



## Montana Board of Public Education Public Charter School Reporting and Compliance Calendar 2026-2027 School Year

Use this calendar to track major reporting deadlines, required notifications, and Board actions for the 2026-2027 school year. Public charter schools remain responsible for complying with all applicable laws, administrative rules, charter contract requirements, and additional Board expectations.

**Important:** Deadlines in this calendar do not replace requirements established in statute, administrative rule, or the charter contract.

| New Applicants |                                                              |                     |                                                                                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Month          | Compliance & Deadlines                                       | Due Date            | Notes                                                                                          |
| October        | <a href="#">Public Charter School Application Submission</a> | October 26–30, 2026 | Single electronic submission; <b>deadline:</b> October 30 by 5:00 p.m. MDT.                    |
| December       | Interviews with the Board of Public Education                | TBD                 | Scheduled directly with each applicant.                                                        |
| January        | Board Approval/Denial of Application                         | January 14-15, 2027 | Board action under 20-6-804, MCA.                                                              |
| May            | Return Signed Charter Contract                               | March 12, 2027      | The executed charter contract establishes the school-specific obligations and operating terms. |
| May            | <a href="#">Request to Open a Charter School Form</a>        | May 28, 2027        | Submitted to OPI via the secure <a href="#">File Transfer Service</a> .                        |
| June           | <a href="#">Initial Statement</a>                            | July 17, 2027       | Must be reviewed and ratified by the public charter school governing board.                    |
| July           | Statement of Insurance                                       | June 30, 2027       | Submit certificates or other proof of insurance coverage.                                      |

| 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Operational Public Charter Schools |                                                            |                   |                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Month                                                   | Compliance & Deadlines                                     | Due Date          | Notes                                                                          |
| July                                                    | Education Service Provider (ESP) Contract                  | July 1, 2026      | Submit proposed management contract for those schools contracting with an ESP. |
| October                                                 | <a href="#">Mission Specific Student Achievement Goals</a> | October 30, 2026  | Required only in the first year.                                               |
| October                                                 | Audited ESP Financial Statement                            | October 30, 2026  | ESP contracted schools only.                                                   |
| November                                                | <a href="#">Q1 Financial Report</a>                        | November 13, 2026 | Quarter 1: July 1-September 30                                                 |
| February                                                | <a href="#">Q2 Financial Report</a>                        | February 12, 2027 | Quarter 2: October 1- December 31                                              |
| February                                                | <a href="#">Performance Framework</a>                      | February 26, 2027 | <a href="#">Submit through the OPI accreditation platform.</a>                 |
| Spring                                                  | Board of Public Education Site Visits                      | TBD               | Scheduled directly with each public charter school.                            |
| May                                                     | <a href="#">Q3 Financial Report</a>                        | May 14, 2027      | Quarter 3: January 1-March 31                                                  |
| August                                                  | <a href="#">Q4 Financial Report</a>                        | August 13, 2027   | Quarter 4: April 1-June 30                                                     |

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Operational Public Charter Schools and Beyond

| Month    | Compliance & Deadlines                                                | Due Date          | Notes                                                                                                                             |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October  | <a href="#">Variances to Standards</a>                                | October 12, 2026  | Due to OPI the second Monday in October, as required by ARM 10.55.604.                                                            |
| October  | Audited ESP Financial Statement                                       | October 30, 2026  | ESP contracted schools only.                                                                                                      |
| February | <a href="#">Performance Framework</a>                                 | February 26, 2027 | <a href="#">Submit through the OPI accreditation platform.</a>                                                                    |
| August   | <a href="#">Annual Cash Flow Projections and Financial Report Due</a> | August 30, 2026   | Only those schools where annual budgets and cash flow projections are not contained in the projections of the local school board. |

## Board of Public Education Actions

| Month            | Compliance & Deadlines                                                                  | Due Date         | Notes                                               |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| December         | New Public Charter School Application Interviews                                        | TBD              | Scheduled directly with each applicant.             |
| December-January | Public Charter School Committee Review and Recommendation                               | TBD              |                                                     |
| January          | Approve/Deny New Public Charter School Applications                                     | January 15, 2027 | As required by 20-6-804, MCA.                       |
| Spring           | Board of Public Education Site Visits                                                   | TBD              | Scheduled directly with each public charter school. |
| March            | Execute Public Charter School Contracts                                                 | March 19, 2027   | As required by 20-6-806, MCA.                       |
| May              | Review of Public Charter School Application and Evaluation Criteria                     | May 20-21, 2027  |                                                     |
| May              | Review Public Charter School Performance Reports                                        | May 21, 2027     |                                                     |
| June             | Publish Public Charter School Application and Evaluation Criteria                       | June 1, 2027     | As required by 20-6-805, MCA.                       |
| June             | Issue Tier 2 Increased Oversight notification letters and Improvement Plan requirements | June 4, 2027     | Required following Board action, when applicable    |
| June             | Issue Corrective Action Plan requirements when warranted                                | June 4, 2027     | Required following Board action, when applicable    |

## Other Submission Requirements

| Compliance Requirement                                                      | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Variances to Standards</a>                                      | Due October 12, 2026 for those public charter schools requesting Variances to Standards not listed in their charter contract.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| New Contracts with Educational Service Providers (ESP)                      | The Charter Governing Board shall provide the Board of Public Education with any proposed ESP Contract or proposed material amendment no later than thirty (30) days prior to the proposed date of execution for review. A written opinion of the legal counsel that has been reviewed is required. |
| Insurance Coverage                                                          | The Charter Governing Board shall provide notice to the Board of Public Education at least thirty (30) days in advance of any material change, nonrenewal, or termination of insurance.                                                                                                             |
| School Personnel                                                            | The Charter Governing Board shall provide written notice to the Board of Public Education within five (5) business days of the hiring or departure (by resignation or dismissal) of the administrator, principal, or head of any school, however designated.                                        |
| Audited Financial Statements                                                | Within 10 business days of receipt of any such complete and final audit report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Proposed Bylaw, Policy, or Operating Procedures Affecting School Operations | Within 5 business days.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Public Charter School Amendment Request                                     | As needed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |