authorizing body described in subsection (2). The application must include at least all of the following:

(a) Identification of the applicant for the contract.

(b) Subject to the resolution adopted by the authorizing body under section 503(5), a list of the proposed members of the board of directors of the public school academy and a description of the qualifications and method for appointment or election of members of the board of directors.

(c) The proposed articles of incorporation, which must include at least all of the following:

(i) The name of the proposed public school academy.

(ii) The purposes for the public school academy corporation. This language must provide that the public school academy is incorporated under this part and that the public school academy corporation is a governmental entity.

(iii) The name of the authorizing body.

(iv) The proposed time when the articles of incorporation will be effective.

(v) Other matters considered expedient to be in the articles of incorporation.

(d) A copy of the proposed bylaws of the public school academy.

(e) Documentation meeting the application requirements of the authorizing body, including at least all of

the following:

- (i) The governance structure of the public school academy.
- (ii) A copy of the educational goals of the public school academy and the curricula to be offered and methods of pupil assessment to be used by the public school academy. The educational goals must include demonstrated improved pupil academic achievement for all groups of pupils. To the extent applicable, the progress of the pupils in the public school academy must be assessed using both the mathematics and reading portions of the Michigan student test of educational progress (M-STEP) or the Michigan merit examination under section 1279g, as applicable.
- (iii) The admission policy and criteria to be maintained by the public school academy. The admission policy and criteria must comply with section 504. This part of the application also must include a description of how the applicant will provide to the general public adequate notice that a public school academy is being created and adequate information on the admission policy, criteria, and process.
- (iv) The school calendar and school day schedule.
- (v) The age or grade range of pupils to be enrolled.
- (f) Descriptions of staff responsibilities and of the public school academy's governance structure.
- (g) For an application to the board of a school district, an intermediate school board, or board of a community college, identification of the local and intermediate school districts in which the public school academy will be located.
- (h) An agreement that the public school academy will comply with the provisions of this part and, subject to the provisions of this part, with all other state law applicable to public bodies and with federal law applicable to public bodies or school districts.
- (i) A description of and address for the proposed physical plant in which the public school academy will be located. An applicant may request the authorizing body to issue a contract allowing the public school academy board of directors to operate the same configuration of age or grade levels at more than 1 site.
- (4) An authorizing body shall oversee, or shall contract with an intermediate school district, community college, or state public university to oversee, each public school academy operating under a contract issued by the authorizing body. The authorizing body is responsible for overseeing compliance by the board of directors with the contract and all applicable law. This subsection does not relieve any other government entity of its enforcement or supervisory responsibility.
- (5) If the superintendent of public instruction finds that an authorizing body is not engaging in appropriate continuing oversight of 1 or more public school academies operating under a contract issued by the authorizing body, the superintendent of public instruction may suspend the power of the authorizing body to issue new contracts to organize and operate public school academies. A contract issued by the authorizing body during the suspension is void. A contract issued by the authorizing body before the suspension is not affected by the suspension.
- (6) An authorizing body shall not charge a fee, or require reimbursement of expenses, for considering an application for a contract, for issuing a contract, or for providing oversight of a contract for a public school academy in an amount that exceeds a combined total of 3% of the total state school aid received by the public school academy in the school year in which the fees or expenses are charged. An authorizing body may provide other services for a public school academy and charge a fee for those services, but shall not require such an arrangement as a condition to issuing the contract authorizing the public school academy.
- (7) A public school academy is presumed to be legally organized if it has exercised the franchises and privileges of a public school academy for at least 2 years.
- (8) An authorizing body may enter into an intergovernmental agreement with another authorizing body to issue public school academy contracts. At a minimum, the agreement must further the purposes set forth in section 501, describe which authorizing body shall issue the contract, and set forth which authorizing body will be responsible for monitoring compliance by the board of directors of the public school academy with the contract and all applicable law.
- (9) Both of the following apply to the issuance of a contract for a public school academy to be located within a community district:
  - (a) An authorizing body shall not issue a contract to organize and operate a new public school academy to be located in a community district unless, before issuing the contract, the governing board of the authorizing body has certified to the department that the authorizing body has been accredited as an authorizing body by a nationally recognized accreditation body. For an authorizing body described in subsection (2)(e), the authorizing body shall not issue a contract to organize and operate a new public school academy to be located in a community district unless, before issuing the contract, the governing board of each of the public agencies that is party to the interlocal agreement has certified to the department that the public agency has been accredited as an authorizing body by a nationally recognized accreditation body.

(b) An authorizing body shall not issue a contract for a new public school academy to be located in a community district if both of the following circumstances exist:

(i) Either of the following:

(A) The proposed public school academy would operate at the same location as a public school that currently is on the list under federal accountability requirements as provided under the every student succeeds act, Public Law 114-95, of the public schools in this state determined to be among the lowest achieving 5% of public schools in this state or has been on the list under federal accountability requirements as provided under the every student succeeds act, Public Law 114-95, of the public schools in this state determined to be among the lowest achieving 5% of public schools in this state during the immediately preceding 3-year period.

(B) The proposed public school academy would operate at the same location as a public school academy, urban high school academy, school of excellence, or strict discipline academy that has had its contract revoked or terminated by an authorizing body under the applicable part or section.

(ii) The proposed public school academy would have substantially the same board of directors, substantially the same leadership, and substantially the same curriculum offerings as the public school that previously operated at that location.

**History:** Add. 1993, Act 362, Imd. Eff. Jan. 14, 1994;—Am. 1994, Act 416, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995;—Am. 1995, Act 289, Eff. July 1, 1996;—Am. 2009, Act 205, Imd. Eff. Jan. 4, 2010;—Am. 2011, Act 277, Eff. Mar. 28, 2012;—Am. 2016, Act 192, Imd. Eff. June 21, 2016;—Am. 2018, Act 601, Eff. Mar. 29, 2019;—Am. 2023, Act 34, Eff. Feb. 13, 2024.

**Compiler's note:** Former MCL 380.502, which pertained to public school academy, organization, and operation, was repealed by Act 362 of 1993, Imd. Eff. Jan. 14, 1994.

For transfer of state school reform/redesign school district and state school reform/redesign officer from department of education to state school reform office created as an autonomous entity within department of technology, management, and budget, see E.R.O. No. 2015-2, compiled at MCL 18.445.

For transfer of certain powers and duties of department of education and superintendent of public instruction under MCL 380.1280c and 423.215 to state school reform/redesign office, see E.R.O. No. 2015-2, compiled at MCL 18.445.

**Popular name:** Act 451

**Popular name:** Charter Schools

**Popular name:** Public School Academies