

## **Section (F) Charter Schools**

- 1. Must all charter schools in a Participating LEA be included in implementation?***

They are not obligated to participate but must be allowed if they are interested and committed.

- 2. Do charter schools have the option to opt-in to only certain sections of the LEA RTTT plan or must they agree to fully participate or not participate at all?***

Charter schools that choose to participate must still meet all appropriate requirements of the MOU as referenced in the guidance provided for the participation of charter schools in RTTT. There are certain areas such as principal and teacher evaluation and compensation and data systems where a charter school must be given the option of developing their own plans; however, these plans must meet the requirements of the MOU. The LEA will be responsible to make sure that the charter school agrees to comply with RTTT requirements and to monitor that compliance through the grant.

- 3. Is it appropriate to plan to treat charter schools like traditional public schools during the planning phase of the development of the LEA Final Scope of Work (involving charter schools of the same level as all other public schools)?***

Charter Schools should be involved to the same degree as all other public schools. However, there may need to be more interaction with charter schools based on the fact that they have more flexibility to determine whether or not to participate in RTTT and, in some areas, whether to be included within the A Final Scope of Work or develop a plan of their own. On issues for which charter schools are able to develop their own plan, they may only do so provided that it meets the requirements of the MOU. For example, a charter school or group of charter schools may choose to develop their own teacher evaluation and compensation system separate from the

LEA's collectively bargained plan. However, that plan must still meet the requirements set forth in the MOU in order for the charter school or group of charter schools to participate in RTTT.

***4. Do charter schools have the option to opt in or out once, or annually?***

Existing charter schools must opt in at the start in order to participate. If they later are unwilling to unable to meet the requirements of the MOU they would be unable to continue under the grant.

***5. If a charter school can opt out during the period of RTTT funds, what are the school's obligations to deliverables, data and sustainability?***

Charter schools should be treated by their sponsor in the same way as LEA's are treated by the state. Charter schools with an approved plan or scope of work that can not proceed with full implementation, for whatever reason, would not be required to repay funds for any period it was eligible to participate and was performing in compliance with its approved plan.

***6. May a charter school apply individually and even if they are not in a participating LEA?***

Any charter school will only be able to receive a share of the LEA RTTT allocation and / or services of their LEA sponsors have chosen to participate and have an approved Final Scope of Work.

***7. Does the LEA have responsibility for charter school participating, including oversight and monitoring?***

LEAs must work with charter schools to see if they want to participate and if so, which aspects as not everything is applicable. LEAs must make sure charter schools understand all requirements and options.

**8. *Will charter school activities be integrated into the LEA Final Scope of Work or must they submit a separate Scope of Work?***

Charter schools may be integrated into any or all of the LEA Final Scope of Work if they choose to participate. The LEA should work with its charter schools to help them to determine what areas they will participate in for the LEA's Scope and in what areas they will develop an acceptable plan of their own. In any case, the charter school must be able to show how it is meeting each portion of the MOU as noted in the Guidance for Charter School Participation document.

**9. *If there are no charter schools on the persistently lowest-achieving schools list, must an LEA budget for charter schools?***

Charter schools would not be included in the LEA's Section E portion of its plan. However, they should be included, if they choose to participate, in the remainder of the LEA's plan as provided by the guidance for charter school participation.

**10. *For the MOU requirement (B)(3)6., must LEAs allocate funds to charter schools to ensure the charter schools have the technology, hardware, connectivity to provide teachers and students access to tools for instruction and computer-based assessment?***

Charter schools must be provided with a commensurate share of what is spent by the district to make sure its schools meet this requirement. If that is not sufficient to cover the cost of providing the necessary infrastructure then the charter school would be responsible for covering the remaining costs in order to participate.

***11. In D 2 ii, it states that charter schools must be allowed to collaborate in the development of the teacher evaluation system but this is a bargained item per most counties collective bargaining agreements and charter schools are not part of the bargaining agreements and charter schools are not part of the bargaining unit. How do we resolve this disconnect?***

Charters that wish to use the district's evaluation system should be included in any pre-collective bargaining discussions regarding the development of the system. If they are unhappy with the results of collective bargaining they must be ready to implement a system that complies.