

Applicability of New York State Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) and Open Meetings Law to Charter Schools

Education Law §2854(1)(e) states that Charter Schools are subject to the provisions of Article 6 (Freedom of Information Law) and Article 7 (Open Meetings Law) of the NYS Public Officers Law.

The NYS Committee on Open Government's website (<http://www.dos.ny.gov/coog/index.html>) includes information on the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) and the Open Meetings Law, including a directory of advisory opinions issued by the Committee, Frequently Asked Questions on both laws, and links to a series of short, educational videos.

The Charter School Office strongly recommends that Charter School Applicants, as well as current Charter School Boards of Trustees and Administrators familiarize themselves with these laws to ensure that School policies and procedures are consistent with both laws, and that meetings of the School's Board of Trustees are conducted in compliance with the requirements of the Open Meetings Law. The full texts of both laws are available on the NYS Committee on Open Government's website at the links below:

Freedom of Information Law (FOIL): <http://www.dos.ny.gov/coog/foil2.html>

Open Meetings Law: <http://www.dos.ny.gov/coog/openmeetlaw.html>