



TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

**NEW START APPEALS
OVERVIEW**

JULY 26, 2024

A QUALITY AUTHORIZER

- Grants charters to applicants that have demonstrated competence and capacity to succeed in all aspects of their model, consistent with the state's scoring rubric criteria.
- Rigorously evaluates each application through **thorough review of the written proposal**, a substantive **in-person interview** with each qualified applicant, and all **appropriate due diligence** to examine the applicant's experience and capacity, conducted by knowledgeable and competent evaluators.
- Engages, for both written application reviews and applicant interviews, highly competent teams of **internal and external evaluators** with relevant educational, organizational (governance and management), financial, and legal **expertise**, as well as thorough **understanding of the essential principles of charter school autonomy and accountability**.

- State Board Policy 6.111



ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

Name of School	LEA	Outcome
Novus SMART Academy (K-8)	Rutherford County Schools	Denied
Encompass Community School	Metro Nashville Public Schools	Denied
LEAD Cameron Elementary	Metro Nashville Public Schools	Denied
LEAD Southeast Elementary School	Metro Nashville Public Schools	Denied
Nashville School of Excellence	Metro Nashville Public Schools	Denied
Nurses Middle College Nashville (9-12)	Metro Nashville Public Schools	Denied
Journey Northeast Academy	Memphis-Shelby County Schools	TBD
Memphis Grizzlies Prep STEAM School For Girls	Memphis-Shelby County Schools	TBD
Wooddale Middle School	Memphis-Shelby County Schools	TBD



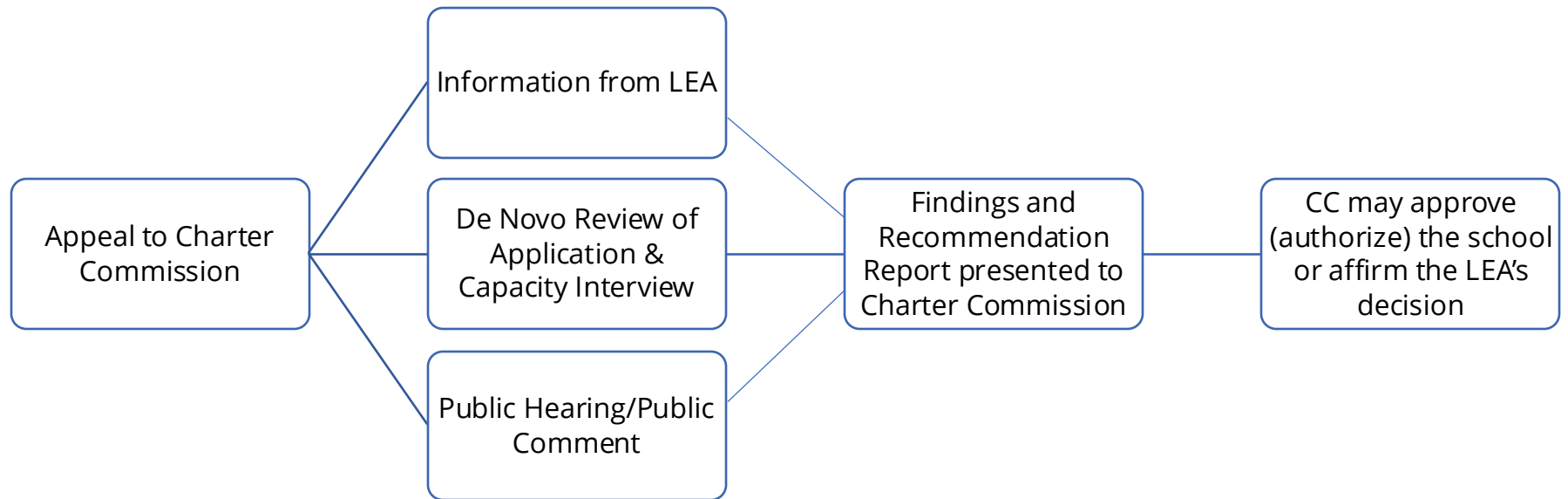
As of 7/24/2024

TIMELINE

Action	Timeframe
Attend virtual review committee training	July 2024
Review committee members notified of assigned application(s)	July 2024
Application and materials sent to review committee	By August 10 th
Complete initial review of new start application and rubric	By August 30 th
Attend prep call for capacity interview	Early September
Attend capacity interview (3-hour time commitment)	Mid September
Complete final rubric	Mid September
Complete review of review committee report	Mid/Late September



APPEALS PROCESS FLOWCHART



A maximum of 75 calendar days



REVIEW COMMITTEE

- Preliminary review committees have been trained and established comprised of internal and external experts.
- After the initial review, a 90-minute capacity interview is conducted with the applicant to assess capacity and ask clarifying questions.
- The review committee report is compiled summarizing the committee's consensus ratings.
- This report is provided to the Executive Director in consideration of her recommendation.
- Applications must meet standard in all categories to merit a recommendation for approval by the committee.



PUBLIC HEARING

- Public hearings will be held in the district in which the proposed school proposes to be located in late August/early September.
- During the hearing, the sponsor of the school and the local board of education present on the appeal.
- The executive director asks questions of the sponsor and the local board based on the staff's initial review of the record.
- Public comments provide applicants and communities the opportunity to speak in favor or oppositions of the proposed schools.
- Dates and times for all public hearings will be communicated to Commissioners who wish to attend.



TIMELINE FOR REVIEW

- Quarterly Meeting: October 17th and 18th, 2024
 - By August 15, the following will be made available to Commissioners in TNShare.
 - Notice of appeal
 - LEA documentation
 - The following documents will be added to TNshare as they become available:
 - Capacity interview recording
 - Public hearing materials (recording, presentations, public comment)
 - Any additional written public comment
- By October 14, the Executive Director's recommendations will be provided.



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.
- The Commission shall review amended applications without deference to the district’s denial.
- Commissioners should refrain from discussing the application with applicants.
- Any applicant/district that reaches out should be re-directed to Commission staff.



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 an overview of the public hearing and the resources used to determine whether the application has clear community support



REVIEW OF THE RECORD

- 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 written public comments submitted
- Consider final public comment from each party at the Commission meeting – either oral or written



REVIEW OF THE RECORD

- The Commission may approve the application if the application
 - 1) meets or exceeds the metrics outlined by the department of education's application-scoring rubric **and**
 - 2) approval of the application is in the best interests of the students LEA or community





TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION