Adopted: 02/19/2026

Revised:

ROCHESTER BEACON ACADEMY
POLICY No. 101
LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL

I. PURPOSE

A primary purpose of charter schools is to improve all pupil learning and achievement. Additional purposes include to (1) increase learning opportunities for all pupils; (2) encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods; (3) measure learning outcomes and create different and innovative forms of measuring outcomes; (4) establish new forms of accountability for schools; and (5) create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Rochester Beacon Academy ("RBA") is subject to the control of the legislature, limited only by constitutional restrictions. RBA has been created for educational purposes.

B. The legislature has authority to prescribe RBA's powers and privileges, its boundaries, and territorial jurisdictions.

C. RBA has only the powers conferred on it by the legislature; however, the board of directors' authority to govern, manage, and control the charter school, to carry out its duties and responsibilities, and to conduct the business of the charter school includes implied powers in addition to any specific powers granted by the legislature.

III. NONPROFIT CORPORATION

RBA must be organized and operated as a nonprofit corporation under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 317A and the provisions of that chapter shall apply to RBA except as provided in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 124E.

IV. POWERS AND AUTHORITY OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL

A. Funds

1. RBA, through its board of directors, has authority to raise funds for the operation and maintenance of its schools and authority to manage and expend such funds, subject to applicable law.

2. RBA has wide discretion over the expenditure of funds under its control for public purposes, subject to the limitations provided by law.

3. Charter school officials occupy a fiduciary position in the management and expenditure of funds entrusted to them.

B. Raising Funds

RBA has authority to accept gifts and donations for school purposes, subject to applicable law.

C. Property

1. RBA may lease space from: an independent or special school board; other public organization, private, nonprofit, nonsectarian organization; private property owner; or a sectarian organization if the leased space is constructed as a school facility. RBA must not enter into a lease of real property with a related party unless the lessor is a nonprofit corporation under chapter 317A or a cooperative under Minnesota Statutes chapter 308A, and the lease cost is reasonable under Minnesota Statutes chapter 124E.

2. RBA shall manage its property in a manner consistent with the educational functions of the school.

3. RBA may permit the use of its facilities for community purposes which are not inconsistent with, nor disruptive of, its educational mission.

D. Contracts

1. RBA is empowered to enter into contracts in the manner provided by law.

2. RBA has authority to enter into installment purchases and leases with an option to purchase, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 465.71 or other applicable law.

3. RBA has authority to make contracts with other governmental agencies and units for the purchase, lease or other acquisition of equipment, supplies, materials, or other property, including real property.

4. RBA has authority to enter into employment contracts. As a public employer, RBA, through its designated representatives, shall meet and negotiate with public employees in an appropriate bargaining unit and enter into written collective bargaining agreements with such employees, subject to applicable law.

E. Textbooks, Educational Materials, and Studies

1. RBA, through its board of directors and administrators, has the authority to determine what textbooks, educational materials, and studies should be pursued.

2. RBA shall establish and apply the school curriculum.

F. Actions and Suits

RBA has authority to sue and to be sued.

Legal References: Minn. Const. art. 13, § 1
Minn. Stat. Ch. 124E (Charter Schools)
Minn. Stat. § 124E.03 (Applicable Law)
Minn. Stat. 124E.13 (Facilities)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 179A (Public Employment Labor Relations)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 317A (Nonprofit Corporations)
Minn. Stat. § 465.035 (Public Corporation, Conveyance or Lease of Land)
Minnesota Association of Public Schools v. Hanson, 287 Minn. 415, 178 N.W.2d 846 (1970)
Independent School District No. 581 v. Mattheis, 275 Minn. 383, 147 N.W.2d 374 (1966)
Village of Blaine v. Independent School District No. 12, 272 Minn. 343, 138 N.W.2d 32 (1965)
Huffman v. School Board, 230 Minn. 289, 41 N.W.2d 455 (1950)

State v. Lakeside Land Co., 71 Minn. 283, 73 N.W.970 (1898)