

Suggested Interview Questions for Initial Meeting

Before beginning paperwork (except as noted in this list), use these questions and suggestions to start discussions that will help see if the school will fit the student's needs and the parent's expectations.

1) How did you hear about our Charter School?

2) What would you like to see our school do for you to support you in working with your children?

This will be a time to then correct any misconceptions they are bringing with them (such as that we will send a daily tutor to their home) about how the school works and what we can provide.

3) What previous experience have you had with other types of independent study schools or charter schools?

4) What previous knowledge do you have of homeschooling?

5) Do you work outside the home? _____ Explain that a legal parent/guardian must be present at the LR meetings (AESS exception). If so, Who will supervise your student's work? _____

How old is your child? Tell me about his/her study habits and interests.

6) Are you prepared to be the child's primary teacher? _____ (Explain AESS if not.)

Ask who will do the teaching for each subject. Make sure they are not expecting to have enough funding available for a computer and for a class or tutor for each subject. Explain realistic expectations of what we can provide based on how much funding is available when they enroll. Review the IF calc chart for amount of funding they will have based on their enrollment date.

7) Has your child ever had a special education IEP, or plan for speech therapy, 504, or anything like this? _____

If so, have you been contacted by the Special Ed department and have you provided them a copy of your last IEP? _____

If they have been contacted, then all is well—proceed. If not, then stop enrollment and tell the parent they need to submit their last IEP to the Special Ed department prior to enrollment. Immediately upon leaving the enrollment meeting, contact Student Assignments with this information.

8) Go over the charter and have the parent initial and sign the charter summary. Discuss any items they have questions about.

9) Assessments: Discuss any concerns they may have with the required enrollment assessment, and the required state mandated assessments. Make an appointment for the SCANYTON assessment. Point out the tests their student will be REQUIRED to take. Will they commit to you that they will take their child(ren) to a school testing site that may require some travel time each spring for 2-3 testing days and at least once for CAHSEE (if required)? Explain that this is a charter renewal requirement as well as a state and federally required event. Also assure them that we will not put the test scores in the cume file without their permission on the SA. When this area is addressed satisfactorily, proceed.

10) Go over the Student Agreement and address these questions in detail:

A. Will you be available once every 20 days to meet with the ES? _____

B.

Where _____

C. Schedule meetings ahead for the semester/year if possible at this time.

11) How should the ES and parent handle emergency situations and communications? _____ Get additional contact information and email addresses.

Would the parent like to be on the Parent Listserve?

12) High School students: Go over the GRA form. Do they plan to take college courses concurrently with high school courses? ____ If so, provide a pre-concurrent enrollment form and explain the school policy for this and the number of credits they can take in a semester at the college and with the charter school.

13) Explain truancy policy and that missed appointments are considered truancies.

14) AFTER going through all of this, then complete enrollment for the student. Assign work if applicable.