



Tennessee Public Charter School Commission  
Davy Crockett, 5th Floor  
500 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Founders Classical Academy of Hendersonville Appeal

To whom it may concern:

We are hereby appealing our application to the Sumner County Board of Education to open a Founders Classical Academy charter school in Sumner County, TN. The application for this school and an amended version of that application were both rejected by the school board.

With a 10-year track record of success and 21 existing Founders Classical Academies across multiple states, serving 14,000 students, Founders has consistently proven to exceed standards in even the highest performing districts. Even in top-performing school districts, Founders campuses are at capacity, with upwards of 1,000-2,000 students on waitlist.

We believe denial of this application was contrary to the best interest of the LEA's students, the LEA itself, and the local community for the following reasons:

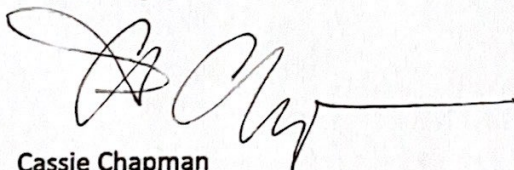
- The county served by the LEA is one of the fastest growing in the state, in terms of population. Per the LEA's superintendent: "Since 2000, the county's population has grown more than twice as fast (19.2%) as the rate seen across the state." It is widely acknowledged that the LEA is struggling to keep up with this growth. The addition of Founders Classical Academies to the district shifts some of the burden of adding facilities, recruiting and retaining teachers, and increasing administration, to our organization.
- The LEA already has a magnet school similar to our proposed classical model, however, only the top 15% of the LEA's students are eligible, academically, to enroll in this school, and the school is at capacity, with 267 students on the waitlist. The addition of Founders makes more seats available for our proposed model of a classical curriculum, and makes them available to all students, regardless of current academic performance. Founders will provide a world class education to all demographics of students. We believe all students can succeed in our environment.

  
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- The enrollment and waitlist at the LEA's existing magnet school shows the community desire for classical education, and this does not include students who wish to attend that magnet school, but do not meet the school's entrance requirements. We fundamentally believe all students, regardless of entering academic ability level, deserve a high-quality learning environment.
- An informal poll of Sumner parents shows a growing contingent of parents in the Hendersonville area dislike the LEA's chosen curriculum and nearly 82% of respondents said they are actively seeking another option. Of those, nearly 46% felt that such an option should be tuition-free. Founders Classical Academy provides such an option, at no additional cost to the families.
- The addition of a Founders Classical Academy tuition-free classical school will draw many members of the community back to the LEA who have currently enrolled in private schools, or home-school.
- The requirement for charter schools to fund their own facilities, and the flexibility allowed in selecting those facilities (leasing unused space in houses of worship, repurposing office or retail, etc.) positions Founders to help the LEA by carrying some of its capital improvement and debt load.

In light of the above information, the highly vested interest of our local board members, and the strength of our CMO, operating a total of 90 public charter schools, serving 20,000+ students, and its 20+ year history of success, we believe Founders Classical Academy of Hendersonville is a much needed, and highly beneficial addition to Hendersonville. We appreciate this commission's thoughtful consideration of our appeal, and thorough review of our application.

Kindest regards,



Cassie Chapman  
President