



# TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

**ASD TRANSITION  
WEBINAR**

**AUGUST 2021**

# WELCOME!

- Introductions
  - Name
  - Organization affiliation
- Agenda & Goals



# AGENDA

- Pathway to Charter Commission: Public Chapter 490
- 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



# PUBLIC CHAPTER 490



# PUBLIC CHAPTER NO.490

Provisions for higher-performing ASD charter schools to exit ASD before the end of its original ten-year agreement and apply directly to commission. Bill details two potential direct pathways to commission:

## **1. Commissioner authority**

"...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." 49-1-614(k)(2)

" 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." 49-1-614(k)(2)(b)

## **2. School earns priority exit**

"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." 49-1-614(k)(4)



# **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
- Cornerstone Prep (opening in SY22-23)
- KIPP Antioch College Prep Elementary School
- KIPP Antioch College Prep Middle School
- KIPP Antioch College Prep High School (opening in SY23-24)
- Nashville Collegiate Prep
- Rocketship Nashville #3 (opening in SY22-23)



# 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. 49-13-113.
- **Federal Funding:** The TN Department of Education has stated that an ESSER allocations will transfer with a school from the ASD. Additionally, the Commission uses a school-wide pool allocation for Title I, Title II, Title II, Title IV, and IDEA. 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



# APPLYING TO THE COMMISSION

Achievement School District charter schools deemed eligible through one of the two pathways in statute may apply to the Charter Commission.

- The Commission's application and rubric are:
  - Drafted using stakeholder feedback
  - Adapted from the TDOE application and rubric
  - Aligned to the requirements of the Charter Commission
- The application asks for applicants to provide information and reflect on past performance in their materials.



# ASD APPLICATION TIMELINE

Action	Timeframe
First Reading of ASD Permanent Rule	July 12, 2021
ASD Application and Rubric Feedback Due	August 13, 2021
Informational Webinars for ASD Operators	Week of August 23, 2021
ASD Application and Rubric Finalized and Posted to Website	September 1, 2021
<b>ASD Emergency Rule on First/Final Reading</b>	<b>September 22, 2021</b>
<b>ASD Permanent Rule Rulemaking Hearing</b>	<b>September 30, 2021</b>
<b>ASD Permanent Rule on Final Reading</b>	<b>October 12, 2021</b>
Letters of Intent Due to Charter Commission	October 15, 2021
Applications Due to Charter Commission	November 15, 2021
Review Committees Convened	Week of November 22, 2021 (Tentative)
Public Hearings in Local Districts	Week of December 13, 2021 (Tentative)
Review Committee Final Rubrics Due	Week of January 10, 2022 (Tentative)
Executive Director's Recommendation Compiled	Week of January 17, 2022 (Tentative)
<b>Charter Commission Decision on Applications</b>	<b>January 28, 2022</b>
<b>Charter Commission Votes on Charter Agreements for Approved ASD Application</b>	<b>April 1, 2022</b>





# ASD APPLICATION & RUBRIC

The Tennessee Public School Charter Commission solicited feedback on the proposed ASD application and rubric through August 13. Feedback was collected from the public via email and Formstack submission.

Information was collected from the following stakeholders:

- Three ASD Operators
- State Collaboration on Reforming Education (SCORE)
- Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE)



# ASD APPLICATION & RUBRIC

Incorporated feedback was determined by Commission staff to be aligned with the Charter Commission goals and core principles. The suggested comments:

- Added value to the application and rubric by providing clarity to the original intent of the questions
- Encouraged high standards for operators
- Balanced the unique circumstances related to the ASD application process.



# ASD APPLICATION & RUBRIC: INCORPORATED FEEDBACK

**School Mission:** *Adjust to have a more open-ended framing—will schools adopt a new mission statement under the Charter Commission if it has already been achieved, or that they will keep the same one?*

- **RESULTING CHANGE:** Based on this feedback, the application was adjusted to ensure that operators could reflect on the current mission of the school and discuss their progress towards it.



# ASD APPLICATION & RUBRIC: INCORPORATED FEEDBACK

**Academic Focus and Plan:** *Ask schools to reflect on what went well that they intend to continue rather than solely focusing on how the school's academic plan will differ.*

- **RESULTING CHANGE:** Based on this feedback, the application now asks for operators to reflect on what parts of the academic plan they intend to continue, providing them an opportunity to reflect on what pieces of the academic plan they believe have been successful.



# ASD APPLICATION & RUBRIC: INCORPORATED FEEDBACK

**Parent and Community Engagement and Support:** *Ask applicants for more detail on how they collected feedback and how many opportunities there were for engagement to get a better sense for whether a broad audience was provided multiple opportunities to participate in the feedback process.*

- **RESULTING CHANGE:** Applicants are now required to provide evidence of how they collected feedback and describe how it was used in their transition planning process to ensure parent and community voices are prioritized.



# ASD APPLICATION & RUBRIC: INCORPORATED FEEDBACK

**Personnel/ Human Capital:** *Request applicants to provide evidence on how the school has engaged, or intends to engage, educators and staff for feedback on the transition process and to inform retention plans.*

- **RESULTING CHANGE:** The application now asks operators how they have engaged educators and staff feedback to help inform retention plans if the school transitions to the Commission.



# ASD APPLICATION & RUBRIC: INCORPORATED FEEDBACK

**Transportation & Food Service:** *Explicitly request schools who intend to continue working with a district for transportation and food services to provide documentation of those communications and any formal agreements.*

- **RESULTING CHANGE:** The application now asks for applicants to provide documentation related to transportation and food services to ensure executable plans.



# ASD APPLICATION & RUBRIC: INCORPORATED FEEDBACK

**Past Performance:** *Narrow the focus of the academic data that is considered “threshold” data versus data that schools need to reflect on and provide plans on improving. While it is important to look at multiple academic indicators, the applicants need to know what the key focus in past performance is.*

- **RESULTING CHANGE:** The Commission will provide a complete data set to applicants upon submission of a letter of intent to use in completion of the application, and no additional state accountability data will need to be pulled together by the applicant. Additionally, the rubric states that the threshold indicators are:
  - 1) Success rate at or above 10% for the last two of the three years and
  - 2) TVAAS School-Wide Composite of a Level 4 or 5 for two of the last three years.
- Additional academic data will be discussed by the applicant and reviewed against the rubric in the context of the application and school’s landscape.





# ASD APPLICATION & RUBRIC

Unincorporated feedback was omitted by Commission staff for several reasons, including comments being outside the scope of the application and rubric. While the comments were thoughtful and showed considerable attention to detail, ultimately, they were not included in the final drafts.



# Q&A



# NEXT STEPS

- Final ASD Application and Rubric posted to website **September 1.**
- Commission special-called meeting on **September 22.**
- Commission rule-making hearing on **September 30.**
- Letters of Intent due on **October 15.**
  
- For more information or to submit feedback, please contact:
  - [Tess.Stovall@tn.gov](mailto:Tess.Stovall@tn.gov)
    - Executive Director, Tennessee Public Charter School Commission
    - (o) 615-770-1190
    - (c) 615-202-0672
  
- For questions related to TDOE's ASD Exit Plans, please contact Dr. Eve Carney, Chief of Districts and Schools, Tennessee Department of Education
  - [Eve.Carney@tn.gov](mailto:Eve.Carney@tn.gov)





**THANK  
YOU!**

