

HOW TO START AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL

Outlined in the chart below are the key differences on the requirements, autonomies, and accountability for each pathway. The laws and practices for all school types may vary from state to state. If you choose to start a charter school, contact your state’s approved authorizer for specific guidance on the charter law and application process.

	<u>Public Charter</u>	<u>Public School District Contract</u>	<u>Independent</u>
Governance	Authorized by the state-approved authorizer who grants a “charter” to the board of directors. Majority of charters are non-profits; however, some states allow for-profit charter organizations to operate schools. Contact your state’s approved authorizer for specific guidance on the charter law and application process.	District opens a new school. This may be done in collaboration with a community partner who will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the school district outlining the parameters of the partnership.	Schools are governed by an independent board of trustees. Most independent schools are non-profit organizations.
School Application Process	Every authorizer has a defined application process that requires a detailed plan for the opening and operation of the school.	District will define the process, and the proposal will be submitted to the school board for review and approval.	Organizations wishing to open an independent school must apply/register through the state department of education (non-public school division).
Admissions	Lottery	The MOU defines the admissions process. Schools may select students based on academic ability, choice, lottery or a combination of all above.	Each school establishes its own application process and entrance criteria.
Finance	Funded by local, state, and federal tax dollars. Funds are allocated on a per student basis according to charter funding formula.	Funded by local, state, and federal tax dollars. Funds are allocated according to district funding model.	Funded by tuition fees and private funding sources.
Tuition	No tuition	No tuition	Tuition and non-tuition schools
Academics	Academic program is outlined in the charter application. The school has autonomy over its academic program within the confines of the approved charter.	School is a district school and may be subject to the academic programs prescribed by the district and/or state. The autonomy of the academic program must be outlined	Independent schools have complete autonomy over the academic program but should research the market in order to distinguish academic

		in the MOU and is subject to change by the district.	program from that of other schools.
State Test	Charter schools are subject to all state-mandated tests, and test performance figures prominently in the school's performance evaluation.	Subject to all district and state-mandated test requirements.	May participate in standardized testing as a means of assessment, but not required to offer state-mandated testing.
Accreditation	Accredited by the authorizing body that grants charter.	Accredited by the state Department of Education.	Accredited by an independent accrediting agency, such as the Virginia Association of Independent Schools or similar state/regional accrediting organization.
Facility	School must obtain and fund its own site. Funding may be allocated to charter schools on a per student basis to offset cost of facility.	District facility provided for the school. District funds utilized to pay for the facility.	School must obtain its own facility. No federal funds available for the facility.
Operations	Independent of the local district.	Subject to district systems, policies and regulations.	Independent operations, typically with a governing board of trustees.
Staff	Recruit and hire staff. No requirements for certification in most states.	Subject to state and local regulations, hiring policies, and certification requirements.	Recruit and hire staff. Not subject to regulations and hiring policies of local or state government.