



## **NJDOE News**

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### **Charter School Applications Due March 31**

The new application for charter schools to be used in the next round of the charter school selection process has been posted on-line. The detailed application is available through the following link:

<http://www.nj.gov/education/chartsch/app/>

Completed applications for prospective charter schools must be received by the New Jersey Department of Education no later than 4:15 p.m. on March 31, 2009. Applications approved in this round will be for prospective schools scheduled to open in September 2010 or in September 2011, if they opt for a planning year.

"Charter schools play an important role in our public schools system by providing children and their parents with an opportunity to succeed in a different type of public school," Commissioner Davy said. "Many of our charter schools are fulfilling their promise to 'think outside the box' and deliver innovative, 21st century academic programs to children.

"I look forward to reviewing the newest exciting ideas for schools that will be proposed by this year's applicants," she said.

Each charter school application consists of two main sections: an academic plan, which contains the curriculum, governance plan, teaching strategy, and other information related to what students will be expected to learn; and a fiscal plan.

The Commissioner will review the applications along with any comments or documents that might be related to the proposed school from local educators, municipal officials and the general public.

A charter school is a public school open to all students on a space-available basis that is funded by the taxpayers but operates independently of the district board of education under a charter granted by the Commissioner. Once the charter is approved by the Commissioner, the school is managed by a board of trustees.

The Commissioner of Education has the authority to grant a charter for a four-year period and to renew the initial charter for a five-year period.

Currently, 62 charter schools enroll approximately 17,000 public school students.