



TENNESSEE
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

AMENDMENT PETITIONS | JANUARY 27, 2022

BACKGROUND

- T.C.A. § 49-13-110
 - Allows the governing board of a charter school to petition their authorizer to amend their charter agreement.
- State Quality Authorizing Standards and Commission Policy 3.100
 - Allows—and requires charter agreement amendments for—occasional material changes to a school’s plans, but does not require amending the charter agreement for non-material modifications.



BACKGROUND

- Commission Rule 1185-01-01-.04
 - What is considered a material change to an agreement
 - The process all authorizers (including the Commission) must follow
 - Requires the Department of Education to create an application and rubric for authorizers/operators to use and the Commission to approve this application
 - Outlines a fall window and a spring window for operators to submit amendment petitions
 - Allows for emergency petitions outside of these timelines



MATERIAL CHANGES

- In accordance with Commission Rule, the following are material changes that require an amendment petition:
 - Change in governance structure
 - Addition/removal of grade level or levels
 - Changes to enrollment maximums
 - Addition or removal of transportation
 - Changes to the geographic location of the school
 - Changes to the academic focus/goals of the school
 - Other changes identified as material in the agreement



RUBRIC DETAILS

- Characteristics of a strong response:
 - Clear, evidenced-based rationale for the proposed amendment that is aligned with the school's mission and goals, and supports the best interest of students.
 - Academic results provide compelling support for the proposed amendment.
 - Realistic and detailed budget that explains the financial impact of the proposed amendment and clear evidence that the financial outlook of the school.
 - Thoughtful and realistic facility plans that accommodate the proposed amendment.



RUBRIC DETAILS

- Characteristics of a strong response, cont:
 - Detailed implementation plan with a realistic timeline that addresses the operational impact of the proposed amendment.
 - Clear evidence of support for the proposed amendment from parents, staff and community partners.
 - FOR EMERGENCY PETITIONS ONLY: Compelling evidence of unanticipated extraordinary circumstances supporting the filing of an emergency amendment application.



DISCUSSION

- Academic Results
 - What specific academic results or data would like you to see a school provide to request an expansion?
- Community and Parent Support
 - What is clear evidence of community, parent, and staff support?
 - Letters of support? Survey data? Public comment?
- Emergency Petitions
 - What evidence would you want regarding unanticipated extraordinary circumstances?



NEXT STEPS

- Staff will review current amendment petition received based on this discussion and request additional information, if necessary.
 - Commission must vote on current petition by February 18, 2022
- Staff will bring policy to April 2022 meeting to codify the additional information for Commission authorized schools to use moving forward.





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