

Existing law provides generally for charter schools which are public schools that operate somewhat independently of the local school board but pursuant to a charter agreement. A charter agreement is entered into by a nonprofit organization that operates the school and the school board or the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. A charter school may be a new school or an existing school converted to a charter school.

Existing law requires that local school boards make available to chartering groups any vacant school facilities or any facility slated to be vacant for lease or purchase. Relative to the conversion of certain existing schools, existing law provides that the facility and all property within the existing school shall be made available to that chartering group, and in exchange, the chartering group shall pay a proportionate share of the local school board's bonded indebtedness. If such facilities were constructed at no cost to the local school board, then such facilities, including all equipment, books, instructional materials, and furniture within such facilities, shall be provided to the charter school at no cost.

New law provides that if a chartering group determines that a facility or property that was purchased from the Orleans Parish School Board is no longer needed for an educational purpose, the group shall first offer to sell the facility or property back to the Orleans Parish School Board prior to seeking to dispose of it to any other person or entity.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 17:3982(B))