



**TENNESSEE**  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

# **RECOMMENDATION OVERVIEW**

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NEW START APPEALS  
NOVEMBER 14, 2019

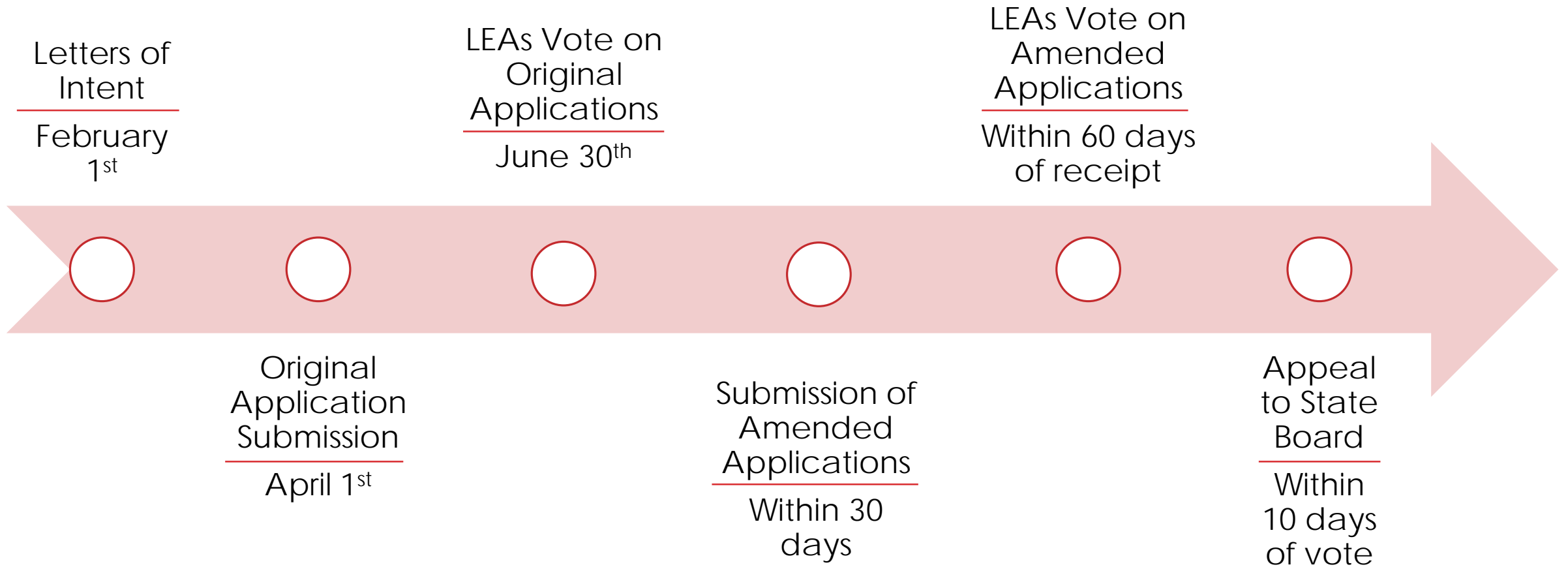
# APPLICATION TIMELINE

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NEW START APPEALS

# THE APPLICATION TIMELINE

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# STATUTORY CHARGE

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NEW START APPEALS

# THE RIGHT TO APPEAL

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- Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-108(b)(4):
  - A denial by the local board of education of an application to establish a charter school may be appealed by the sponsor to the state board of education no later than ten (10) days after the date of the final decision to deny.
- The State Board received six appeals in compliance with this provision in statute and State Board policy 2.500.
  - Beacon College Preparatory (Shelby County)
  - The Gentlemen and Ladies STEM Academy (Shelby County)
  - Green Dot Charter K-8 School (Shelby County)
  - Memphis School of Excellence Cordova (Shelby County)
  - Nashville Collegiate Prep (Metro Nashville Public Schools)
  - Rocketship Nashville #3 (Metro Nashville Public Schools)

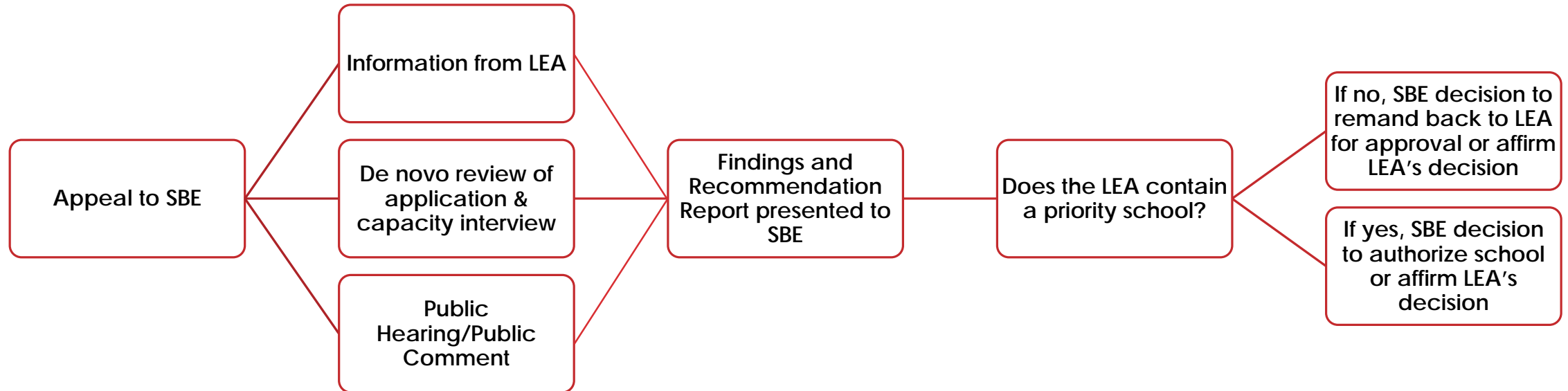
# STATE BOARD'S PROCESS

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- Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-108(b)(4), the State Board shall conduct a de novo on the record review of the proposed charter school application.
- Pursuant to State Board policy 2.500, the State board staff conducted the following process:
  - Established a review committee to conduct a de novo review of the amended application and hold a capacity interview with the applicant.
  - Hosted a public hearing in the proposed location of the school and collected public comment.
  - Reviewed the full record, including all documentation related to the LEA's decision to deny the application.

# APPEAL PROCESS FLOWCHART

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# STATE BOARD'S STANDARD OF REVIEW

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- Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-108(b)(4):

If the state board of education finds that the local board of education's decision was contrary to the best interests of the students, LEA, or community, then the state board of education may approve the application for the public charter school.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

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# SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

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Applicant Name	Recommendation
Beacon College Prep	Approve amended application
Gentlemen and Ladies STEM Academy	Uphold Shelby County's decision to deny application
Green Dot Charter K-8 School	Uphold Shelby County's decision to deny application
Memphis School of Excellence Cordova	Uphold Shelby County's decision to deny application
Nashville Collegiate Prep	Uphold Metro Nashville Public Schools' decision to deny application
Rocketship Nashville #3	Approve amended application

# BEACON COLLEGE PREP

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## Shelby County's Reasons for Denial

- The Beacon amended application, proposing a K-5 school, was denied by Shelby County because of Shelby County Board Policy #1011 – Charter Schools which requires applicants to submit a supplement to the charter application to demonstrate a community need by:
  - Locating in an area with underperforming schools;
  - Locating in an area in need of additional seats; or
  - Providing a unique programmatic model.
- Shelby County stated that Beacon planned to locate in the Raleigh neighborhood of Memphis which is oversaturated by 600 seats in elementary schools, and therefore, did not identify a clear community need.
- Shelby County stated that the Beacon amended application met the standard for approval based on the state's rubric with the exception of Section 1.2 – Enrollment.

# BEACON COLLEGE PREP

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## State Board's Reasons for Recommendation

- The State Board's review committee found that the Beacon amended application met the standard for approval in the academic, operational, and financial sections. The State Board's review committee assessed community need within the state's scoring rubric under Section 1.2 – Enrollment.
- In accordance with State Board Rule 0520-14-01-.01 – Approval of a Charter School, a local district may ask for supplemental information to the charter application, but it cannot deny an applicant for not addressing the additional priority.
- **Recommendation**: Approve the amended application for Beacon College Prep.

# THE GENTLEMEN AND LADIES STEM ACADEMY

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## Shelby County's Reasons for Denial

- The GLA-STEM amended application, proposing a K-8 school, was denied because of deficiencies identified in the application as well as Shelby County Board Policy #1011 – Charter Schools.
- Shelby County stated that GLA-STEM planned to locate in the Cordova neighborhood of Memphis which is oversaturated by 1,000 seats in the middle schools.
- Shelby County stated that the GLA-STEM application did not meet the standard in the academic plan and partially met the standard in the operations and financial plans.

# THE GENTLEMEN AND LADIES STEM ACADEMY

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## State Board's Reasons for Recommendation

- The State Board's review committee found that the GLA-STEM amended application did not meet the standard in the academic, operational, and financial plans. The State Board's review committee assessed community need within the state's scoring rubric under Section 1.2 – Enrollment.
- In accordance with State Board Rule 0520-14-01-.01 – Approval of a Charter School, a local district may ask for supplemental information to the charter application, but it cannot deny an applicant for not addressing the additional priority.
- **Recommendation**: Uphold Shelby County's decision to deny the Gentleman and Ladies STEM Academy amended application.

# GREEN DOT CHARTER K-8

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## Shelby County's Reasons for Denial

- The Green Dot amended application, proposing a K-8 school, was denied because of deficiencies identified in the application as well as Shelby County Board Policy #1011 – Charter Schools.
- Shelby County stated that Green Dot planned to locate in the Whitehaven neighborhood of Memphis which is oversaturated by 1,000 seats in elementary schools.
- Shelby County stated that the Green Dot application partially met the standard for approval in the academic, operational, financial, and portfolio review sections.

# GREEN DOT CHARTER K-8

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## State Board's Reasons for Recommendation

- The State Board's review committee found that the Green Dot amended application partially met the standard in the academic and portfolio review sections and met the standard for approval in the operational and financial plans. The State Board's review committee assessed community need within the state's scoring rubric under Section 1.2 – Enrollment.
- In accordance with State Board Rule 0520-14-01-.01 – Approval of a Charter School, a local district may ask for supplemental information to the charter application, but it cannot deny an applicant for not addressing the additional priority.
- **Recommendation**: Uphold Shelby County's decision to deny the Green Dot Charter K-8 School amended application.



# MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE CORDOVA

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## Shelby County's Reasons for Denial

- The Memphis School of Excellence (MSE) amended application, proposing a grades 6-12 school, was denied due to Shelby County Board Policy #1011 – Charter Schools.
- Shelby County stated that MSE planned to locate in the Cordova neighborhood of Memphis which is oversaturated by 1,000 seats in middle school seats.
- Shelby County stated that the MSE application met the standard for approval based on the state's rubric with the exception of Section 1.2 – Enrollment.

# MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE CORDOVA

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## State Board's Reasons for Recommendation

- The State Board's review committee found that the MSE amended application met the standard for approval in the academic and financial plans and partially met the standard on the operational plans and portfolio review. The State Board's review committee assessed community need within the state's scoring rubric under Section 1.2 – Enrollment.
- In accordance with State Board Rule 0520-14-01-.01 – Approval of a Charter School, a local district may ask for supplemental information to the charter application, but it cannot deny an applicant for not addressing the additional priority.
- **Recommendation**: Uphold Shelby County's decision to deny the Memphis School of Excellence Cordova amended application.

# NASHVILLE COLLEGIATE PREP

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## Metro Nashville Public School's Reasons for Denial

- The Nashville College Prep (NCP) amended application was rated by the MNPS review committee as partially meeting the standard across the academic, operational and financial plans.

# NASHVILLE COLLEGIATE PREP

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## State Board's Reasons for Recommendation

- The State Board's review committee found that the NCP amended application partially met the standard in the academic and operational plans and met the standard for approval in the financial plan.
- **Recommendation**: Uphold Metro Nashville Public Schools' decision to deny the Nashville Collegiate Prep amended application.

# ROCKETSHIP NASHVILLE #3

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## Metro Nashville Public School's Reasons for Denial

- The Rocketship amended application was recommended for approval by the MNPS review committee and MNPS Office of Charter Schools and then was denied by the MNPS Board of Education.
- Reasons cited by the MNPS Board of Education for its denial were:
  - Past performance of the current Rocketship schools which did not merit replication;
  - Concerns about services to English Learners, special education students, and homeless students; and
  - A lack of transparency in Rocketship's funding structure and limited funding available from the school district.

# ROCKETSHIP NASHVILLE #3

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## State Board's Reasons for Recommendation

- The State Board's review committee found that the Rocketship amended application met the standard for approval in the academic, operational, financial plans and the portfolio review.
- Through the public hearing and a review the LEA record, the State Board staff reviewed the MNPS's reason for denial that were outside the review committee's recommendation.
- Through this review, the State Board staff did not find sufficient evidence for denial for any of the reasons cited by the MNPS Board of Education.
- **Recommendation**: Approve amended application for Rocketship Nashville #3.

# QUESTIONS?

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