



TENNESSEE
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CHARTER SCHOOLS

OVERVIEW OF THE APPEAL PROCESS

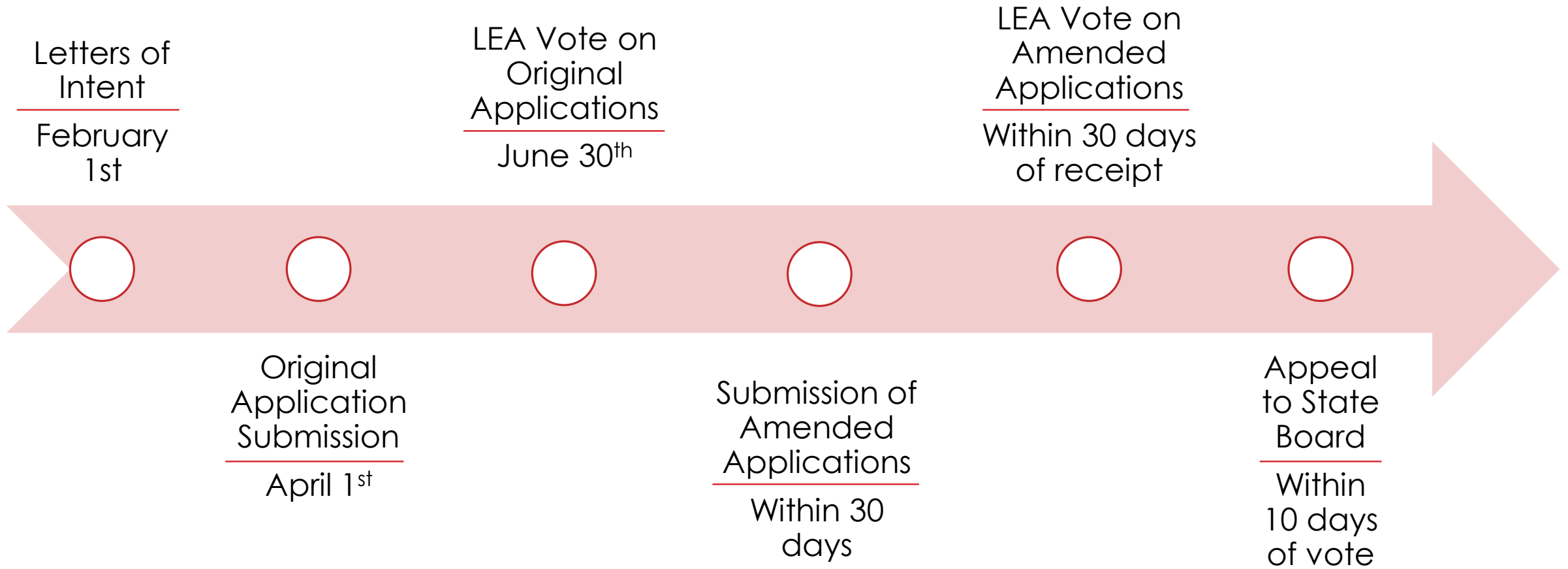
JULY 23, 2015

ROADMAP

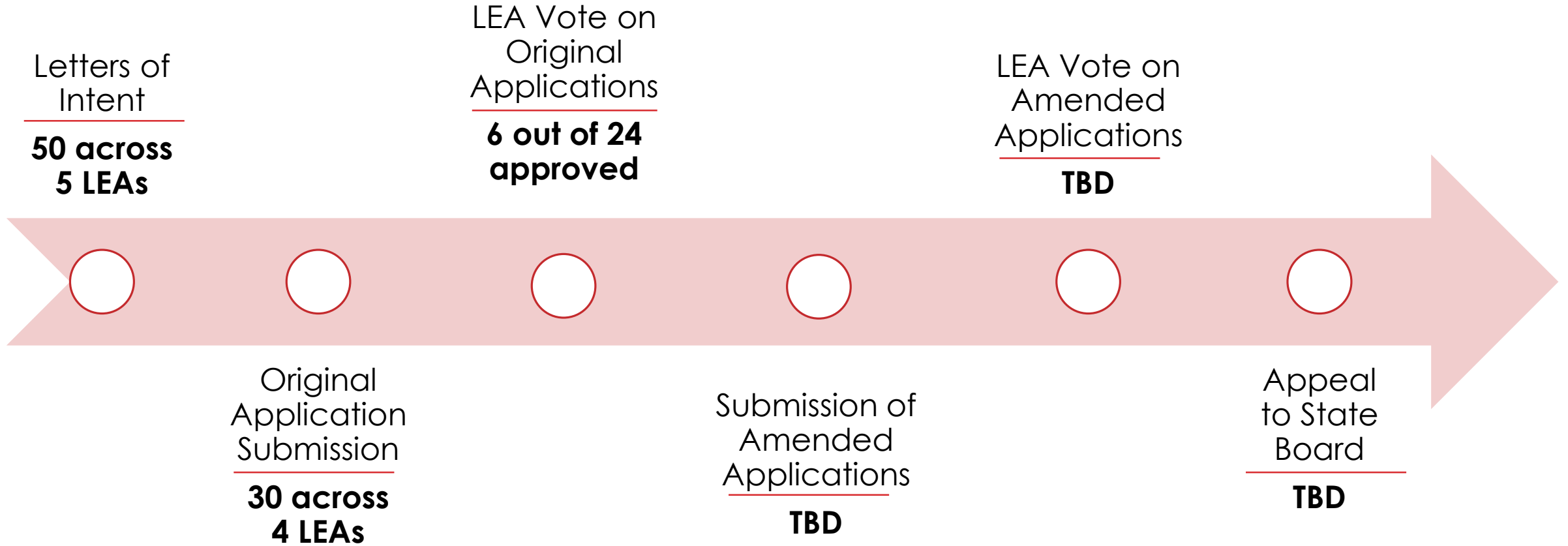
- Overview of the charter application process
- State Board of Education's appeal process
- Discussion of sample scoring rubrics

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

THE APPLICATION TIMELINE



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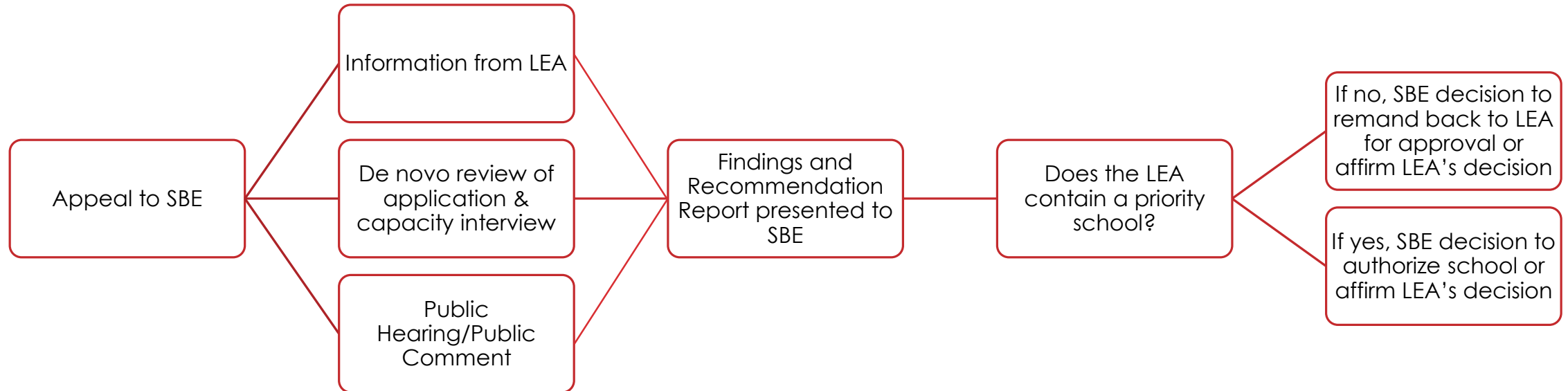


THE STATE BOARD APPEAL PROCESS

STATUTORY GUIDANCE

- Within 10 days of a local board's denial of the amended application, the sponsor can appeal to the State Board.
- The State Board shall conduct a de novo on the record review of the proposed charter school's application.
- The State Board must take action on an appeal within 60 days after receipt of the notice of appeal.
- The State Board's standard of review is the best interests of the pupils, school district or community.
- The State Board is required to adopt national authorizing standards.

APPEAL PROCESS FLOWCHART



Appeal to SBE

- Copies of applications
- Timeline of LEA application process
- Brief statement from the sponsor
- Outline of any corrections made to the application
- Copies of communication from the district

Information from LEA

- LEA review committee information
- Meeting information from local school board votes on applications
- Communication to sponsors

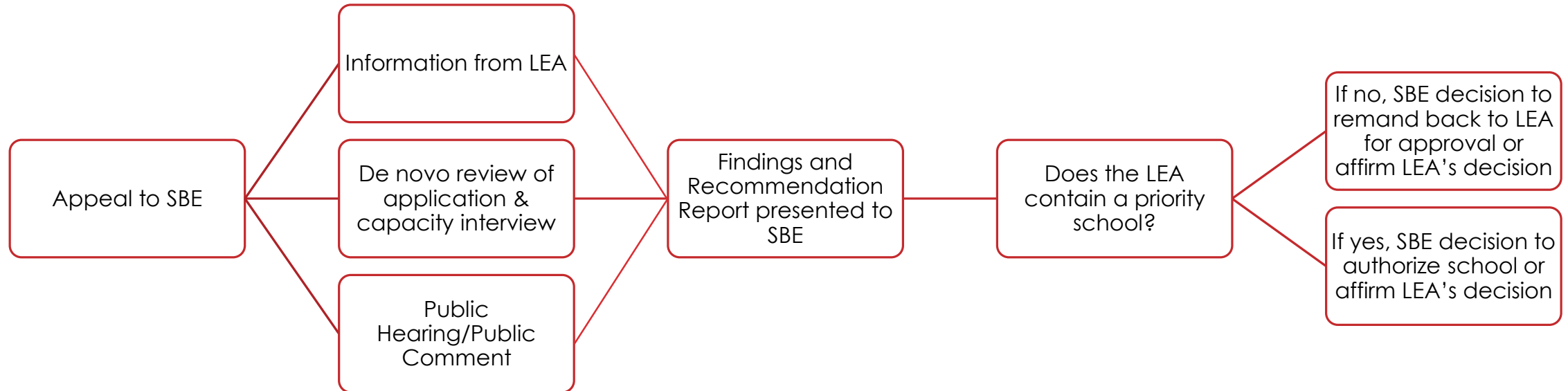
De novo review of application & capacity interview

- A review committee completes a new, fully independent (i.e. “De novo”) review of the application.
- The committee process includes:
 - An initial application scoring
 - A capacity interview
 - A final scoring of the application
 - Development of a consensus rating and completion a recommendation report

Public Hearing/Public Comment

- Public hearing is held in the school district.
- Sponsor and local district receive 20 minutes for their presentations and 5 minutes each for closing statements.
- 15 minutes of public comment.
- Additional public comment may be allowed for a specified period of time after the hearing.

APPEAL PROCESS FLOWCHART



Findings and Recommendation Report presented to SBE

- Executive Director's report outlines the findings from the appeal process's components (i.e. Review Committee report, public hearing, evidence from LEA).
- The report makes a recommendation to the State Board, but the State Board is the ultimate decision-making body on all appeals.
- All decisions of the State Board on appeals are final.

AUTHORIZATION

- If the State Board authorizes a charter school:
 - The applicant and the local school district have 30 days in which they can agree that the school will be overseen by the local school district.
- If the State Board remains the authorizer:
 - A performance contract will be signed between the State Board and the governing board of the school.
 - The school will be overseen and monitored by State Board staff and will be held accountable to the State Board's performance framework.

DISCUSSION

SAMPLE SCORING RUBRICS

SAMPLE SCORING RUBRICS

- Discussion questions:
 - What is your consensus rating for each section?
 - What evidence did you cite that led you to your rating?
 - What challenges did you face in reviewing the sections?
 - What additional questions do you have about the work of the Review Committee based on this practice?

AUTHORIZER DUTIES

- “In short, authorizers should ensure quality oversight that maintains high educational and operational standards, preserves school-level autonomy, and safeguards student and public interests.” *National Association of Charter School Authorizers, Principles and Standards, 2012*
- At future workshops, the SBE staff will present and discuss the following key authorization practices with the State Board members:
 - Draft contract between the State Board of Education and charter school governing body;
 - A ready to open checklist for a charter school; and
 - Closure protocol for a charter school

“Charter school authorizing is a powerful strategy for making excellent public schools and educational opportunities available to all students.”

NACSA, Principles and Standards, 2012



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