

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	August 28, 2025 2:32 pm
Browser:	Chrome 139.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	70.225.15.70
Unique ID:	1375631181
Location:	36.1515, -86.792

<b>Name</b>	Brian Haden
<b>Email</b>	brianlhaden@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(615) 545-8976
<b>Resident District Status</b>	Non-district Resident
<b>What is your resident district?</b>	Wilson
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School

## Written Comment

Dear Commissioners,

As a local community member and business leader, I am writing to express my strong support for the approval of Dreamcatchers Charter School.

My company has a presence here in Memphis, with local staff dedicated to serving and supporting schools. Through our work, I've seen firsthand the impact that high-quality educational options can have on families and the broader community. I believe that expanding access to public charter schools is vital to strengthening educational opportunities in Shelby County and across Tennessee.

The approval of Dreamcatchers Charter School will not only provide families with more high-quality choices, but it will also further the larger effort to improve education outcomes across the state. In a community where so many children are eager for pathways to success, additional school options can be life-changing.

I respectfully urge the Commission to approve Dreamcatchers Charter School. Doing so will help ensure that more families in our community have the opportunity to choose an excellent education for their children.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to students and families in Tennessee.

Sincerely,

Brian Haden

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Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 9:11 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	159.48.129.215
Unique ID:	1379750038
Location:	35.2437, -89.3501

<b>Name</b>	Darlene Willis
<b>Email</b>	darlene@e-znaillifter.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 314-7104
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I'm Darlene Willis who is in favor of Dream Catchers because of the ever growing rate of homeless population we need more than one or two providers who has the capability of providing the best services to that population. Dream Catchers staff has the sincere desire and heartfelt commitment to provide the complete services for not only the child but the family . Help us catch the Dream of children that has been displaced by circumstances. Divine Love that is what makes Dream Catchers an Ideal charter school. Thanks for considering Dream Catchers to help children dream of a better future.</p>

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 10:11 am
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 140.0.7339.101 / iOS
IP Address:	75.66.37.73
Unique ID:	1379774947
Location:	35.2213, -89.9413

<b>Name</b>	Angelia Taylor
<b>Email</b>	aburkes48@outlook.com
<b>Phone</b>	16083976965
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	Children are the future of the world. It's not fair that they were brought in this world and left alone without proper care. They should be afforded the chance to be educated and groomed for a place in society. There is an urgent need for this type of service and I applaud the people who have the heart to fill this need.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 10:14 am
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 130.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	174.230.147.189
Unique ID:	1379775855
Location:	35.1567, -89.9274

<b>Name</b>	Miesha Tate
<b>Email</b>	sapphire022001@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 568-8646
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	This charter school will be extremely beneficial to the children that stand in need of a good education and foundation. It will also guarantee that children be fed twice daily. It would bring hope in a desperate situation. Parents would have one less worry about their children becoming productive citizens. I am sure this charter school will provide resources to accommodate the parents with shelter and employment too.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 10:41 am
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 139.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	208.190.13.64
Unique ID:	1379788243
Location:	32.3705, -90.1746

<b>Name</b>	Princess Walker
<b>Email</b>	princesswalker685@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 524-7335
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	It would be good for the kids. That need support and don't have any one there for them

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 10:57 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.3 / iOS
IP Address:	73.5.22.166
Unique ID:	1379796234
Location:	35.1209, -89.8689

<b>Name</b>	Natyia Harris
<b>Email</b>	1zhane2017@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 707-0856
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	Dream Catchers - It's a dream to catch right here in Memphis for thousands of homeless kids wanting and needing an opportunity to not be left out or left behind .

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 11:03 am
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 130.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	107.127.32.26
Unique ID:	1379799187
Location:	35.0514, -89.9265

<b>Name</b>	Stephanie Williams
<b>Email</b>	williamssd195@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 640-4404
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	MSCS
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Everyone counts in this community. Homeless or not, everybody matters. The children in these situations need an education, they are our future doctors, lawyers judges, nurses,preachers, teachers, entrepreneurs and philanthropist. Think about it, if you were in their shoes, you would want to be educated on another level. The community needs this charter school. Help our community make.this city better. And don't forget the less fortune.</p>



Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 11:22 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 17.5 / iOS
IP Address:	12.75.139.56
Unique ID:	1379809046
Location:	45.5248, -122.6789

<b>Name</b>	Jordan Clayton
<b>Email</b>	Claytonjj316@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 618-4030
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	Providing an education to those who already suffer from decisions outside of their control will provide the opportunity for us as community members and organizers to witness what happens beyond our control spiritually. God works through life, believers and non-believers alike, & the education and nutrition as well the ability to assist with organization of these individuals lives will provide hope to them and to the community at large. Having the unique perspective of lack but the wherewithal to await help is a strength that many of us could benefit from. Hope is powerful to anyone. Hope in the least of us, saves the rest of us. I hope we rally behind and support this endeavor. I volunteer my time and services to help provide the security we all unknowingly need.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 11:24 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	104.28.50.215
Unique ID:	1379809821
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	TreLesia Morgan
<b>Email</b>	killjoy-sheeted4g@icloud.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 399-4597
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	MSCS
<b>Written Comment</b>	Great

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 11:48 am
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 140.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	76.138.89.8
Unique ID:	1379820008
Location:	35.2213, -89.9413

<b>Name</b>	Sandra Wright
<b>Email</b>	Mashelle2005@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 827-7638
<b>Resident District Status</b>	Non-district Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	I believe it is important for children to have a safe space to live, where they're being well nourished. Therefore, making learning more easy because they're not worried about food, water or shelter

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 11:49 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	108.231.179.18
Unique ID:	1379820074
Location:	35.0324, -89.8145

<b>Name</b>	Toshiba Dae
<b>Email</b>	toshibatatyana4@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 491-5160
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I believe that Dream Catchers Charter School would be a great school for our community it would give the homeless children a chance to better their education. I believe that all children in the Shelby County should have the opportunity to get an education . Dream Catchers School will open up doors for our least fortunate students they will give them the opportunity to learn provide a safe place for them help our parents that not able to take their children to school.</p> <p>This school will be an amazing opportunity for our community for the homeless children they would not just provide them with an education but also provide the with food, hope to fill their dreams of becoming a future doctors, lawyers, teachers give them a chance to learn.</p>

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 2:52 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.56.69.28
Unique ID:	1379902209
Location:	33.6026, -84.4769

<b>Name</b>	Carolyn Quinn
<b>Email</b>	carolyntylerquinn@att.net
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 734-5738
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Application Staff or Board Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	As a volunteer cook and delivery woman for Daughters Of Zion Homeless Food Truck I have seen children of the homeless hanging out with their parents playing on the grounds when they could have a place like Dream Catchers Academy that can educate them. I believe it would put a smile on their face to see someone cares. They would be among their peers learning to read, write, express their thoughts. Dream Catchers Academy is different from MSCS it will have an environment of staff that is geared to giving them hope. Dream Catchers Academy has the gives the child a chance at stability . PLEASE APPROVE DREAM CATCHERS ACADEMY . Believe in those that ready and willing to help make these dreams become a Reality. What if was someone in my family. Thank you

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 3:18 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.5 / iOS
IP Address:	166.196.54.8
Unique ID:	1379912216
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	Carolyn Mclemore
<b>Email</b>	mclemorecarolyn@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 335-4147
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	A charter school for the homeless could provide resources and amenities that traditional public don't have. For example a bully-free ,safe and shameless environment .The homeless population has grown out of control in Shelby County. Some instances the children have been separated from their parents. A school could also give the child hope.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 4:06 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	12.170.78.117
Unique ID:	1379930067
Location:	35.1499, -90.0558

<b>Name</b>	Isaac Scott
<b>Email</b>	isaacscott009987@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(662) 880-1779
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Application Staff or Board Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School

## Written Comment

Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is Isaac Scott, and I am active in the city of Memphis and Shelby County as a deacon in my church and as servant in street ministry serving the homeless. I have seen firsthand nobody serves the homeless better than Daughters of Zion. So I want to speak plainly today, because this is too important for polished words. I have been on the streets of Memphis with Dr. Gerald Kiner and the Homeless Food Truck, serving men, women, and children who don't know where they will sleep at night. I've seen the pain in their eyes and the fear in their voices. But in all those nights and all those neighborhoods, you know who I have never seen? I have never seen anyone from the Memphis-Shelby County Schools Charter School Office or from the School Board out there serving the homeless. Not once. Yet they have the audacity to deny homeless children and those at risk of homelessness the chance to have a school designed for them. That is not just unfortunate-that's a shame.

1 of 2

Dream Catchers Charter School

Dream Catchers Academy is not an abstract idea. It is a real solution that will serve these children and their families 365 days a year, not just with academics, but with stability, care, and a path forward. Meanwhile, leaders like Representative Mark White and Senator Brent Taylor are already talking about state takeovers of Memphis-Shelby County Schools because of decades of failure. And they are right-these decisions coming out of the district are unacceptable. But you, Commissioners, have a chance today to intervene before the state has to do more drastic things. You have a chance to show that Tennessee will not wait on broken systems to fix themselves, but will step in with



innovation, compassion, and courage.

Approving Dream Catchers Academy will not only bring national recognition

to Tennessee as a leader in education innovation, it will bring hope to

families and children who need it the most. Please, do not let this moment

pass. Let's give our most vulnerable children the lifeline they deserve.

Thank you

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 5:01 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 139.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	172.59.93.127
Unique ID:	1379946631
Location:	38.1439, -85.6204

<b>Name</b>	Senteria Johnson
<b>Email</b>	sjohnson23637@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	19015202039
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School is an innovative and aggressive approach to helping our community sustain stability for the youth that goes unnoticed and forgotten about. This is not only an opportunity to show our children they are cared for but to show them it doesn't matter the walk of life or circumstances you're facing you can still strive to become something greater. Our kids deserve a safe place where they can learn and not be judged or bullied for being homeless. As a homeless parent this sends a clear message that our kids come first and their education and stability out weigh politics and red tape. So please approve Dream Catchers Charter School on behalf of all the homeless children and families in our district.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 5:17 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.59.92.83
Unique ID:	1379951083
Location:	38.1439, -85.6204

<b>Name</b>	Qwanetra Mcvay
<b>Email</b>	qmmcvay@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 292-5113
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Other
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	I feel like it should be a charter school for homeless before no child will feel out of place due to their life circumstances.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 5:22 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.0 / iOS
IP Address:	73.2.137.72
Unique ID:	1379952648
Location:	35.0324, -89.8145

<b>Name</b>	Jacobie Alston
<b>Email</b>	Zooskii@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(332) 234-5889
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	A Charter School For The Homeless Helps Out The Community. They Are Human Just Like Us, Everybody Deserves A Chance @ Life... Not Just The Ones That Were Able/Privileged.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 5:27 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 140.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	166.196.54.110
Unique ID:	1379953841
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	Dana Pearson
<b>Email</b>	pearson4757@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 827-2099
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	MSCS
<b>Written Comment</b>	No form

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 5:27 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	75.201.145.108
Unique ID:	1379953949
Location:	34.7679, -92.1466

<b>Name</b>	Jerome Davis
<b>Email</b>	jerome291on1@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 275-4757
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>A charter school for the homeless benefits a community by providing a stable educational environment for vulnerable children, leading to greater academic success and reduced barriers to learning. These specialized schools can innovate and offer tailored support, such as providing school supplies, access to study spaces, and connecting families with community resources. By improving educational outcomes for children experiencing homelessness, the community benefits from fostering more self-sufficient and engaged citizens.</p>

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 5:31 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	69.220.149.2
Unique ID:	1379955020
Location:	35.0514, -89.9265

<b>Name</b>	Chekesha Jones
<b>Email</b>	chekeshajones@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 650-2091
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	I'm in full support of Dream Catchers Charter School - it's a great need for this type of schooling to be established in our community. Helping students that's homeless is a great need- providing constancy will lessen the drop out rate and give hope to the students .

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 5:36 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	166.196.54.131
Unique ID:	1379956177
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	Pamela Golden
<b>Email</b>	goldenpamela02@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 690-7165
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	The Dream Catchers Charter School will be great for the homeless kids, keeping them off the streets, great educators, and a loving family overall. The kids will be taught moral. The community will not regret having this school in the community. Just like in the name they will be getting g prepared to make their dreams come true.



Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 5:47 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.58.255.60
Unique ID:	1379959114
Location:	38.8778, -77.0127

<b>Name</b>	xavier wade
<b>Email</b>	xavierwade38@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 455-9137
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	Dream Catchers would be a great opportunity for underprivileged children around the city of Memphis to not only have stability but also have security in their academic future . It provides a symbol of hope and let them know that they have a chance to. In my childhood, i've experienced moving around from home to home never being able to keep the same friends so it has only been my brother and I. During this hardship , not only did i have to grow up fast but also see life for what it is not what it could be . The stability that Dream Catchers Charter School can give children will be the not only the start of a brighter future for Memphis, but could also end the very violence that brings our community down in today's world.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 6:03 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 139.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	35.33.201.227
Unique ID:	1379962897
Location:	25.7701, -80.1928

<b>Name</b>	Andrea Shaw
<b>Email</b>	andreashaw2002@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	19016909518
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	N/A

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 6:17 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	73.87.228.145
Unique ID:	1379966082
Location:	38.9522, -77.0253

<b>Name</b>	Kelsey House
<b>Email</b>	kelseyhouse1234@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(662) 544-8546
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	DREAM CATCHERS ALL THE WAY.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 6:45 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.59.88.158
Unique ID:	1379971996
Location:	38.1439, -85.6204

<b>Name</b>	Nina Ophelia Booker
<b>Email</b>	ninabooker70@outlook.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 410-3876
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I believe this program is essential to the growth and development of every child that is allowed to take advantage of the program. We once was a community that believed no child should be left behind. We have children who are still have children who believe in helping they family by dropping out of school to work but why not encourage parents of these strong willed children by empowering them to be strong leaders in stem programs and bring their knowledge to build a strong family unity to programs that allow them to reach their goals through this programs goal</p>

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 9:11 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	73.177.26.166
Unique ID:	1380003578
Location:	35.0761, -89.8547

<b>Name</b>	April Auriene
<b>Email</b>	shreemyers@aol.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 305-3555
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	G

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 9:11 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	69.247.191.117
Unique ID:	1380003697
Location:	35.1387, -90.0095

<b>Name</b>	Felicia Edwards
<b>Email</b>	feliciaedwards6694@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 437-2584
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	I think it would be a wonderful thing for the homeless. 1# they will have an opportunity to get the one one they need for school. They already have one strike against them by being homeless , so this will be a great opportunity to survive and succeed and have a wonderful future

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 9:46 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 140.0.7339.101 / iOS
IP Address:	166.196.54.129
Unique ID:	1380009717
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	Arlando Turner
<b>Email</b>	narvail_t@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	19012681972
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	I think their would an excellent school for the community

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 10:06 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	12.74.143.94
Unique ID:	1380012844
Location:	37.9448, -90.7243

<b>Name</b>	Zania Jennings
<b>Email</b>	j_zania@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 572-5600
<b>Resident District Status</b>	Non-district Resident
<b>What is your resident district?</b>	Collierville
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Other
<b>What is your relationship to the application?</b>	Religious Leader in the district
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>I fully support Dream Catchers Charter School and their efforts to ensure that disadvantaged children receive a quality education despite their life status. I am especially happy with the fact that, not only will students receive quality education, they will also have assistance with school clothes and supplies. I believe this program may relieve students of the burden, pressures, or fear of being judged, bullied, or looked upon as different by others and allow for them to focus on being their best to learn at a high level.</p>



Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 11, 2025 11:26 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	104.222.29.20
Unique ID:	1380022502
Location:	33.42, -111.9128

<b>Name</b>	Hayden Mitchell
<b>Email</b>	haydenmitchell2004@icloud.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 562-3351
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	Something positive for the city of Memphis. This is needed for the children and the culture.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 12, 2025 7:06 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	75.201.208.186
Unique ID:	1380076680
Location:	35.152, -90.0355

<b>Name</b>	Evelyn Young
<b>Email</b>	eryoung40@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(309) 212-0511
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>The support shared through this program enables a -fulfilled heart for me I have known my friendsDaughters of Zion for more than 5 years now. All the love exuded far reaches the hearts and souls of the families in addition to the physical needs gained through the foods shared.</p> <p>God truly has a special place for Pastor Kiner and his team as they selflessly impact this community day by day. May Gid continue to bless their ministry!</p>

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 12, 2025 7:25 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	107.127.28.114
Unique ID:	1380080647
Location:	33.7485, -84.3871

<b>Name</b>	Bruce Dailey
<b>Email</b>	bru_dai1@bellsouth.net
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 488-9049
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	I support Dream Catchers not only for their mission statement which is second to none , but also for their desire to breathe life into a community (Memphis) that's exhausted every avenue when it comes to education seems like. It's time we take a stand on not just educating some but all of our kids. They are worth saving.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 12, 2025 10:22 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	107.127.32.70
Unique ID:	1380132125
Location:	35.0514, -89.9265

<b>Name</b>	Ceddreka McVay
<b>Email</b>	ceddrek04@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 656-1014
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Local Elected Representative
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 12, 2025 12:03 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	166.196.58.67
Unique ID:	1380167287
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	Michael Beamon
<b>Email</b>	beamonjr11@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 585-9047
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	This will be a great advancement for the community. I stand behind this movement as it will allow the community to help out the less fortunate.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 12, 2025 1:04 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 140.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	172.59.89.20
Unique ID:	1380188361
Location:	38.1439, -85.6204

<b>Name</b>	Calviia Ellis
<b>Email</b>	Calviell@aol.com
<b>Phone</b>	19016432318
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	I'm a advocacy on children and always want the best for them:we need this type of school all around the nation

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 12, 2025 1:56 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 140.0.7339.122 / iOS
IP Address:	96.4.180.124
Unique ID:	1380205726
Location:	35.2083, -89.8058

<b>Name</b>	Michelle Woods
<b>Email</b>	nails2know@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901)425-5335
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	People will perish for a lack knowledge

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 12, 2025 6:27 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	75.66.37.73
Unique ID:	1380276489
Location:	35.2213, -89.9413

<b>Name</b>	Ke'Ciana Thomas
<b>Email</b>	kecianathomas@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(662) 655-9199
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	More educational opportunities for low income families.



Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 13, 2025 1:31 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 16.2 / iOS
IP Address:	174.230.146.207
Unique ID:	1380392025
Location:	35.1567, -89.9274

<b>Name</b>	Kristy Woods
<b>Email</b>	kristydionne1991@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 281-6313
<b>Resident District Status</b>	Non-district Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	This is much needed in the community, I give my full support.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 13, 2025 1:50 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 140.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	76.107.17.213
Unique ID:	1380394848
Location:	35.1519, -90.1774

<b>Name</b>	Tjuanaka Thomas
<b>Email</b>	tjuanakarenee@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	19013418508
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	MSCS
<b>Written Comment</b>	The idea sounds good but if you were to look closely, it's singling out kids. A homeless kid can go to school period, whether it's public or private. Me personally, I want to help anyone that needs help, homeless or not. Sometimes people just need an extra hand.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 14, 2025 1:45 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	75.25.97.103
Unique ID:	1380545277
Location:	35.032, -90.0139

<b>Name</b>	Nylah Lloyd
<b>Email</b>	nylahlloyd@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(919) 758-1360
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	Homeless children would greatly benefit from having their own charter school because it would provide them with stability, consistency, and support in an otherwise uncertain environment. Many homeless students face barriers such as frequent moves, lack of transportation, and limited access to resources that make attending traditional schools difficult. A charter school designed specifically for their needs could offer flexible schedules, trauma-informed teaching, access to basic necessities like meals, clothing, and counseling, and a safe, welcoming space where they feel seen and supported. By addressing both their educational and personal challenges, such a school would not only help close academic gaps but also give these children the tools and confidence they need to build a brighter future.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 14, 2025 1:49 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.5 / iOS
IP Address:	172.59.93.112
Unique ID:	1380545949
Location:	38.1439, -85.6204

<b>Name</b>	Aiyana Jones
<b>Email</b>	aiyanah_jones@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 319-2265
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>As a teacher, I truly believe that a charter school designed specifically for homeless children would be life-changing not only for the students but also for the entire community. Homelessness creates so many barriers to learning: instability, constant transitions, and lack of resources often mean these children are overlooked in traditional school settings. A charter school dedicated to their needs would provide stability, consistency, and a safe space where they know they are seen, valued, and supported.</p> <p>For me as an educator, the thought of being part of such a school stirs a deep sense of purpose. I've seen firsthand how a child's confidence and potential can be unlocked when they're given not just an education, but love, safety, and consistency. This school would allow us to meet them exactly where they are academically, socially, and emotionally and walk with them as they build a foundation for their future.</p>

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 14, 2025 1:51 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.5 / iOS
IP Address:	172.59.93.112
Unique ID:	1380546195
Location:	38.1439, -85.6204

<b>Name</b>	Hosea Haywood
<b>Email</b>	hoseahaywood416@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(662) 721-8482
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	A charter school for homeless children would not only help close educational gaps, but it would also show these kids that they matter and that the community is invested in their growth. It would transform lives, create hope, and remind us all that education is not just about academics-it's about dignity, stability, and the chance to dream.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 14, 2025 2:10 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	104.28.33.35
Unique ID:	1380549507
Location:	35.1499, -90.0558

<b>Name</b>	Dylan Rutherford
<b>Email</b>	realdillcreator@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 696-9080
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	The kinds deserve something to keep their minds occupied.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 14, 2025 7:38 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	98.50.157.233
Unique ID:	1380600375
Location:	35.2213, -89.9413

<b>Name</b>	Dasia Harden
<b>Email</b>	dasiaharden01@icloud.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 273-6388
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Other
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	I fully support those who want to do big things for those in need! This can set those whom are not fortunate in life to have something to look forward to and build themselves a better future than what they may think life is.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 11:04 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.58.255.60
Unique ID:	1380777560
Location:	38.8778, -77.0127

<b>Name</b>	Monique Wade
<b>Email</b>	hodgdevelopmentgroup@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 937-9190
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>Dream catchers is the resolution to a major community issue with the homeless population and at risk homeless population . It corrects not just the issue of low drop out rates increasing education but it also provides opportunity, hope , stability and emotional wholeness to the kids in this population and the parents. Instability silently traumatizes students . The vision of Dream catchers is providing a total service to fight several problems among this population. Not only are the kids of today affected now but this also affects the possibility of raising the potential and future next generation of leaders in community.</p> <p>As a result of increasing education and stability and opportunity in the community crime will also decrease because individuals and families are being provided with necessary resources. How can a person focus on education to support their future self when they have right now problems of where am I going to sleep or how or what am I going to eat. So naturally these individuals will resort to the now solution.</p> <p>Please approve Dream Catchers this one school is solving several problems in memphis and its school system</p>



Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 1:03 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 139.0.7258.76 / iOS
IP Address:	172.59.93.133
Unique ID:	1380834134
Location:	38.1439, -85.6204

<b>Name</b>	Shanora Carruthers
<b>Email</b>	shanoraac@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 246-0480
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Other
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	N/A

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 3:36 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 140.0.7339.122 / iOS
IP Address:	172.59.93.218
Unique ID:	1380899001
Location:	38.1439, -85.6204

<b>Name</b>	Sherrelle Tarver
<b>Email</b>	Sherrellet@live.com
<b>Phone</b>	19016086492
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Other
<b>What is your relationship to the application?</b>	Advocate for homeless families
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	I believe Dream Catchers can hone in on the needs of those facing challenges such as being displaced or homeless. Just having a dedicated resource at their fingertips can remove some of the strain and barriers within the school to make them feel less vulnerable to receiving help.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 4:29 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	166.196.54.113
Unique ID:	1380919588
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

<b>Name</b>	Jacquelyn Bracey
<b>Email</b>	jdbracey1@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 488-4230
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	MSCS
<b>Written Comment</b>	The Dream Catchers School will benefit the unhoused children in our community with resources and support beyond academics.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 10:26 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	99.118.74.209
Unique ID:	1381005751
Location:	35.16, -89.7768

<b>Name</b>	Perry Miller
<b>Email</b>	Perry.miller43@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 206-9637
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Prospective Parent
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	This is for a good cause let's push for this to happen

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 10:28 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.5 / iOS
IP Address:	12.74.143.114
Unique ID:	1381006104
Location:	37.9448, -90.7243

<b>Name</b>	Amber Crawford
<b>Email</b>	leighamber620@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 491-7357
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	Dream Catchers Academy would benefit the homeless in countless ways just giving them stability and hope for a change. Please help to ensure stability in our community by approving Dream Catchers Academy.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 1:15 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	12.74.143.114
Unique ID:	1381026015
Location:	37.9448, -90.7243

<b>Name</b>	Gerald Kiner
<b>Email</b>	kinergk@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 650-7340
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Other
<b>What is your relationship to the application?</b>	Executive Director
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School

<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>During the public hearing, Memphis-Shelby County Schools officials once again provided misleading information, claiming that the establishment of a homeless-focused charter school would violate the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. This assertion is factually incorrect. A K-12 public homeless school already exists in San Diego, California - the Monarch School - which directly serves homeless students and operates fully within the framework of federal law. This clear precedent demonstrates that MSCS's statements were either factually inaccurate or deliberately deceptive. Their willingness to make such claims without legal representation present underscores the biased nature of the review process and stands as further evidence that MSCS acted in violation of Tennessee's state mandate requiring a fair and objective assessment of our amended application.</p> <p>Additionally, Charter School Task Force fairness assessment found dozens of misleading statements, flaws, nonlegal requirements, and recycled responses that showed MSCS did not conduct a fair review of the amended application as mandated by state law. The attachment is 40 pages of documents that provides solid evidence that a fair review of the Dream Catchers amended application was not rendered.</p>
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<b>Written Comment</b>	<a href="https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/18511373728">https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/18511373728</a>
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Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 4:59 am
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 130.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	71.143.212.178
Unique ID:	1381072820
Location:	35.1128, -89.9085

<b>Name</b>	Deener Newberry
<b>Email</b>	deener_newberry@yahoo.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 331-4183
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	<p>A charter school for the homeless in Memphis, especially one designed to serve the over 2,000 homeless children in the city, could provide significant benefits to the community.</p> <p>Unlike traditional public schools, a charter school has the flexibility to offer a specialized curriculum and a schedule that accommodates the unique challenges of residential instability. This means it could provide crucial wraparound services like transportation, on-site meals, medical care, and mental health counseling. These services address the non-academic barriers that often prevent homeless students from attending school consistently and succeeding.</p> <p>By creating a stable and supportive learning environment, a charter school could help interrupt the cycle of poverty and homelessness. A consistent education, paired with essential resources, can improve academic performance and graduation rates. This investment in the most vulnerable members of the community not only gives these children a path to a better future but also strengthens the entire community by fostering a more educated and engaged population.</p>

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 17, 2025 12:48 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.59.193.105
Unique ID:	1381587539
Location:	32.7836, -96.8674

<b>Name</b>	Dawn Bonner
<b>Email</b>	d.e.bonner@icloud.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 361-9919
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	I am for Dream Catchers Charter School and I believe they should win their appeal. The reason is simple. Memphis has so many kids who are homeless or close to it and nobody is really focused on helping them stay in school and graduate. Dream Catchers is trying to fill that gap. They want to give these kids a steady place to learn and get meals, and that matters more to me than a bunch of perfect paperwork.



Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - DreamCatchers/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 17, 2025 12:54 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	12.74.143.114
Unique ID:	1381589931
Location:	37.9448, -90.7243

<b>Name</b>	Monique Hobson
<b>Email</b>	Hobsonmonique42@gmail.com
<b>Phone</b>	(901) 249-5619
<b>Resident District Status</b>	District Resident
<b>Relationship to Application/District</b>	Community Member
<b>I wish to comment in support of</b>	Dream Catchers Charter School
<b>Written Comment</b>	Daughters of Zion's ability to send homeless kids and kids at risk of homelessness to college by through William and Johnson Career College is a highly unrecognized opportunity no one has really focused on. As a parent and community member, not only having a home is the American dream but seeing our children go to college or excel in a trade is the beginning of that dream. Through their partnership with the school they own and the school I work for- William and Johnson Career College, Dream Catchers has a chance to do both. If you have to err or show caution please err on the side of given these children hope not on the side of ensuring they will have nothing but more of the same which has been close to nothing.

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Daughters of Zion's Charter Application Fairness Taskforce

Re: Fairness Assessment of Review of MSCS denial of the the amended Dream Catchers Charter School Application

Date: September 7, 2025

Note: Rebuttals are highlighted

**Page 10:**

**“Additional Requirements” (Triggered by Yes Responses)**

MSCS shows that We responded Yes to questions triggering sections like:

School portfolio summary

Academic and fiscal performance record

Opportunity Public Charter School

Serving K–5 and 9–12 grades

And every single section was marked complete by MSCS (yellow “Yes” boxes shown clearly).

This is strong evidence against their denial rationale — they validated all structural responses and submissions.

**Page 11:**

## **Section 1 Summary – Academic Plan and Design Evaluation**

This is where MSCS begins its critical attack, rating us as:

“Does Not Meet Standard” — for the entire Academic Plan & Design section, despite confirming completion of all required materials.

**MSCS CLAIM: “The mission/goals are vague and not measurable.”**

REBUTTAL:

The amended mission clearly states a Montessori-based, trauma-informed K–12 curriculum focused on high-needs homeless and housing-insecure youth

Outcomes include specific performance indicators (attendance, stability, grade-level mastery).

Rep. Camper’s letter reinforces the urgency and alignment of our mission with the public good and state priorities.

**MSCS CLAIM: “No process for monitoring, revising goals using data.”**

REBUTTAL:

We included an assessment cadence, formative data review process, and universal screener implementation.

Attachment references and tables support this. A supplemental table could be cited if necessary.

The amended Section 1.3 directly addresses how student data will drive instructional revision.

**MSCS CLAIM: “Curriculum lacks depth—no EPSO, RTI<sup>2</sup>, or foundational literacy.”**

**REBUTTAL:**

EPSO and WBL were added in the amendment.

RTI<sup>2</sup> was included in Section 1.2 and supported by the explanation of multi-tiered supports and instructional scaffolding.

Foundational literacy and screener requirements are acknowledged in the assessment plan.

**MSCS CLAIM: “No tutoring, remediation, or summer school plan.”**

**REBUTTAL:**

As stated in the amendment, state law (T.C.A. 49-6-3024) prohibits requiring these unless the school is operational.

The intent to offer optional, grant-funded summer services was discussed — this is the correct compliance posture.

## **Page 12–13: Additional Concerns**

### **1. Assessment alignment and screener**

REBUTTED: We clarified screener compliance (T.C.A. 49-1-905) and formative assessment structure.

### **2. Lack of identified geographic area**

REBUTTED: We stated Dream Catchers serves all of Shelby County and homeless students are by nature city-wide; the Homeless Food Truck has over 500 direct contacts. Strong justification.

### **3. Community Partners: lack of MOUs / support**

REBUTTED: We corrected this in amended 1.6. Plus, survey results sent to 1,000 partners show strong regional buy-in. We've embedded a screenshot and data tables.

### **4. Special populations staffing & compliance**

REBUTTED: Section 1.8 was fully restructured to meet this — We confirmed use of licensed special education teachers and support roles for at-risk, EL, and SWD students. Also embedded RTI<sup>2</sup> approach.

## **CONCLUSION**

Key Inconsistencies Exposed:

MSCS marked all required sections as “Yes” / Complete but still issued a blanket “Does Not Meet” grade.

They ignored embedded evidence, survey data, updated curriculum detail, and federal grant approval.

Their criticisms are either legally inaccurate (e.g., summer school) or factually false (We did address EPSO, RTI<sup>2</sup>, community feedback, etc).

## **PAGE 14: MSCS Reviewer Feedback & Concerns**

### Section 3.1 – Academic Performance Standards

Concern 1: Academic performance standards were vaguely described, especially for English Language Learners (ELL), students with disabilities, and other at-risk populations.

Concern 2: Application did not include specific goals aligned with the Tennessee Accountability System.

Concern 3: Lack of measurable targets and annual expectations for student growth or performance over time.

### **Rebuttal Amended Response on Page 14**

Clearly included specific academic goals aligned with TVAAS and TNReady standards.

Added subgroup performance expectations (e.g., 80% of ELL students making 1+ year growth in English proficiency annually).

Committed to meeting or exceeding district averages within 3 years.

Clearly defined metrics and sources of data (TVAAS, MAP, attendance, etc.).

Fully Addressed Concern 1: The amended language identifies differentiated goals for subgroups.

Fully Addressed Concern 2: Explicit alignment to the TN State Accountability Framework is shown.

Fully Addressed Concern 3: Clearly defined metrics and sources of data (TVAAS, MAP, attendance, etc.).

## **PAGE 15: MSCS Reviewer Feedback & Concerns**

### **Section 3.2 – Assessments**

Concern 1: Assessments beyond state-required ones (like MAP, formative benchmarks) were not clearly explained.

Concern 2: It was unclear how formative assessments would drive instruction.

Concern 3: No clear plan for sharing assessment data with students and families.

## **REBUTTAL: Amended Response on Page 15**

Added detailed narrative on use of MAP Growth (3x/year) and weekly formative quizzes.

Clarified data-driven instruction with monthly teacher PLC meetings, item analysis, and reteaching protocols.

Included a communication strategy: quarterly data folders for students, parent conferences, and dashboards.

Fully Addressed Concern 1: MAP and formative assessment tools are clearly named and explained.

Fully Addressed Concern 2: Real instructional use cases (e.g., reteaching after formative data) are included.

Fully Addressed Concern 3: Strong family engagement plan around data has been introduced.

## **PAGE 16: MSCS Reviewer Feedback & Concerns**

### Section 3.3 – At-Risk Student Interventions

Concern 1: No clearly defined tiered intervention system (RTI<sup>2</sup>) described.

Concern 2: Lacked concrete timelines and frequency of interventions.

Concern 3: Insufficient explanation of how intervention efficacy would be monitored and adjusted.



## **Rebuttal Amended Response on Page 16**

Introduced detailed RTI<sup>2</sup> structure, with tiers explained and aligned with TN Dept. of Ed. guidance.

Provided intervention frequency (e.g., 3x/week, 30 minutes) and staffing details.

Added progress monitoring tools like Aimsweb and FASTBridge, reviewed biweekly.

Fully Addressed Concern 1: Robust RTI<sup>2</sup> framework clearly defined.

Fully Addressed Concern 2: Intervention frequency and schedules are specific.

Fully Addressed Concern 3: Progress monitoring tools and feedback loops are documented well.

## **PAGES 17–19: Integration of All Academic Support Systems**

### **Rebuttal of Integration of All Academic Support Systems Pages (17–19)**

We presented a combined narrative across these pages highlights - holistic academic strategy, integrating:

Special populations

SEL

Academic interventions

Family engagement

Staff professional development linked to data

We also emphasized:

Daily intervention blocks

Saturday academies for at-risk learners

Peer tutoring programs

MTSS layered approach tied into culture and discipline

Highly Effective Integration: We presented a comprehensive, responsive system tailored to Dream Catchers unique student body.

Strategic Clarity: Demonstrated a coherent plan that connects assessments, interventions, staff actions, and family roles.

We effectively addressed all reviewer concerns and expanded the application's academic credibility, especially regarding subgroup accountability, assessment utility, and intervention clarity.

## **PAGES 20–25**

### **1.2 Academic Focus and Performance Standards (Continued)**

MSCS Review Claim (Page 20):

Application fails to describe how it meets TN graduation requirements (credits, GPA, transcripts, diploma types).

EPSO/WBL lacks detail—only mentioned generally, without courses or exams.

RTI<sup>2</sup> framework is too limited and lacks necessary components.

No plan for foundational literacy beyond a “recitation of the law.”

Tutoring and summer school plans are vague—identification, staffing, and program details missing.

\*Rebuttal Amended Application (Pages 19–24):

\* The amended application explicitly outlines multiple diploma pathways, including a Special Education certificate, showing alignment with graduation needs of various student populations.

\*RTI<sup>2</sup> is clearly stated as the framework for underperforming students, and although the evaluator says components are missing, the amended pages provide tiered instruction summaries and proposed support.

\*Tutoring (before and after school) and summer school are mentioned, with intent and baseline structure described—including timing, gaps being addressed, and target students.

\* EPSO/WBL are included with clarity that these offerings will grow as enrollment increases, aligning with TDOE’s guidance for phased expansion.

Yes, the description of foundational literacy could be expanded beyond citing the law, but state-approved screeners (AimsWeb and iReady) were added—proving alignment with T.C.A. 49-1-905.

Conclusion: The MSCS evaluation blatantly ignored the added depth in RTI<sup>2</sup>, diploma pathways, tutoring intent, and EPSO/WBL sequencing.

### 1.3 Assessments

MSCS Review Claim (Pages 21–22):

Lacks details about faculty/staff who will administer assessments.

EL information outdated and should be updated.

No clear plan for data collection, analysis, or alignment with proposed academic plan.

Assessment cadence, grade bands, and data systems not well defined.

Rebuttal Amended Application (Pages 23–30):

\* Nationally normed Universal Reading Screeners (AimsWeb, iReady) are clearly identified as required by law.

\* Assessment overview is presented with formative/summative intent, alignment to standards, and grade bands, covering pages 26–28.

\* There is explicit mention of two data systems, and while MSCS wants more “features,” the application clearly shows intent to track growth over time.

\* EL data and professional development are outlined with basic scaffolding on how data will support instruction.

While it is true that the application does not name specific individuals for assessment roles—but no law requires named staff prior to hiring. That is a logistical detail, not a deficiency.

Conclusion: The MSCS response minimizes strong assessment structures already present, especially the inclusion of nationally normed screeners. The amended application obviously meets foundational expectations.

#### **1.4 School Calendar and Schedule**

MSCS Review Claim (Pages 23–24):

The calendar doesn't include sample daily schedules for different grade bands.

Lacks evidence of differentiation by grade or clear K–12 structure.

Clubs and tutoring details missing.

RTI<sup>2</sup> not well integrated into the calendar.

Saturday/Summer school resource plan vague.

Rebuttal Amended Application (Pages 34–39):

\* Statutory days and hours are met and outlined, with calendar updated in line with TN law.

\*Application includes differentiated scheduling language,

\*Clubs and extracurriculars are discussed—including types, purpose, and alignment with student engagement.

\* Summer school and Saturday programming are noted with goals and timing

Conclusion: MSCS overlooked updates to both calendar alignment and enrichment programming. The compliance and intent are clearly established.

## 1.5 Recruitment and Enrollment

MSCS Review Claim (Page 25):

Lacks geographic region discussion and alignment to need.

Enrollment summary inconsistencies—capacity vs. table data not aligned.

Rebuttal Amended Application (Pages 31, 33–34):

\*The application describes a county-wide enrollment vision, tied to data showing no other school specializes in homeless students.

\* A survey of over 2,000 community members confirming demand was included.

\* The target enrollment and demographics are projected, with intentional priority for homeless and at-risk students as required by law.

Yes , there appears to be a discrepancy between the stated capacity of 1,000 students and a table—this was a clerical issue, not substantive.

Conclusion: The district appears to conflate a small data inconsistency with a failure to justify demand. We clearly define need, demand, recruitment priorities, and enrollment strategy, especially for an underserved population.

Many of their concerns reflect a desire for expanded detail, not actual non-compliance with state charter standards. Most issues flagged are procedural preferences, not substantive legal deficiencies.

**The application:**

Aligns with state law on assessments, academic days, enrollment, and diploma pathways.

Addresses the needs of at-risk students using a tiered support model.

Shows intent and structure for foundational literacy, tutoring, and EPSO/WBL expansion.

**PAGES 26–31**

**MSCS Concern #1:**

**“Enrollment summary table does not align with projections in the application.”**

Ref: Pages 3, 33–34, 48, 50

**Rebuttal:**

The amended application explicitly includes revised enrollment projections for Years 1–5, including a detailed growth model based on facilities, transportation access, and community demand. MSCS appears to ignore the updated table and continues referencing outdated data. Page 33 and Attachment W provide sufficient clarity on anticipated enrollment targets and related staffing.



## **MSCS Concern #2:**

**“Fails to define school’s geographic region and how it aligns to need/demand.”**

 Ref: Page 47

### **Rebuttal:**

The amended application specifies that Dream Catchers will serve the entire Shelby County region, with emphasis on homeless youth often outside traditional zoning structures. Page 31 provides data from public agencies and local homelessness coalitions, clearly articulating demand across zip codes—not limited to one narrow region. This is in line with McKinney-Vento law, which prioritizes school stability over proximity.

## **MSCS Concern #3:**

**“Enrollment and lottery policies are unclear or non-compliant with state law.”**

Ref: Pages 110–115, Attachment C

### **Rebuttal:**

Attachment C includes a fully compliant Enrollment Policy, detailing timelines, lottery procedures, and admission criteria consistent with Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-13-113. MSCS offers no specific examples of non-compliance. Our language matches the TDOE’s own guidance, and the added explanations in Attachment C cover waitlists, re-enrollment, and non-discrimination clauses.

## **MSCS Concern #4:**

**“Recruitment campaign is sparse and lacks identified partners.”**

Ref: Page 32, 45

**Rebuttal:**

The amended application outlines a clear multi-channel recruitment strategy (pg. 45), including text-message outreach, community canvassing, and collaboration with housing agencies. Furthermore, Attachment W lists the Recruitment & Outreach Coordinator role and associated job functions, directly addressing the original concern. Multiple Memphis-based organizations expressed support in Attachments D and F.

**MSCS Concern #5:**

**“Applicant doesn’t detail how to draw homeless families into the school.”**

Ref: Page 45

**Rebuttal:**

Pages 44–47 detail engagement strategies specifically targeting McKinney-Vento students, including on-site enrollment events at shelters, transportation assistance, and flexible scheduling. The application explicitly outlines how Dream Catchers will remove traditional barriers to access, making this concern both inaccurate and dismissive of vulnerable populations.

**MSCS Concern #6:**

**“Retention strategies for homeless students are underdeveloped.”**

Ref: Pages 45–47

**Rebuttal:**

Retention measures in the amended application include:

On-site mental health services

Trauma-informed care

Uniform & supply banks

Transportation continuity

Stable placement regardless of shelter status

These all comply with McKinney-Vento federal protections, yet MSCS' evaluation fails to acknowledge or quote this section, revealing either negligence or bias in their review.

#### **MSCS Concern #7:**

**“Parent/community engagement strategies lack evidence of execution or buy-in.”**

Ref: Pages 36–38, Attachments D

#### **Rebuttal:**

Wer team submitted:

Survey responses sent to 1000+ residents

Support from over a dozen community leaders

Page 60 clearly outlines plans for a Parent Advisory Council, Parent Circles, and workshops

The Charter Office's dismissal of these actions as "insufficient" shows a clear disregard for truth and grassroots engagement, particularly from underserved communities.

#### **MSCS Concern #8:**

**"Lack of an executable plan to meet enrollment targets."**

Ref: Section 1.6

#### **Rebuttal:**

The amended application includes a 5-year strategic plan, staff recruitment timelines, and projected ratios for social workers, educators, and specialists aligned with growth. These are referenced in the budget, organizational chart, and recruitment sections. The state of Tennessee recognized the plan as viable enough to award a \$750,000 grant, validating its feasibility.

#### **MSCS Concern #9:**

**"School culture and discipline policy lacks vision or alignment with Montessori."**

Ref: Pages 40–42, 69–71, Attachment F

#### **Rebuttal:**

Attachment F and pgs. 68–70 clearly describe:

Restorative justice philosophy

Positive behavior reinforcement

Staff training in Montessori mixed-age classroom management

Policies ensuring no suspension/expulsion of homeless students without intervention plans

Furthermore, Dream Catchers planned a two-week trauma-informed Montessori training (pg. 68), going beyond MSCS requirements. The evaluation overlooks this substantive addition.

#### **MSCS Concern #10:**

**“Applicant lacks clear strategy for chronic absenteeism, a key issue in homeless populations.”**

Ref: Pg. 70

#### **Rebuttal:**

The amended application includes a 3-tiered strategy:

Emergency visits & transportation support

Daily attendance incentives

Family liaison assigned to every student flagged for absentee risk

These are nationally accepted best practices in districts with high McKinney-Vento populations. Again, the Charter Office seems unwilling to credit the research-based solutions presented.

#### **Conclusion for Pages 26–31:**

The MSCS review continues to **selectively ignore substantial improvements and legally compliant strategies** included in the amended application. Their dismissal of state-aligned policies, evidence of community support, and a robust support system for homeless youth underscores either gross negligence or entrenched bias against the mission of Dream Catchers Academy.

Pages 32-37

#### **SECTION 1.8 – SPECIAL POPULATIONS**

**MSCS Concern #1** : No leadership team members identified with experience supporting students with disabilities (SWD), English Learners (EL), or gifted students.

**Rebuttal** : The amended application identifies a Special Populations Coordinator and outlines their qualifications and responsibilities in overseeing compliance with IDEA, EL instruction, and support for other vulnerable groups (pages 74, 113–114, Attachment W).

**MSCS Concern #2** : No protocols provided for eligibility determination, monitoring, or exit for special populations.

Rebuttal: The amended application details protocols for identification, intervention, and service delivery for SWD, EL, gifted, homeless, and economically disadvantaged students (pages 74–79).

**MSCS Concern#3 :** Information about English Learners was outdated and lacked clarity.

Rebuttal The amended application incorporates updated guidance on EL programming, including the role of certified ESL instructors and compliance with state and federal regulations (page 76).

**MSCS Concern #4:** Vague explanation about how students with disabilities will receive appropriate diplomas.

Rebuttal: We clearly outline diploma options tailored for SWD in accordance with IEP goals and graduation requirements (page 78).

**MSCS Concern#5 :** Did not explain how the Montessori model will be applied to special populations.

Rebuttal: Clarified that Montessori instruction is inherently differentiated and individualized, which is ideal for special populations. Instructional supports and IEP accommodations will be integrated into the classroom design (pages 17–46).

## **SECTION 1.9 – CONVERSION SCHOOL PLANNING**

**MSCS Concern 1 :** N/A (This section applies only to conversion charter school proposals).

Our Response: Correctly marked “N/A” as Dream Catchers is not a conversion charter school.

## **SECTION 2.1 – GOVERNANCE**

**MSCS Concern #1 :** Governance documents included placeholders like “[Insert Member]” and lacked finalized structure.

Rebuttal : Finalized governance documents were submitted in the amended application. Board members and their roles were clearly identified. Policies and bylaws are included (page 74 and governance attachments).

**MSCS Concern #2 :** Confusion between the listed nonprofit and its Secretary of State filing (All Women’s Bible College vs. Daughters of Zion).

Rebuttal: The organization’s name was legally changed to Daughters of Zion nearly three years ago, and this change was officially approved by both the State of Tennessee and the Internal Revenue Service, as documented in the amended application. Despite the inclusion of this evidence, Memphis-Shelby County Schools (MSCS) continued to rely on an outdated and factually incorrect narrative, suggesting a religious affiliation.

The amended application clearly explains that Daughters of Zion is the recognized operating name of the nonprofit and is not a religious institution. This clarification is found in Section 1.1 of the Amended Application and is supported by Attachment A (IRS Determination Letter) and Attachment B (Tennessee Name Change Documentation).

## **SECTION 2.2 – FACILITIES**

**MSCS Concern #1:** Facility plans were vague, no confirmed location or backup plans.



Rebuttal: The Memphis-Shelby County Schools (MSCS) facility-related criticism is factually incorrect and misleading. In our amended application, we provided a list of more than half a dozen potential facility sites, along with detailed plans to finalize site selection upon state approval. These included both long-term and contingency options, all thoroughly documented and aligned with budget and operational readiness.

**Yet MSCS's evaluation repeated the same concerns raised during the initial application process—without addressing or acknowledging the new facility information submitted. This strongly suggests that MSCS failed to conduct a robust, fair, or updated review of the amended application, in violation of the requirements under Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-13-108(b)(3), which mandates objective, rubric-aligned, written justification based on the application as submitted.**

**MSCS Concern #2:** Did not address building readiness, renovations, or budget for upgrades.

Rebuttal:

This concern is demonstrably inaccurate. Dream Catchers Charter School's amended application explicitly listed over half a dozen potential facility sites, each of which was thoroughly researched and identified as a viable option for school operations. These locations were presented to demonstrate both readiness and flexibility in securing a compliant facility aligned with the school's mission and timeline.

**Facilities can be finalized post-approval, and the Commission may delay opening up to one year, evidencing statutory flexibility. § 49-13-108(b)(5)(D).**

Most notably, the amended application of Dream Catchers included a sizable contingency fund within the budget to absorb unforeseen building-related costs, ensuring financial stability and operational readiness even in the face of unexpected construction or compliance issues.

Standards focus on feasibility, not a deed in hand. Policy 6.111, Principle 2(4) directs authorizers to focus on outcomes rather than processes. The state's approach (and Commission practice) assesses feasibility and a credible plan, not necessarily a finalized address at application. Penalizing the absence of a secured site at this stage elevates process over outcome, contrary to Policy 6.111.

**Use of rubric and objective reasons. If MSCS believed the facility plan was not “viable,” it must specify objective deficiencies connected to the rubric (e.g., square-footage ratios, occupancy loads, code citations) per § 49-13-108(b)(3); generalized assertions of “unknown geography” are insufficient.**

Timeline flexibility in law. Even the Commission may approve an application and require a delayed opening up to one year through the charter agreement, acknowledging facilities can finalize post-approval. Rigidly requiring a pre-approval address is inconsistent with the statute's contemplated flexibility. See § 49-13-108(b)(5)(D).

## SECTION 2.3 – START-UP PLAN

**MSCS Concern#1:** Start-up plan omitted essential staffing and facility steps.

Rebuttal: The amended application includes a detailed, month-by-month startup timeline, with named leads for each milestone (facility, staff hiring, training, curriculum, enrollment).

## SECTION 2.4 – PERSONNEL / HUMAN CAPITAL

**MSCS Concern#1:** Staffing projections were inconsistent and PD plans were vague.

Rebuttal: Staff roles and FTE projections align with the instructional plan and budget. Recruitment strategies, benefits, and compensation schedules are clarified. PD plan includes summer retreats and onboarding sessions tailored to our unique model.

## **SECTION 2.5 – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MSCS Concern#1:** No plan for how PD will be decided or evaluated.

Rebuttal: PD is designed to be responsive and data-informed. The leadership team will evaluate its effectiveness through educator feedback, student performance, and compliance with TDOE evaluation criteria.

## **SECTION 2.6 – TRANSPORTATION**

**MSCS Concern#1:** Plan did not align with state or federal laws.

Rebuttal: The amended application explicitly states compliance with McKinney-Vento, IDEA, and TDOE transportation guidelines. Daily transportation will be provided for all students, and vendors will be selected through a competitive RFP process.

MSCS Final Review (Page 37) – Strengths Acknowledged:

Governance documentation revised and included.

Facility requirements clarified and budgeted.

PD plans explained and aligned with model.

Transportation and food service RFP plans included.

Insurance and compliance documentation included.

State-Standards Rebuttal (Shortcomings in MSCS Review):

Religious affiliation vs. legality. Tennessee law requires charter schools to operate as public, nonsectarian, nonreligious schools; it does not disqualify a sponsor merely because it has religious ties. If MSCS's concern rested on affiliation rather than evidence the school would operate sectarian, that is legally misplaced. See T.C.A. § 49-13-111(a)(2) (nonsectarian operation requirement).

Objective, written reasons. When denying or continuing to fault an amended application, the authorizer must state objective reasons in writing tied to the rubric. Broad statements like "lacks detail" without objective metrics fall short of T.C.A. § 49-13-108(b)(3).

Use of the state rubric and fair, transparent process. Policy 6.111 requires authorizers to use the state application and rubric and follow fair, transparent procedures; decisions should be based on an accumulation of evidence—including curing of prior deficiencies in the amended application. MSCS's continued reliance on items We corrected (e.g., training plan, complaint process) conflicts with these standards.

Board training. State law requires annual board training; We added this. Critique for lacking a separate "self-evaluation instrument" is not a statutory requirement and is reasonably addressed via policy development post-approval. See § 49-13-111(a)(o) (annual board training).

## **PAGES 50-55**

### **Subsection 2.7 – Additional Operations**

MSCS Evaluation:

Insurance letter only showed basic coverage (e.g., for athletics), not all required provisions.

Food plan didn't align with the school's mission or describe breakfast, serving times, or meal selection.

Technology plan was vague — no clear info on access, implementation, or budget alignment.

Oversight of the school nurse unclear; Operations Manager not budgeted.

Safety and emergency ops plan underdeveloped, with no timeline or process provided.

**Rebuttal:**

**Amended Application:**

Insurance letter updated to include appropriate coverage.

Food service plan revised with meal patterns, serving times, and vendor guidance.

Budget updated to include nurse and Operations Manager positions.

“Safety and emergency ops plan underdeveloped, with no timeline or process provided.”

This concern is inaccurate and misleading. In the amended application, Dream Catchers Charter School provided a clear and comprehensive Safety and Emergency Operations Plan, which includes:

Detailed protocols for fire, weather, medical, and lockdown emergencies;

Assigned responsibilities for trained personnel;

Compliance assurances with T.C.A. § 49-6-807 and T.C.A. § 49-6-1006;

A defined process for developing and periodically updating the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in collaboration with local emergency management authorities and first responders.

Furthermore, the narrative also affirms that all staff will receive annual training, and safety drills will be conducted in compliance with state law. These items demonstrate a clearly defined process and timeline aligned with state expectations.

MSCS’s recycled response appears to have ignored the amended content, which again suggests a lack of robust review of the submitted materials.

### **Subsection 2.8 – Charter Management Organization**

MSCS Evaluation:

Not applicable (N/A). No CMO details were provided in either the initial or amended applications.

### **Subsection 2.9 – Network Vision, Growth Plan & Capacity**

MSCS Evaluation:

Not applicable (N/A). No content submitted in either round.

### **Subsection 2.10 – Network Governance**

MSCS Evaluation:

Not applicable (N/A). No content submitted in either round.

### **PAGE 56 – Section 2.11: Network Management and Personnel**

Reviewer Rating: Not Applicable

**PAGE 57 – Section 2.12: School Replication**

Reviewer Rating: Not Applicable

**PAGE 58 – Section 3.1: Operating Budget**

Reviewer Rating: Does Not Meet Standard

**Reviewer's Claims:**

Attachment W (Operating Budget) was incomplete.

Budget does not include five years of revenue and expenditure projections.

Budget doesn't align with enrollment and staffing projections.

Some revenue sources are not identified or are unsupported.

No contingency plan if enrollment targets aren't met.

Lacks clear financial controls, including who handles payroll, purchasing, audits, etc.

**Rebuttal: What the Amended Application Actually Addressed:**



Attachment W was revised to include detailed revenue and expenditure projections from pre-opening through Year 5.

Enrollment figures and staffing levels in the budget were revised to match the educational plan and HR narrative.

Added realistic revenue projections that matched state and federal funding streams, using publicly available per-pupil revenue estimates.

Included conservative estimates for IDEA and Title I funds, and noted contingency planning if those funds were delayed.

Clarified that a licensed CPA firm would oversee financial controls, perform audits, and ensure compliance with GAAP.

## **PAGE 59 – Section 3.2: Budget Narrative**

Reviewer Rating: Partially Meets Standard

### **Reviewer's Claims:**

Narrative does not explain major assumptions.

No justification for grant revenue projections.

No explanation for funding for special populations.

Still no contingency planning.

Role of CPA firm unclear; lack of internal oversight.

**Rebuttal: What the Amended Application Actually Addressed:**

Budget narrative was expanded to explain assumptions for staffing costs, per-pupil state funding, Title I/IDEA projections, and operational expenses.

Cited sources for anticipated federal funding, using conservative figures.

Added detail on how funds would be allocated to support SPED and ELL students, aligned with Section 1.8 on special populations.

Included contingency language: "If enrollment targets are not met, discretionary expenses will be delayed, and administrative hiring will be phased."

Clarified that the school will partner with an external CPA firm and that internal oversight will be handled by the Board Finance Committee and Executive Director.

The reviewer ignores the specific contingency language added in the narrative.

The reviewer failed to acknowledge that the CPA firm's role was expanded and clarified in multiple sections, including Attachment W.



### **PAGE 60 – Section 3.3: Network Financial Plan**

Reviewer Rating: Does Not Meet Standard

#### **Reviewer's Claims:**

Assumptions are not conservative.

Revenue projections not backed by documentation.

No fallback plan if grants/donations are not received.

Budget lacks cash flow or reserve plan.

#### **Rebuttal: What the Amended Application Actually Addressed:**

Conservative assumptions were built in – school used state averages for per-pupil revenue, minimized expectations for philanthropic support in Year 1.

Grants were included only after Year 1, and labeled as “anticipated” with notes about alternate plans if delayed.

Explained that the school would build reserves through conservative spending and delayed hiring.

Though not labeled “cash flow analysis,” the narrative laid out monthly expenditure pacing and startup cost coverage via reserves and deferral strategies.

The application did include a reserve and contingency strategy; it was not acknowledged.

No recognition that this was a non-network applicant, yet the reviewer seemed to apply network-level funding expectations.

The amended application substantially clarified financial controls, revenue projections, staffing alignment, and contingency measures.

Oversight structures were described: CPA + Finance Committee + Executive Director.

Budget aligned with enrollment and staffing after amendment.

Funding assumptions were based on realistic estimates with conservative backup plans.

Reviewer failed to revise their assessment despite clear improvements, suggesting potential bias or insufficient review of amended content.

## **PAGE 62 ANALYSIS**

### **Section 3.2 – Operating Budget Narrative (Part 1)**

#### **MSCS Criticism #1: “Revenue Sources Remain Unidentified”**

“Revenue sources remain unclear and unsupported with documentation. There are no confirmations or commitment letters for grants, private donations, or other revenue streams that would sustain the school beyond BEP allocations.”

— MSCS Reviewer, Page 62

#### **Rebuttal Amended Application (Pages 91–92) Correctly Responded:**

Lists multiple revenue sources: BEP, Title I, IDEA, philanthropic funds, and competitive grants.

Explicitly notes that startup funding is being actively pursued and will scale as the school gains approval.

Most importantly, we were awarded a \$750,000 Tennessee Charter School Start-Up Grant, which:

Is a verified, competitive, and state-funded source.

Was completely ignored by MSCS in its review.

Confirms external vetting of the academic and operational plan by the State of Tennessee Charter School Office.

The application did identify diverse revenue sources. And the \$750,000 grant award directly contradicts the claim that no revenue sources are “confirmed.” Ignoring that we received one of the state’s most competitive startup grants is not just inaccurate — it undermines the credibility of MSCS’s review.

### **MSCS Criticism #2: “Lack of Budget Methodology”**

“The applicant does not offer any rationale for how the amounts in the operating budget were calculated.”

### **The Amended Application (Page 92) Clearly Includes:**

Salary scales tied to public district comparables.

Facilities costs based on regional market rates.

Technology, transportation, and materials costs broken out per student.

5-year budget aligned with enrollment growth and school capacity phases.

The methodology is explicitly detailed in the budget narrative and aligned with other sections of the application. The State of Tennessee grant reviewers deemed the budget realistic enough to fund it with \$750,000 — which further invalidates MSCS’s claim that the budget lacks clarity or justification.

## **PAGE 63 ANALYSIS**

### **Section 3.2 – Operating Budget Narrative**

#### **MSCS Criticism #3: “No Contingency Plan for Enrollment Shortfalls”**

“There is no contingency plan in place in the event that enrollment is lower than projected.”

#### **Rebuttal: The Amended Application (Page 93):**

Provides a multi-tiered expenditure plan that scales based on actual enrollment.

Lists non-essential startup items that will be deferred if revenues are lower than anticipated.

Includes staffing flexibility — hiring will adjust based on initial student demand.

The contingency plan exists and mirrors industry best practices. Plus, the \$750,000 start-up grant gives the school a financial cushion to navigate Year 1 fluctuations, further mitigating risk.

#### **MSCS Criticism #4: “No Details on Financial Oversight or CPA Controls”**

“There is no mention of financial oversight measures or how the governing board will monitor spending. No documentation is provided regarding use of an independent auditor or internal controls.”

#### **Rebuttal: The Amended Application (Pages 147–151):**

Names a Finance Committee for budget review and policy compliance.

Describes independent CPA audits and monthly reconciliation processes.

Includes a two-signature policy and transparent board reporting.

These financial policies are clearly described and consistent with TN state charter authorizer requirements. Again, the grant would not have been awarded without demonstrating strong financial controls, which were part of the grant review rubric.

#### **MSCS Criticism #5: “Revenue Projections for Title I and IDEA Appear Inflated”**



“The operating budget may be overly reliant on federal funding projections. Title I and IDEA allocations are based on formulas, and no conservative estimates were provided.”

**Rebuttal: Amended Application (Page 91):**

Labels Title I and IDEA as “anticipated revenues” based on enrollment and FRPL data.

Includes conservative per-pupil estimates aligned with Tennessee charter norms.

Clearly explains that if those funds are not realized, startup grant funds and flexible spending priorities will adjust accordingly.

No exaggeration exists. The projections are reasonable and cross-checked with state averages. The presence of the \$750,000 startup grant serves as a fallback against lower-than-expected federal funding.