



Timelines for Federal Grant Funds

A. Annual Cycle for Federal Charter School Grant Program (CSGP)

1. State Education Agency (SEA)

December ----- Applications published in Federal Register
February ----- Applications due
June - July ----- Awards announced
August ----- Funds available

2. Individual schools

June -----Applications published in Federal Register
July -----Applications due
September -----Awards announced; funds available by September 30

B. Annual Cycle for Maine's SEA (Department of Education) Sub-Grants to Eligible Charter Schools

February-----SEA Application
(Includes Maine DOE's **Management Plan** for its
federally-funded charter school program)
-----Potential Authorizers & Organizers can begin Planning

August -----Maine DOE **could** issue Information & Application Forms
to eligible charter school Organizers

September -----Maine DOE **could** award Sub-grants

Timeline for a Public Charter School Opening in Maine

A. Six Months - Minimum Between Application & Opening.

Section 2410, 1, of LD 1438 says that a chartering authorizer cannot approve a charter school that would open less than 6 months after the school's application date for a charter.

This section also states that an authorizer may issue an RFP for applications on May 1st or October 1st of each year.

B. Timeframe for Initial Authorizing Process in Maine

June 2009 to September 2010

Potential authorizers study bill, decide to proceed, gather resources, train staff,

Could issue applications on May 1, 2010

June 2010 to December 2010

Applications due, reviewed, decisions announced.

--- Performance contracts negotiated.

January 15, 2011

Earliest a charter school could open if its application was dated June 15, 2010, and its performance contract had been negotiated and approved.

C. Fast-Track Authorization Possible

An authorizer, most likely a Local School Board with a superintendent who wished to convert an existing alternative program to a public charter school, could decide to announce an application process on October 1, 2009.

If applications were due by November 15, 2009, a charter school that applied on November 15, 2009 and was approved, could theoretically open 6 months later, after May 15, 2010, but as stated in section 2410 of LD 1438, in the first year of the pilot program, a charter school may not commence academic instruction before September 1, 2010.