



Public Hearing Guidelines

In accordance with Indiana Public Law 20-24 and 5-14-1.5-3.3, the University of Southern Indiana will hold a public hearing regarding the proposed charter school application. The following guidelines are established to ensure an orderly, respectful, and productive opportunity for public input.

Purpose of Public Comment

The public comment section is intended to gather community feedback specifically related to:

- Whether the proposed charter school fills a demonstrated educational gap or unmet need within the community.
- The reasoning for establishing a new charter school versus utilizing currently established public school options.
- How the proposed school would provide additional opportunities for students and families.

Speakers are encouraged to focus their remarks on these topics.

Time Allotment

- The public comment section will last up to **40 minutes total**.
- Each speaker will be limited to **two (2) minutes**.
- A timekeeper will monitor the time elapsed for the duration of each speaker's remarks to ensure they do not exceed the two (2) minute limit. Speakers will be notified when sixty (60) seconds remain and when their time has expired.
- When called upon, a speaker may yield their remaining time back to the moderator for the next randomly selected speaker.
 - Time **may not** be yielded to another individual.
- Approximately the halfway point of the public comment period, the moderator will invite two designated representatives to provide remarks. The moderator will recognize:
 - One (1) representative selected by the Superintendent of Fort Wayne Community Schools to speak on behalf of the school district in which the proposed charter school would be located; and
 - One (1) community representative selected by the organizing board of the proposed charter school (WATA).

- Each designated representative will be allotted **three (3) minutes** to speak.
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Sign-Up Procedure

- Individuals wishing to speak must sign up at the designated registration table located outside the meeting room entrance **at least 10 minutes prior to the start of the** meeting at the registration table outside the entry.
 - Speakers will be selected **at random** from the sign-up list.
 - To maximize the number of perspectives heard, speakers are encouraged not to repeat points already stated by previous commenters.
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Written Comments

- All speakers are encouraged to submit their comments in writing.
- Individuals not selected to speak due to time constraints are strongly encouraged to:
 - Submit a written public comment form available at the meeting, **or**
 - Submit feedback online on the USI Charter Schools Office Website before **11:59 p.m. Central Time on Sunday, March 8.**

All written comments received by the deadline will be included in the official record.

Expectations for Conduct

To ensure a respectful and productive environment:

- Speakers must address the topic of the hearing.
- Comments should be delivered respectfully and model the type of civil discourse expected of and for students.
- Applause, outbursts, signs, noise makers, and personal amplification systems are prohibited.
- Personal attacks, profane language, or disruptive behavior will not be permitted.
- This hearing will be **video recorded**.

Anyone who fails to comply with these guidelines or disrupts the proceedings may be asked to leave.

The University of Southern Indiana Charter Schools Office reserves the right to amend, suspend, or adjust these public hearing procedures as necessary to maintain efficiency, order, and safety during the meeting. The University of Southern Indiana appreciates the community's engagement and commitment to ensuring high-quality educational opportunities for students and families.

For more information, please visit the USI Charter Schools Office website at <https://www.usi.edu/outreach/charter-schools-office>.