

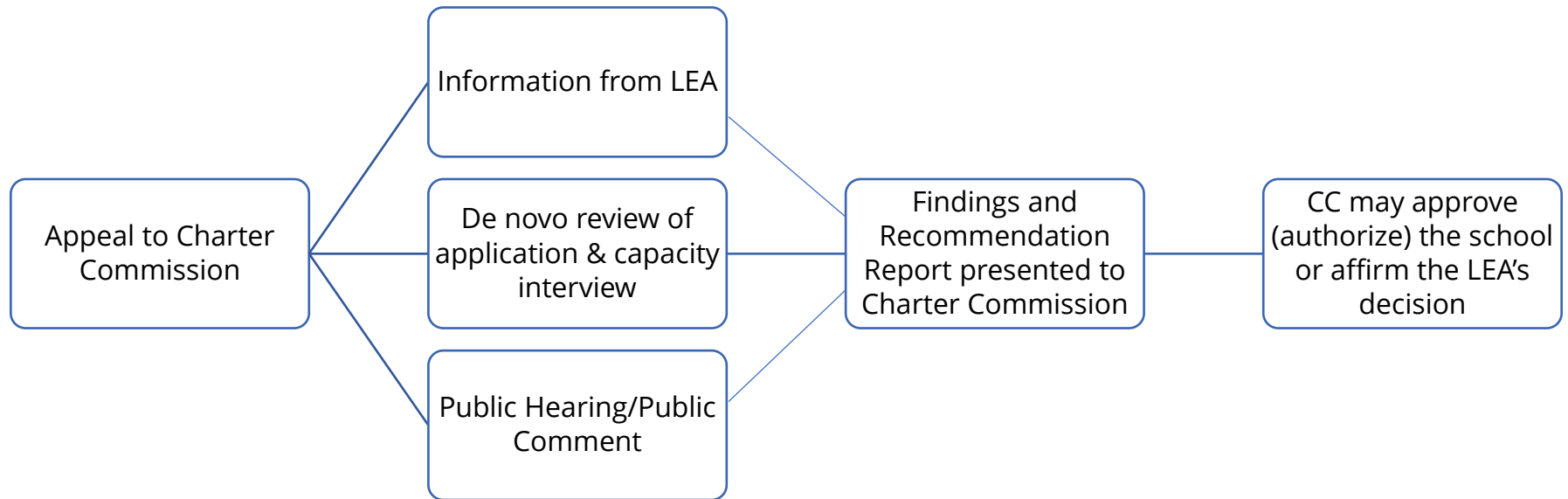


**TENNESSEE**  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

**NEW START CHARTER  
SCHOOL APPEALS**

**JULY 29, 2022**

# APPEALS PROCESS FLOWCHART



A maximum of 75 calendar days



# ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

## Appeals Received

Sponsor	Name of School	LEA
KIPP Nashville	KIPP Southeast Nashville College Prep Elementary	Davidson
KIPP Nashville	KIPP Southeast Nashville College Prep Middle	Davidson
Salman Community Services	Saber STEM Academy	Davidson
Del Rey Education, Inc.	Founders Classical Academy of Hendersonville	Sumner
American Classical Education, Inc.	American Classical Academy Madison	Jackson-Madison

## Appeals In Progress

Sponsor	Name of School	LEA
American Classical Education, Inc.	American Classical Academy Rutherford	Rutherford
American Classical Education, Inc.	American Classical Academy Montgomery	Clarksville-Montgomery
One on One Children's Services	Oxton Academy Charter High School	Clarksville-Montgomery
Del Rey Education, Inc.	Founders Classical Academy of Franklin	Williamson
Tennessee Nature Academy	Tennessee Nature Academy	Davidson



As of July 27, 2022

# ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

## LEA Denied

Sponsor	Name of School	LEA
Maslow Development, Inc.	Binghampton Community School	Shelby
Memphis Grizzlies Charitable Foundation	Grizzlies Preparatory STEM School for Girls	Shelby
Tennessee Military Academy, Inc.	Tennessee Volunteer Military Academy	Shelby

## LEA Decision Outstanding

Sponsor	Name of School	LEA
Mecca Jackson	Academy of the Arts Charter High School	Fayette



As of July 27, 2022

# REVIEW COMMITTEE



# REVIEW COMMITTEE

- Policy 2.100 Application Review
  - The Commission assembles a review committee of experts with a variety of background and expertise to independently review the amended application
  - It is a best practice for the committee to be made up of internal staff and external reviewers
- Committee Recruitment and Screening
  - Individuals interested in serving as a reviewer complete an application and submit their resume
  - Staff conducts a phone interview with individuals to determine if they will bring an unbiased approach to reviewing an application
  - Look for reviewers with expertise in academics, operations, and finance
  - Reviewers receive a stipend of \$700 per application reviewed



# REVIEW COMMITTEE

- This cycle, reviewers consist of:
  - Current and former charter school leaders
  - Current/former charter school authorizing staff (both nationally and from Tennessee)
  - Current and former public school teachers and administrators
  - Legal/finance experts
  - Curriculum and instruction experts
  - Federal programs and special populations experts
  - Geographic representation (both nationally and from Tennessee)
  - Demographic representation
  - Internal Commission staff



# REVIEW COMMITTEE

- Training
  - Each reviewer is required to participate in a training conducted by staff on how to review and score an application
    - Writing objective comments
    - Conducting a capacity interview
    - Rating an application based on the written application and the capacity of the team to execute the plan
- Staff build review committees to ensure:
  - A balance of expertise (academic/operational/finance)
  - No potential or real conflicts (each reviewer discloses any conflicts prior to the review)
  - Geographical/community considerations





# REVIEW COMMITTEE

- Changes this year:
  - Utilizing external lead reviewers to take on responsibilities above and beyond that of a traditional review committee member including:
    - Assisting with summarizing review committee rubrics
    - Drafting capacity interview questions
    - Writing portions of review committee reports
  - Contracting with external consultant to:
    - Act as a lead reviewer on three (3) separate review committees managed by various commission staff in order to ensure fidelity across committees
    - Analyze results of review committee feedback
    - Provide formative feedback on the appeals process



# REVIEWER TIMELINE

Action	Timeframe
Commission hosted review committee training (via Microsoft Teams)	July 7 and 18, 2022
Commission receives appeals	July 22 through August 5
Commission sends out applications to review committees	July 29 through August 19
Initial scoring rubrics due to Commission from committees	August 19 through September 9
Prep calls with review committees (via Microsoft Teams)	August 25 through September 16
Capacity interviews with applicant groups (via Microsoft Teams)	September 1 through September 28
Final scoring rubrics due to Commission from committees	September 14 through September 30
Review committee reports drafted	September 14 through October 7
Executive Director's recommendations written	September 19 through October 7
Recommendations are posted to the website/shared with Commission	Wednesday, September 28 Monday, October 10
Charter Commission votes on appeals	Wednesday, October 5 Monday, October 17 - Tuesday, October 18, 2022



# PUBLIC HEARING



# PUBLIC HEARING

- A public hearing is required to be held in the district in which the proposed school would be located
- The executive director serves as the hearing officer
- The sponsor of the school and local board of education have opportunities to present on the appeal, and the public can offer comment
- The executive director asks questions of the sponsor and the local board based on an initial review of the record



# PURPOSE OF THE HEARING

- To determine and confirm:
  - The process that the LEA took in reviewing and scoring the application.
  - Whether there is sufficient community support to affirm the applicant's ability to operate in the geographic region and meet enrollment projections.
  - The applicants are likely to implement the proposed plan successfully.



# **STAFF REVIEW OF THE RECORD**



# STAFF REVIEW OF RECORD

- Led by the director of authorizing, general counsel, and executive director, staff conduct a full review of the record when forming the recommendation to the Commission
- Review all documentation submitted by sponsor, local board of education, the review committee, and public comment
- Produce a recommendation based on the following statutory charge:
  - Does the application meet or exceed the metrics outlined in the scoring rubric and is the approval of the application in the best interests of the students, LEA, or community?



# COMMISSIONER REVIEW OF THE RECORD





# REVIEW OF THE RECORD

- Commissioners must conduct a “de novo on the record review” of the appeal.
- Information that can be considered is limited to what is officially “on the record” in the appeal.
- Commissioner’s record will include:
  - Correspondence from the Commission staff to parties
  - Notice of Appeal from the Sponsor
  - Recording of Capacity Interview
  - Public Hearing and Public Comment
  - Executive Director’s Recommendation inclusive of the review committee report
  - Written statements in response recommendation



# REVIEW OF THE RECORD

- Start with the executive director's recommendation
  - This summarizes the materials and information in the record and provides a recommendation based on the Commission's statutory charge
  - Provides overview of the public hearing and the resources used to determine whether the application has clear community support
- Closely review the review committee's report and the capacity interview.
  - This evaluates the application against the state's scoring rubric.
  - Focus on:
    - Does the school have a developed, quality academic program?
    - Can the school serve all students?
    - Is the school likely to meet enrollment projections?
    - Does the school have an effective governance structure?
    - Are the proposed governing board members capable of strong oversight?
    - Can the school recruit and staff to support the program?
    - Are the revenue projections confirmed and reasonable?
    - Does the school/network's performance merit expansion?



# REVIEW OF THE RECORD

- Listen/watch the recording of the public hearing
  - Provides a good summary of the sponsor's argument in support of the application and the local board of education's reasons for denial
  - Opportunity to listen to the public's views on the proposed application
  - The public hearing is also summarized in the executive director's recommendation
- Review public comments submitted



# TIMELINE FOR REVIEW



# TIMELINE FOR REVIEW

- Special Called Meeting - October 5, 2022
  - By September 21, the following will be in TNShare:
    - Notice of Appeal
    - LEA Documentation
    - Public Hearing Materials (recording, presentations, public comment)
    - Any additional written public comment
  - By September 28, the Executive Director's recommendations will be in TNShare.



# TIMELINE FOR REVIEW

- Quarterly Commission Meeting - October 17-18
  - By October 3, the following will be in TNShare:
    - Notice of Appeal
    - LEA Documentation
    - Public Hearing Materials (recording, presentations, public comment)
    - Any additional written public comment
  - By October 10, the Executive Director's recommendations will be in TNShare.





**TENNESSEE**

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