

# Charter Review

## DSIT - District School Improvement Team

**Background** - In the state of Colorado, charter schools are public schools that operate via a contract with an authorizer such as the local school district. Each Fall, organizations wishing to create a Charter School submit a detailed application to the authorizer which is then reviewed by a broad group of constituents and must be acted upon within 75 days of submittal. Parents and Community Members are key constituents in the Charter School Application review process. When a Charter School's contract expires (every 3-5 years) the school must submit a renewal application to continue operation. The renewal application is reviewed in much the same way as the original application.

**DSIT's Role** - DSIT maintains a standing Charter Review Committee currently led by DSIT Officer Vince Fresquez. The Charter Review Committee reviews applications and renewals for Charter Schools in the Adams 12 Five Star Schools district. Individual committee members review and give feedback on each application/renewal and then collectively author a report to the Superintendent and Board of Education of their findings.

### **Expectations for Volunteers**

Volunteers are trained in the application/renewal process and then receive copies of the applications/renewals for review. This review process is well structured and managed by a senior member of the district administration; reviewers have the luxury of spending nearly all of their time reviewing! Charter School applications are typically several hundred pages long and there are dozens of specific areas that reviewers must respond to. Needless to say, a significant time commitment (20-30 hours) is needed in a relatively short window from those volunteering for this activity.

### **How to Get Involved**

If you have a passion for helping to assure that Charter Schools in the Adams 12 Five Star Schools district are well prepared to deliver excellence in education the Charter Review Committee would be delighted to have you as a member. For the 2011-2012 academic year, we anticipate no new charter applications but there will be one renewal; a perfect year to get your feet wet, so to speak! Sign up at any DSIT Meeting or contact Vince Fresquez at [dsit-vf05@sneakemail.com](mailto:dsit-vf05@sneakemail.com).