



TENNESSEE
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Letter of Intent to Apply to Open a Public Charter School

For Charter School Sponsors Submitting an
Application by February 1, 2027





Letter of Intent to Apply to Open a Public Charter School

Overview

The first step in creating a new public charter school in Tennessee 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. All information provided in this form is considered public and may be requested at any time.

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), a Letter of Intent must be filed at least 60 days prior to the application deadline of February 1. Therefore, this letter must be submitted 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 authorizer and the Commission by the deadline. Sponsors must contact the authorizer to determine the process for electronically filing the letter of intent with the authorizer. A copy of the letter of intent must also be submitted to the Commission via email at CharterSchool.Applications@tn.gov.

Within five (5) business days of receipt of a letter of intent, the authorizer will confirm receipt and provide the sponsor with the current federal, state, and local per-pupil funding estimates. Sponsors must use the funding estimates provided to populate 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; or postsecondary institution not regionally accredited. 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 and the forthcoming application. The PPOC will handle all communications, scheduling, and notices related to the application and is responsible for ensuring timely dissemination of information to all involved parties.

Name	Karen Patrick
Role in Proposed School	Founder / Board Chairperson
Mailing Address	1115 North 6th Avenue, Humboldt, Tennessee 38343
Primary Telephone	(731) 618-0133
Email Address	Patrickkaren2692@att.net

General Information

Complete the table below with information about the proposed charter school.

School Name	Rising Scholars Academy		
Sponsor/Sponsoring Entity	Rising Scholars Community Foundation, Incorporated		
Authorizer	Humboldt City Schools		
Academic Focus³	Literacy and General Academics		
Grade Structure (e.g., K-5, 6-8, 9-12)	Year 1	Year 5	At Capacity
	K-2	K-6	K-6
Projected Enrollment	Year 1	Year 5	At Capacity
	120	320	320
Neighborhood and/or Community in which the school plans to locate	Humboldt, Tennessee		
Projected Opening School Year	2028		

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 Paldeia.

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 sponsor eligibility, as required in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-13-104(16).

Confirm	Sponsor Eligibility
X	The sponsor is not a for-profit entity, non-public school (as defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3001), or postsecondary institution not regionally accredited.

Charter school sponsors must operate as an entity that is exempt from federal taxation under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Please check one (1) of the following to indicate the sponsor's not-for-profit status.

Confirm	Sponsor Exemptions
	The sponsor is a not-for-profit organization with IRS 501(c)(3) status .
X	The sponsor has applied for and is awaiting approval of its IRS 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's history and 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	The sponsor is 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.



Signature

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

Karen Patrick
Signature of Authorized Representative

9/15/2026
Date

Karen Patrick
Printed Name of Authorized Representative

Founder/Board Chairperson
Title of Authorized Representative