



Letter of Intent to Apply to Open a Tennessee Public Charter School

For Charter School Sponsors Planning to Submit a
Charter School Application by February 1, 2026



Letter of Intent to Apply to Open a Tennessee Public Charter School

Overview

The first step in creating a new public charter school is for a sponsor¹ to file a letter of intent with the selected authorizer² and the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission (Commission) using the form below. Sponsors must complete a separate letter of intent for each public charter school application they plan to submit.

The purpose of the letter of intent is to provide an authorizer with advance notice that an application to open a public charter school may be forthcoming. Sponsors should provide the most accurate information available at the time of submission.

This letter of intent form is for non-replication applications only. If a sponsor is seeking to replicate an existing Tennessee public charter school, the sponsor must complete a different letter of intent form, which can be found on the Tennessee State Board of Education's (State Board) [website](#).

Submission Requirements

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-107(a), all sponsors must file a Letter of Intent at least 60 days prior to the application deadline of February 1. Therefore, this letter must be delivered no later than December 3. If December 3 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state-observed holiday, the Letter of Intent is due on the next business day.

An electronic copy of the letter of intent must be converted to a PDF file and submitted to the selected authorizer and the Commission by the deadline. Sponsors must contact the authorizer to determine the process for filing the letter of intent with the authorizer and submit a copy to the Commission via email at CharterSchool.Applications@tn.gov.

Within 10 business days of receipt of a letter of intent, the authorizer shall share with the sponsor the most up to date per-pupil estimate of combined state and local funding. Sponsors must input that number into the budget template that accompanies the application to support accurate budgeting.

¹ "Sponsor" means a proposed governing body filing an application for the establishment of a public charter school, that is not a for-profit entity; nonpublic school as defined in § 49-6-3001; other private, religious, or church school; or postsecondary institution not regionally accredited; and does not promote the agenda of any religious denomination or religiously affiliated entity. T.C.A. § 49-13-104.

² "Authorizer" means a local board of education or the Tennessee public charter school commission as defined in § 49-1-614, that makes decisions regarding approval, renewal, and revocation of a public charter school application or agreement. T.C.A. § 49-13-140.

Primary Point of Contact

In the table below, identify the primary point of contact (PPOC) for this letter of intent. The PPOC will handle all communications, scheduling, and notices related to the application. The PPOC is responsible for ensuring timely dissemination of information to all involved parties. All information provided in this form is considered public information.

Name	Natisha Brooks
Role in proposed school	President
Mailing address	900 13th Ave S
Mailing address line 2	
City, State, Zip code	Nashville, TN 37212
Primary telephone	615-821-8887
Alternate telephone	615-491-4986
Email address	natisha.brooks@empowermentacademy.net

General Information About the Proposed School

Complete the table below.

Name of proposed charter school	Empowerment Academy – East Tennessee		
Sponsor/Sponsoring Entity	Empowerment Academy		
Proposed Authorizer	Hamilton County		
Academic Focus³ of Proposed School	Agriculture and Aeronautics		
Grade Structure (e.g., K-5, 6-8, 9-12)	Year 1	Year 5	At Capacity
	K-5	K-5	K-5
Projected Enrollment	Year 1	Year 5	At Capacity
	50	50	50
Neighborhood and/or community in which the school plans to locate	Chattanooga		
Projected opening school year	2027		

³ Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-104(1), “academic focus” means distinctive, thematic program such as math, science, arts, general academics, or an instructional program such as Montessori or Paideia.

Sponsor Eligibility

Tennessee law limits who may sponsor a charter school and prescribes the type of entity that may operate a charter school.⁴ Please read the following statements and check the box to confirm eligibility to apply and verify the status of, or plans for, the governing body.

- ☒ The sponsor of this charter school is not: "a for-profit corporation;" "a non-public school, as defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3001(c)(3)(A), or other private, religious, or church school;" and the proposed charter school is not cyber-based.

Charter schools must be operated by entities that are exempt from federal taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Please check one of the following, as applicable:

- ☐ The sponsor of this charter school is a not-for-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status.
- ☒ The sponsor of this charter school is a not-for-profit organization and has applied for 501(c)(3) status.

Sponsor History and Intent

Read the following statements and select "yes" or "no" to indicate whether each of the following descriptors is true of the sponsor or sponsoring entity's history or intent. Sponsors may indicate "yes" to more than one descriptor. Sponsors will be required to complete an addendum to the charter school application for each descriptor to which they respond "yes".

Yes	No	Sponsor History and Intent
	X	The sponsor currently has, or has previously had, any affiliation with a charter school in the United States, including but not limited to, its establishment, operation, or management.
	X	Sponsors proposing to open a new school that will create a network or as part of an existing network/ charter management organization (CMO). ⁵
	X	The sponsor is seeking to contract with a third-party education service provider (ESP), including a CMO.
X		The sponsor is seeking approval of multiple schools during this application cycle.
	X	The sponsor is seeking to convert a non-charter public school to a charter school. ⁶
	X	The sponsor is seeking to open an Opportunity Public Charter School. ⁷
	X	The sponsor is a higher education institution seeking to open a charter school.

⁴ T.C.A. § 49-13-106: The complete Tennessee Public Charter Schools Act is contained in T.C.A. §§ 49-13-101 through 145.

⁵ Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-104(5), a "network" is a nonprofit entity that manages or operates two (2) or more public charter schools; at least one (1) of which is in Tennessee.

⁶ "Conversion public charter school" means a charter school established by the conversion of an existing non-charter public school into a charter school as defined in T.C.A. § 49-13-104.

⁷ "Opportunity public charter school" means a public charter school serving any of the grades six through twelve (6-12) for which at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the students enrolled in the public charter school, at the time of enrollment, are at-risk students. Chapter 1066 of the Public Acts of 2024.



By my signature below, I affirm that all the above statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Natisha Brooks

Signature of Authorized Representative

12/02/2025

Date

Natisha Brooks

Printed Name of Authorized Representative

President

Title of Authorized Representative