



AMERICAN ACADEMY FOR LIBERAL EDUCATION CHARTER SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

1050 17TH STREET, NW, SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, DC
202.452.8611
WWW.AALECHARTERS.ORG

Charter School Accreditation, Program Planning, and Assistance

The American Academy for Liberal Education (AALE), the only organization explicitly authorized by the US Department of Education to accredit undergraduate liberal arts colleges and programs on a national basis, also has established an impressive reputation as the nation's premier accreditation agency for charter schools. As the only national charter school accreditation agency in the country offering *national* accreditation to charter schools we have accredited schools across the country that show the highest levels of commitment to liberal arts, academic excellence, and outstanding student achievement for more than half a decade.

Because we work closely with them every step of the way, AALE can offer charter schools pre-accreditation assistance as well as accreditation services. Our pre-accreditation assistance enables charter schools to engage AALE staff and consultants at any stage in their development -- from pre-charter application through school accreditation. These stages, the level and type of AALE service provided, and the outcome for charter schools, by stage, are:

Stage 1: Accreditation Candidate -- Program design and planning

- For schools in the earliest planning stages, from pre-charter applicants to schools in their first six months of operation.
- Receive AALE *Design Certification* for their school plan.
- Focus on mission, curriculum breadth and depth, qualifications of instructional staff, quality of instructional delivery, alignment of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, feasibility of governance structures and student support systems.
- Conducted by AALE staff and consultants.

Stage 2: Pre-Accreditation -- Early implementation

- For schools in the early stages of operation, between six months and one year.
- Receive AALE formative evaluation report with recommendations.
- Focus on implementation of stated design elements as described in plan and match between plan and school operations.
- Conducted by AALE staff and consultants.

Stage 3: Provisional Accreditation – Program Certification

- For schools that have been operating between one and two years.
- Receive AALE *Program Certification*.
- Focus on student outcomes in relationship to quality of mission, curriculum breadth and depth, qualifications of instructional staff, quality of instructional delivery, alignment of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, feasibility of governance structures and student support systems.
- Conducted by AALE staff and consultants.

Stage 4: Full Accreditation

- For schools that have been in operation for more than two years.
- Receive AALE *Five-Year Accreditation*.
- Focus on the AALE accreditation standards and process.
- Conducted by AALE staff, external reviewers, a review panel, and the AALE Board of Directors.

If you are interested in finding out more about and how your school might take advantage of AALE's Charter School Accreditation, Program Planning, and Assistance services, please contact:

Joseph J. D'Amico, Director
Education Assessment & Charter School Accreditation
American Academy for Liberal Education
1050 17th Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036
202- 452-8611
jdamico@aale.org