



TENNESSEE
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

**ASD APPLICATION
PROCESS WEBINAR**

AUGUST 2023

WELCOME!

- Introductions
 - Name
 - Organization affiliation
- Agenda & Goals



AGENDA

- Pathway to Charter Commission: T.C.A. § 49-1-614(k)
- Who We Are: The Charter Commission
- ASD Transition: Application & Rubric
- Q&A
- Next Steps & Contact Information



GOALS

- Learn about the Charter Commission's statutory charge
- Understand the nuance of the Charter Commission as LEA and authorizer
- Review the ASD application and rubric



WHO WE ARE

The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission



CHARTER COMMISSION

The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission was created by Public Chapter 219 of the 111th General Assembly and assumed appeal responsibilities on January 1, 2021 and authorization responsibilities on July 1, 2021.

As a body, the Charter Commission:

- Hears new start, revocation, and renewal charter school appeals from across the state
- Serves as an authorizer to any charter schools that it authorizes upon appeal
- Serves as the LEA for authorized charter schools



CHARTER COMMISSION

The Commission is guided by the following three core authorizing principles:

- Maintaining High Standards
- Upholding School Autonomy
- Protecting Student and Public Interests



CHARTER COMMISSION

Schools currently authorized by the Charter Commission:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Bluff City High School | Libertas School of Memphis * |
| Cornerstone Prep Denver * | Nashville Collegiate Prep |
| Cornerstone Prep School | Promise Academy Spring Hill * |
| KIPP Antioch College Prep Elementary | Rocketship Dream Community Prep |
| KIPP Antioch College Prep Middle | Tennessee Nature Academy |
| KIPP Antioch Global High School | KIPP Southeast Nashville Elementary ** |
| LEAD Neely's Bend * | KIPP Southeast Nashville Middle ** |
| Lester Prep * | Rutherford Collegiate Prep ** |

* Previous ASD School

** Opening in SY 24-25



**TENNESSEE CODE
ANNOTATED § 49-1-614(k)**



T.C.A. § 49-1-614(k)

- Statute details two pathways for an Achievement School District School to apply directly to the Commission:

1. Commissioner authority (T.C.A. § 49-1-614(k)(2))

"...the Commissioner may determine that a school that entered the ASD and is operated as a charter school through authorization by the ASD... may exit the ASD prior to the expiration of the charter school's initial ASD charter agreement....The ASD-authorized charter school may apply to the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission for a new charter agreement with a term not to exceed the term of the initial ASD charter agreement."



T.C.A. § 49-1-614(k)

- Statute details two pathways for an Achievement School District School to apply directly to the Commission:

2. School earns priority exit (T.C.A. § 49-1-614(k)(4))

“If, at any time, an ASD-authorized charter school meets the priority exit criteria set forth in the state's accountability model, then the school may apply to the LEA or the Commission for a new charter agreement with a term not to exceed the term of the initial ASD charter agreement.”



ASD APPLICATION PROCESS

- Commission rule 1185-01-03 defines the process for considering these types of applications.
 - In accordance with the rule, the Commission staff develops the application and rubric that will be used for these schools.
 - The Commission developed and implemented an application/rubric that was used in the 2021 cycle.
- After the 2022 cycle, the Commission committed to a review of the application and rubric and garnered feedback from review committee members, school operators, TDOE colleagues, and internal staff.
- An updated application and rubric was posted on the website in July 2023.



APPLYING TO THE COMMISSION



ASD APPLICATION TIMELINE

| Action | Timeframe |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Letters of Intent Due to Charter Commission | October 15, 2023* |
| Applications Due to Charter Commission | November 15, 2023 |
| Review Committees Convened | Week of November 20, 2023 (Tentative) |
| Public Hearings in Local Districts | Week of December 4, 2023 (Tentative) |
| Review Committee Final Rubrics Due | January 8, 2023 (Tentative) |
| Executive Director's Recommendation Compiled | Week of January 8, 2023 (Tentative) |
| Charter Commission Decision on Applications | January 26, 2024 |
| Charter Commission Votes on Charter Agreements for Approved ASD Application | March 22, 2024 |

*Falls on a Sunday, due on Monday, October 16th.



ASD APPLICATION & RUBRIC

- The application and rubric is mostly in alignment with the TDOE's new start application rubric and application for charter schools. However, given the unique differences with schools applying from the ASD to the Commission, we have made adjustments to account for these factors.
- Commission staff made updates to the application and rubric from last year given stakeholder feedback. Stakeholders included:
 - School operators who went through the process.
 - Review committee members
 - Commission staff
 - ASD colleagues



ASD APPLICATION & RUBRIC ADJUSTMENTS

- The biggest adjustment made to the application after the last cycle was to remove the past performance section as it was deemed duplicative to other sections within the application.
 - Subsections within past performance were moved into other appropriate sections within the application.
 - The review committee pulls cumulative performance for the school to accompany the application and questions may be asked to operators regarding this performance in the capacity interview.



SPECIAL POPULATIONS

- **Application** – Asks questions about the contingency plan for schools that are currently contracted with their resident district to provide support for special populations.
 - School may lose access to resident district services when transitioning to the Commission.
- **Rubric** – Prompts to consider contingency plans regarding transition to Commission surrounding service of special populations.



PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Application** - Asks questions surrounding how feedback was collected from parents and/or the community about the school's application to the Commission and potential transition.
 - Given the switch of authorizers and shifts in enrollment, families need to be made aware of the potential transition.
- **Rubric** - The applicant details the feedback collection process for parents and/or community about the school's application and potential transition.



BUDGET NARRATIVE

- **Application** - Narrative and subsequent attachments will now include TISA information including historical BEP information and an explanation of student enrollment.
- **Rubric** - Will review the operator's explanation of student enrollment, TISA information, and historical BEP information.



PORTFOLIO REVIEW/PAST PERFORMANCE

- This section is no longer a part of the application, and the relevant sections that were previously within have been reallocated to other sections within the application.
- Applicants will receive a spreadsheet of cumulative performance for review ahead of the review committee process. The review committee will receive this document in addition to the application.
 - Cumulative performance data will also be run through the Commission's School Performance Framework and provided to the operator and review committee.



ATTACHMENTS

- Application - Inclusion of the original approved charter agreement with the ASD.
- Rationale - to provide additional information and context for the Commission staff for the potential transition.



FAQS ON COMMISSION AUTHORIZATION



CHARTER COMMISSION

- **Authorizer Fee:** The Commission must receive an annual authorizer fee of up to three percent (3%) of the public charter school's per pupil state and local funding. The percentage is set annually by the Commission.
- **Contracted Services:** The Commission cannot compel a local school district (e.g., Shelby County or MNPS) to provide services to or contract for services with one of the Commission's charter school. As an example, if a charter school elects to provide transportation, then the transportation must be provided by the charter school or a vendor.
- **Performance Standards:** The Commission executes charter agreements with its charter schools that establish the academic, financial, and organizational performance standards under which charter schools will be evaluated and renewed.



CHARTER COMMISSION

- **Intervention Policy 3.400:** The Commission's intervention policy is incorporated into each charter agreement and drives any notices or corrective action issued by the Charter Commission.
- **Open-Enrollment:** Any school under the Commission is an open enrollment school. Each school will need to run an application and lottery process annually in alignment with T.C.A. §4 9-13-113.
- **Federal Funding:** The Commission uses a school-wide pool allocation for Title I, Title II, Title II, and Title IV, and IDEA school allocations are based on student need. Additional information about this funding allocation is available on the Commission's website under LEA procedures.



CHARTER COMMISSION

- **LEA Policies and Procedures:** The Commission as an LEA must adopt policies and procedures in alignment with state law, rule, and regulation. Charter schools under the Commission are required to adopt policies and procedures that align with these policies and state law, and the policies and procedures are regularly audited by the Commission staff.
- **Student Information Systems:** All charter schools under the Commission must use the Commission's instance of PowerSchool which is paid for by the Commission. All data reporting into EIS flows through the Commission's PowerSchool.



APPLYING TO THE COMMISSION

For all questions regarding qualifications to apply for authorization under the Commission, please reach out to Robin Copp, Interim State Turnaround Superintendent.

- Robin.Copp@tn.gov
- 615-892-0042



Q&A



NEXT STEPS

- ASD applications and rubrics are available on the Commission's website.
- Letters of Intent due on **October 16.**
 - Submit by emailing to **Charterschool.Appeals@tn.gov.**
- For more information or questions, please contact:
 - Trent.Carlson@tn.gov
 - Authorizing Coordinator
 - 615-664-8056
- Other authorizing team members to reach out to for questions:
 - Beth.Figueroa@tn.gov - Director of Authorizing
 - Maggie.Lund@tn.gov - Deputy Director of Authorizing
 - Rebecca.Ledebuhr@tn.gov - Data and Accountability Coordinator





**THANK
YOU!**

