

To: Colorado Department of Education Charter Schools Unit

From: Barry K. Arrington
Arrington Law Firm
7340 East Caley Avenue, Suite 360
Centennial, Colorado 80111
(303) 205-7870

Re: 2010 Public School Financial Transparency Act

In its 2010 session the Colorado General Assembly passed HB 10-1036, the “Public School Financial Transparency Act,” to be codified at C.R.S. § 22-44-301 *et seq.* The Act defines “Local Education Providers” to include both district and Institute charter schools. Pursuant to the Act, each Local Education Provider must post online certain financial information. I have attached a checklist for compliance with the Act.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY ACT CHECKLIST

The following items must be posted online commencing July 1, 2010:

1. _____ The school's annual budget. The first budget that must be posted is the budget for the 2009-2010 budget year. The budget for the 2010-2011 budget year must also be posted. 22-44-304(1)(a)(I)
2. _____ The school's annual audited financial statements. The first audit that must be posted is the audit for the 2009-2010 budget year. This report will not be ready until the fall of 2010 for most schools. Obviously, it cannot be posted by July 1. It must be posted when it is ready. The school may post earlier audits but is not required to. 22-44-304(1)(a)(II)
3. _____ The school's quarterly financial statements beginning after the first quarter of the 2010-2011 budget year (i.e., the quarter ending on September 30, 2010). If a school does not prepare quarterly financials, it must begin doing so. 22-44-304(1)(a)(III)
4. _____ The school's salary schedule or polices commencing with those applicable to the 2010-2011 budget year. 22-44-304(1)(a)(IV)

All of this information must be updated within 60 days of the issuance of new data. The school must maintain the two prior years' data online.

The school must put a link on its webpage to CDE's website where the public may access information submitted directly to CDE.

The Act also requires the following

5. _____ Commencing July 1, 2011, the school must begin posting its accounts payable check register and credit, debit and purchase card statements in a downloadable format. Schools that rely on their district for accounting services have one year to work out a method of compliance. 22-44-304(1)(b)
6. _____ Commencing on July 1, 2012, the school must post an "investment performance report" for its investments. 22-44-304(1)(c)