

Family | Charter 1-Pager 2022/23

Hello Family!

The **charter school | homeschool** program can be a confusing one and we hope to clarify important points here and to equip you to communicate effectively with your charter. Careful communication creates ongoing positive relationships for all our families with all our charters, so please make sure to understand the following before contacting a charter school.

We at Thrive are very appreciative of the charter schools and of the finances (and therefore choice and freedom) they provide!! We especially are grateful lately as they have come under intense scrutiny by the government due to pressure from teacher's unions. Therefore, Thrive and its preferred vendors have gone to great lengths to structure ourselves legally to keep charter schools safe. This safety, however, depends on all of our families understanding and communicating correctly!

The first and most important point is that Thrive is not affiliated with any charter school. Please don't mention Thrive to your charter or your HST/ES. Thrive has no relationship with any charter. The relationship is instead between you and your *vendors*, as individual businesses. Here are some definitions and explanations of the various relationships that hopefully will help demystify the puzzle.

Definitions and Relationships:

Vendor: A vendor is someone who provides educational services to families and has a relationship with a charter school. Each charter school has its own requirements for vendors; however most are the same because they are governmental regulated guidelines. ***You may call a vendor "teacher" but for charters and the government, they are legally a vendor of educational services.***

Thrive: (this is confusing – hang in there!) Thrive is not a school! It is not a learning center (in spite of the name)! It is simply a program. The program has at least two main functions - to help meet social-emotional-spiritual needs of children and to inform families of quality vendors and the logistics (day, time, etc.) of their programs. In other words, Thrive is NOT an umbrella over all the vendors. Instead, it works side by side with vendors; you have science courses, math courses, extracurricular courses, and other academic courses. You also have Thrive supervising lunch and study hall, providing security, and organizing chapel, offering community programs such as field trips and other gatherings for our members.

A difference between Thrive and many of the other programs (science, archery, art...) is that Thrive cannot work with charter schools, whereas most of the vendors can and do. One reason

Thrive cannot is because we have requirements for membership. However, those requirements do not extend to any other program other than Thrive itself.

To clarify again: Thrive is not a school. Thrive is not a vendor. Thrive is not a charter school. Thrive is in essence a community program.

You may call Thrive a school with your family and friends, but officially and legally, for charters and the government, they are a community service that is not legally attached or affiliated with any of your vendors!

Vendor | Thrive Relationship: Thrive provides its members with information about high quality vendors that our members have raved about. We provide the same information a charter school might, such as a vendor's course schedule, their fees and their contact information so that a family may register for classes. Thrive gathers information about vendor schedules and organizes it for families to easily know when they can take a variety of courses that don't conflict with one another.

Thrive does not facilitate payments to vendors. Thrive does not facilitate or regulate curriculum decisions or classroom management. Thrive does not require volunteerism, membership or sectarian participation in a vendor's program. Those requirements are only for the Thrive program. Thrive does not provide a 1099 or any other employment relationship with any vendor.

Thrive | Family Relationship: Thrive provides families with community. While some programs offer science or math, Thrive offers community programs. We have a program that lasts an hour where students can eat lunch together, play games together and enjoy time in community. We also provide field trips, dances and other programs for community building.

Because we know our families desire a high quality education we also provide information about high quality education providers including their schedules, their location, their fees and their contact information (very similar to your charter school). We also provide access to an organized calendar with all these vendors' schedules on one calendar. Even though they are not affiliated in any way, we know that scheduling is something all families struggle to do so we take that burden off your plate and offer you the opportunity to easily see a schedule that would work for your family.

Thrive membership is not required to seek educational opportunities from any vendor - just like we wouldn't require you to be a Thrive member to visit Vons or 24 Hour Fitness :) While families volunteer for Thrive programs, they are not required to volunteer for any vendors as part of the Thrive program.

You may feel as though you “register” for “classes” with “teachers” at Thrive the “school” - however, legally, you put your name on an interest list that is given to vendors who then each register you individually with their private business. All communication regarding vendor services is between you and your vendors.

Charter School: A charter school is a government entity that provides or facilitates educational services. Some have brick and mortar buildings like your local public school. Others, such as the ones you are connected with, assist with services such as recordkeeping, curriculum suggestions, testing, and vendor service recommendations to home school families.

You may use a charter so that your tax dollars can fund the educational services you desire, but they are still a public education service provider under constant scrutiny by the government.

Vendor | Charter Relationship Clarifications (Thrive is Not Involved in the Relationship):

Vendors provide courses at their place of business. They do not provide courses at “Thrive.” Thrive is not a place; it is a program just like a vendor’s program.

Vendors provide courses to their own students. They do not provide courses to Thrive students.

Vendors work for themselves; they are independent contractors of their own accord who will collect their own finances and file their own taxes. They do not work for Thrive.

Vendors register their own students once families have contacted them. Thrive does not do this.

Vendors have their own website with their own information; they have their own course descriptions; they collect their own fees and they keep up with all student/family contact information and registration information.

Communicating with a Charter School:

How to communicate with a charter about vendor payments:

Once Thrive has provided you, the parent, with information about a vendor and their schedule and fees, your relationship is solely with THE VENDOR. Your registration is with the VENDOR; your fees are paid to the VENDOR; the VENDOR is your sole form of contact regarding their courses.

Therefore, when you request funds, you are not requesting funds for a Thrive class – there aren’t any! There are only VENDORS’ classes! (Ex. I would like to request funds for a Physics class with Mrs. DeSoto that is from Sept 13-Jan 26th for \$360).

If it hasn’t been clear already 😊, NEVER mention Thrive. When you mention Thrive, it confuses the charter schools and causes them to think we are a program that we are not.

How to communicate with a charter in advocacy of your vendor:

If your vendor should happen to not be approved by a charter, you, the parent, are the most powerful voice on their behalf! Advocate for them. Tell the charter what their classes have meant to your children. Clear up any misunderstandings that may have arisen regarding their independent status. Be gracious with the charters- they are working hard under difficult circumstances these days- but let them know your legitimate concerns and frustrations. Following is a sample letter written by a parent in advocacy of vendors they use.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Ask us for help before you reach out. While we cannot effectively do anything, we can help you with our own experience as parents :)