

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 14, 2026 11:33 am
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1497368046
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Cassi Whitworth
Email	cwhitworth@proskillsbasketball.com
Phone	(815) 861-3470
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

My name is Cassi Whitworth, and I live in Old Hickory. I am a youth basketball director in Nashville

I am writing to ask for your support.

Nashville needs a new look on the athletics scene in academic spaces. I think MCA will offer just that. Students need something to be motivated by things other than grades. Something for them to look forward to and to hold them accountable. Statistics show that kids involved in a sport environment are less likely to suffer from mental health issues due to having a positive coach figure in his or her life.

Dr. Kevin Dyson, the founder, transformed Centennial High School from a state priority school into a Reward School under his leadership.

Please take the time to hear the mission of MCA and vote in favor.

Thank you for your time and your service to Nashville's students.

Sincerely,
Cassi Whitworth
Old Hickory

Cassi Whitworth

Pro Skills Basketball Director
St Cecilia Academy Basketball

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 14, 2026 11:35 am
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1497368761
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Sabrina Box
Email	brina7sab@yahoo.com
Phone	(801) 548-2751
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

The research on what young people need to thrive academically and personally is consistent: structured learning environments, strong adult relationships, and attention to mental and physical health all contribute to better outcomes. Most high schools address one or two of those things. Music City Academy is designed to address all three as an integrated system.

Music City Academy is redefining education by recognizing that healthy minds and healthy bodies create stronger futures. By prioritizing mental wellness alongside athletics and physical health, students gain the resilience, confidence, and discipline they need to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

Team Over Self creates the named adult relationships that the research on student persistence identifies as high-leverage. Passion to Purpose delivers the structured academic preparation that connects to real postsecondary outcomes, through CTE credentials in Health Science, Emergency Services, Sports and Human Performance, and Arts and Media Production. Wellness for Life ensures the school is addressing the wellbeing conditions that academic success requires.

That is a school designed around what students actually need. Nashville needs more of them. Please vote yes. And knowing Dr Kevin Dyson personally, his effect and drive in this community is inspiring and impactful for many years.

Sabrina Box
Nashville, TN

Sabrina Box

CEO - The Connected

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 14, 2026 11:38 am
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1497370118
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Josh Houston
Email	josh@jhacompany.com
Phone	(615) 427-1492
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	Murfreesboro, TN
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment	Tennessee Public Charter School Commission: When I look at what Music City Academy is building, I see an academic model that takes career preparation seriously in a way that most high schools do not. It's challenging to find a young man or young woman that is personable, self starting and competitive. I feel Music City Academy would develop young people, by creating a competitively dynamic atmosphere. The Passion to Purpose CTE concentrations in Sports and Human Performance, Therapeutic Services, Emergency Services, and Arts and Media Production are not elective enrichment. They are structured academic pathways aligned to SCORE's impact credential framework, tied to occupations that pay above the living wage threshold and are growing in the regional economy. Students graduate with credentials that have documented labor market value. The Team Over Self structure creates the adult accountability that keeps students on track academically. The Wellness for Life model addresses the wellbeing dimension that shapes whether students can perform. That is the kind of preparation that produces employees who show up ready. Please approve this application. Josh Houston Murfreesboro, TN Metro Nashville Business Owner
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Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 14, 2026 11:40 am
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1497371179
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Stacey Trail
Email	stacey@jhacompany.com
Phone	(615) 867-6345
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy
Written Comment	Tennessee Public Charter School Commission: The research on what young people need to thrive academically and personally is consistent: structured learning environments, strong adult relationships, and attention to mental and physical health all contribute to better outcomes. Most high schools address one or two of those things. Music City Academy is designed to address all three as an integrated system. Team Over Self creates the named adult relationships that the research on student persistence identifies as high-leverage. Passion to Purpose delivers the structured academic preparation that connects to real postsecondary outcomes, through CTE credentials in Health Science, Emergency Services, Sports and Human Performance, and Arts and Media Production. Wellness for Life ensures the school is addressing the wellbeing conditions that academic success requires. That is a school designed around what students actually need. Nashville needs more of them. Please vote yes. Stacey Trail Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 14, 2026 11:42 am
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1497371960
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Nicholas Arenas
Email	nickarenas@icloud.com
Phone	(615) 400-1626
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

Every family in Nashville should be able to access a public high school with a rigorous academic model and a clear commitment to preparing students for what comes after graduation.

Any opportunity for students to be placed front and center of a school's focus is an opportunity one can't overlook. Kevin Dyson has accomplished undeniable feats in his career, but dedicating himself to the future generations is a direct reflection of the true man he is. His career took dedication, perseverance and determination. That's the value he will instill in these kids and this program, so supporting this is what our world needs now more than ever.

Music City Academy is built to deliver that. The Passion to Purpose framework gives every student a structured pathway to an industry credential in a high-demand field. Team Over Self ensures every student has a dedicated adult accountable for their academic progress. Wellness for Life treats the physical and mental health conditions that shape learning as part of the school's core responsibility.

Dr. Kevin Dyson has already built a high-performing school in Nashville. This is an opportunity to do it again, for students who have been waiting for a school designed to take their academic futures seriously.

Please vote yes.

Nicholas Arenas
Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2026 9:43 am
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1497709705
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Desiree Maxwell
Email	desdmax@yahoo.com
Phone	(615) 438-0374
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

The research on what young people need to thrive academically and personally is consistent: structured learning environments, strong adult relationships, and attention to mental and physical health all contribute to better outcomes. Most high schools address one or two of those things. Music City Academy is designed to address all three as an integrated system.

As someone who has been involved in sports since I was a young child, I fully support the Music City Academy. Sports taught me so many life lessons and continuously kept me active. The impact of coaches and teammates was so valuable that I ended up working in college and professional sports for more than 20 years. The concept is unique and there is nothing of its kind in Nashville and I believe it would be an excellent addition to our school system.

Team Over Self creates the named adult relationships that the research on student persistence identifies as high-leverage. Passion to Purpose delivers the structured academic preparation that connects to real postsecondary outcomes, through CTE credentials in Health Science, Emergency Services, Sports and Human Performance, and Arts and Media Production. Wellness for Life ensures the school is addressing the wellbeing conditions that academic success requires.

That is a school designed around what students actually need. Nashville needs more of them. Please vote yes.

Desiree Maxwell
Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2026 9:45 am
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1497710170
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Emily McDonald
Email	lamb.emily17@gmail.com
Phone	(610) 513-5113
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

When I evaluate a school model, I look at three things: whether the academic program is structured around meaningful outcomes, whether the student support system is built to catch students before they fall behind, and whether the leadership has proven they can execute.

I believe that sports can be transformative for youth. I trust the leaders who are working to build this school. The model will appeal to families because there are no other offerings like it in Nashville.

Music City Academy holds up on all three. The Passion to Purpose CTE pathways lead to industry credentials in Health Science, Therapeutic Services, Emergency Services, and Arts and Media Production, tied to Tennessee's postsecondary attainment goals. The Team Over Self model creates a named, accountable adult relationship for every student, which the research on student persistence consistently identifies as one of the highest-leverage interventions available. The Wellness for Life framework treats student wellbeing as a precondition for academic performance.

And Dr. Kevin Dyson's record at Centennial High School demonstrates he can translate a strong model into real academic results for real students.

As someone who spent 10 years working in Nashville charter schools, I could not have more faith in this model.

Please vote yes.

Emily McDonald
Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2026 9:46 am
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1497710646
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	McKenzie Gray
Email	mckenzieegray@gmail.com
Phone	(832) 482-8608
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

School culture and academic outcomes are not separate things. Culture is the condition under which academic outcomes become possible, and it is built from the top.

Dr. Kevin Dyson built that culture at Centennial High School, and the academic results followed. He took a school the state had identified as one of its lowest-performing and moved it to Reward School status. That is not a small thing. It means he knows how to create the conditions for academic achievement with students who have historically been underserved by traditional models.

Additionally, the current CAO has a track record of high achievement in student outcomes. McDonald is a driven, data analyst that knows what work is necessary to make big changes. As a parent in this community, I'm excited to see this school open for my family!

At Music City Academy, that same approach has a specific structure. Team Over Self ensures every student is seen and supported. Passion to Purpose ensures every student leaves with a credential that reflects rigorous academic and technical preparation. Wellness for Life ensures the school addresses the whole student, because that is what producing consistent academic outcomes actually requires.

I strongly support this application.

McKenzie Gray
Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2026 9:48 am
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1497711303
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Carrie Anne Lewis
Email	carrieannebounds@gmail.com
Phone	(662) 574-6762
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	Educator
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy
Written Comment	Tennessee Public Charter School Commission: When I evaluate a school model, I look at three things: whether the academic program is structured around meaningful outcomes, whether the student support system is built to catch students before they fall behind, and whether the leadership has proven they can execute. Music City Academy holds up on all three. The Passion to Purpose CTE pathways lead to industry credentials in Health Science, Therapeutic Services, Emergency Services, and Arts and Media Production, tied to Tennessee's postsecondary attainment goals. The Team Over Self model creates a named, accountable adult relationship for every student, which the research on student persistence consistently identifies as one of the highest-leverage interventions available. The Wellness for Life framework treats student wellbeing as a precondition for academic performance. And Dr. Kevin Dyson's record at Centennial High School demonstrates he can translate a strong model into real academic results for real students. Please vote yes. Carrie Anne Lewis Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2026 9:49 am
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1497711859
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Chelsea Keyser
Email	ckeyser@intrepidcollegeprep.org
Phone	(615) 430-9687
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	Educator
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

School culture and academic outcomes are not separate things. Culture is the condition under which academic outcomes become possible, and it is built from the top.

Dr. Kevin Dyson built that culture at Centennial High School, and the academic results followed. He took a school the state had identified as one of its lowest-performing and moved it to Reward School status. That is not a small thing. It means he knows how to create the conditions for academic achievement with students who have historically been underserved by traditional models.

At Music City Academy, that same approach has a specific structure. Team Over Self ensures every student is seen and supported. Passion to Purpose ensures every student leaves with a credential that reflects rigorous academic and technical preparation. Wellness for Life ensures the school addresses the whole student, because that is what producing consistent academic outcomes actually requires.

I strongly support this application.

Chelsea Keyser
Nashville, TN

Chelsea Keyser, M.Ed

School Counselor | Independence Academy

Intrepid College Prep Schools

C: (615) 952-1311

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 5:31 pm
Browser:	Chrome 153.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	50.172.238.213
Unique ID:	1498261148
Location:	29.7925, -95.3673

Name	Chris Barbic
Email	chris@city-fund.org
Phone	(615) 509-4956
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy
Written Comment	City Fund is committed to supporting great public schools in communities where they are needed most. Music City Academy is a unique model that will fill an unmet need in Nashville. Please see our attached letter of support.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/20068408815

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 8:05 pm
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1498293542
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Sarah Wright
Email	sarah.merritt@hotmail.com
Phone	615-788-4302
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

Every family in Nashville deserves a public high school that was actually designed to prepare their child for what comes next. For too many students, that school does not exist in the public system.

As the mother of two boys who love playing sports and one who suffers with ADHD, the idea of being able to send them both to a school that allows them to move more often throughout the day, while receiving a top notch academic education, at the same time as learning valuable life lessons that sports can teach at this tender young age is at the top of my list of things I find valuable to this community. To make it affordable is beyond my wildest dreams. There is unlimited value in the opportunity for my boys to learn about something that they are already passionate about, in a way that translates into useful skills later in life by being exposed to careers they might not otherwise be exposed to.

Music City Academy changes that. Passion to Purpose is not an elective track. It is the academic spine of the school. Every student earns a credential in a high-demand field before they graduate, with coursework tied to real industry standards. Team Over Self means a dedicated adult is watching every student's academic trajectory and stepping in when they need support. Wellness for Life means the school has built in what students need to be present and ready to learn.

The school is led by Dr. Kevin Dyson, who has already proven he can produce academic results with Nashville students. The Centennial High School transformation is not a talking point. It is a track record.

Please give Music City Academy the opportunity to do the same for the students waiting for this school.

Thank you,
Sarah Wright
Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 8:07 pm
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1498293884
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Glennis Taveras
Email	glennis01@msn.com
Phone	(704) 493-8789
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy
Written Comment	Tennessee Public Charter School Commission: Educational equity in Nashville is not just a question of resources. It is a question of whether every student has access to a school with a rigorous, coherent academic model designed to produce real outcomes. I understand what trauma looks like. Creating resources and schools that promote healing and the breakdown of destructive cycles is the reason schools like this one is invaluable. Music City Academy provides that. The Passion to Purpose CTE pathways give students a structured academic lane in a high-demand field, from coursework through to an industry credential, before they graduate. The Team Over Self model ensures that no student moves through that pathway without a dedicated adult tracking their progress and intervening when needed. The Wellness for Life commitment treats student wellbeing as part of the academic infrastructure, not a separate concern. Dr. Kevin Dyson's record at Centennial High School demonstrates this approach produces results. Nashville should invest in giving more students access to it. Please vote yes. Thank you, Glennis Taveras Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 8:08 pm
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1498294055
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Lekita Sims
Email	lekita.stevenson@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 294-1297
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

As a parent, community leader, and educational professional, I am pleased to express my wholehearted support for the approval and opening of Music City Academy under the leadership of Kevin Dyson.

As the parent of a rising high school student who is passionate about athletics, I understand the importance of providing students with an educational environment that values both academic excellence and athletic development. Too often, families are forced to choose between a quality education and opportunities for students to fully develop their athletic potential. Music City Academy offers a vision that intentionally embraces both.

My son loves all things sports, and I believe there are many students like him who would thrive in a school that prepares them not only for college but also for careers within the sports industry. A school that recognizes athletics as a pathway to leadership, discipline, teamwork, and future opportunities is a valuable addition to our community.

From my perspective as someone who works in education, I know that students are most successful when they are engaged in learning and connected to their passions. Music City Academy has the potential to provide that connection while maintaining high academic expectations.

Dr. Dyson's record at Centennial High School tells me this team knows how to turn a plan into real outcomes for real students.

I fully support Dr. Kevin Dyson and his vision for Music City Academy. If approved, I would strongly consider enrolling my son, and I believe this school would become an outstanding educational option for many families throughout our community.

Please vote yes!!!

Thank you for your consideration and for supporting innovative educational opportunities that meet the diverse needs of our students.

Sincerely,

Lekita Sims

Parent | Community Leader | Educational Professional

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 8:10 pm
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1498294406
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Bonnie Miller
Email	bmcdmiller@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 974-5743
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

What I want most from my child's high school is straightforward: I want them to leave with a clear path forward. A diploma that opens doors, not one that leaves them starting from scratch.

My son loves playing basketball and has grown significantly since being a part of a team sport. He is also an excellent student, so I would love to see those two areas to come together at school.

Music City Academy is designed around that outcome. The Passion to Purpose program places every student in a CTE concentration in Health Science, Sports and Human Performance, Emergency Services, or Arts and Media Production, and takes them all the way through to an industry-recognized credential before graduation. These are not survey courses. They are purposeful academic pathways tied to fields where Nashville is hiring and growing.

Every student is also supported by the Team Over Self structure, which assigns a dedicated adult mentor to track academic progress and keep students on course. And the Wellness for Life commitment ensures that the physical and mental health supports students need to learn are part of the school day itself.

Dr. Kevin Dyson has proven this works. He built a Reward School out of one of Nashville's lowest-performing high schools. I want him to build that for my child. Please vote yes.

Thank you,
Bonnie Miller
Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 8:11 pm
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1498294647
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Rodriquez Wright II
Email	rwright0408@gmail.com
Phone	(773) 573-2135
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

Every family in Nashville deserves a public high school that was actually designed to prepare their child for what comes next. For too many students, that school does not exist in the public system.

I believe MCA will give children the kind of support, stability, and opportunity every family hopes for. With the leadership of Kevin Dyson, a yes vote would help build a stronger future for students and strengthen the community around them.

Music City Academy changes that. Passion to Purpose is not an elective track. It is the academic spine of the school. Every student earns a credential in a high-demand field before they graduate, with coursework tied to real industry standards. Team Over Self means a dedicated adult is watching every student's academic trajectory and stepping in when they need support. Wellness for Life means the school has built in what students need to be present and ready to learn.

The school is led by Dr. Kevin Dyson, who has already proven he can produce academic results with Nashville students. The Centennial High School transformation is not a talking point. It is a track record.

Please give Music City Academy the opportunity to do the same for the students waiting for this school.

Thank you,
Rodriquez Wright II
Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 18, 2026 2:15 pm
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	12.47.28.194
Unique ID:	1498899182
Location:	33.0273, -80.1768

Name	Dakota Brown
Email	dbrown@ams-pmt.com
Phone	(615) 975-4430
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

The research on what young people need to thrive academically and personally is consistent: structured learning environments, strong adult relationships, and attention to mental and physical health all contribute to better outcomes. Most high schools address one or two of those things. Music City Academy is designed to address all three as an integrated system.

Living and working in the Nashville area, I've seen firsthand how many talented student-athletes struggle to balance academics with the demands of training and competition. Too often, they feel like they have to choose between pursuing their athletic goals and getting the education they deserve. I believe Music City Academy gives them the opportunity to excel in both, while developing as students, athletes, and future leaders.

Team Over Self creates the named adult relationships that the research on student persistence identifies as high-leverage. Passion to Purpose delivers the structured academic preparation that connects to real postsecondary outcomes, through CTE credentials in Health Science, Emergency Services, Sports and Human Performance, and Arts and Media Production. Wellness for Life ensures the school is addressing the wellbeing conditions that academic success requires.

That is a school designed around what students actually need. Nashville needs more of them. Please vote yes.

Dakota Brown
615-975-4430
Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 18, 2026 2:17 pm
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	12.47.28.194
Unique ID:	1498899879
Location:	33.0273, -80.1768

Name	Bryce Page
Email	brycepage22@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 554-7315
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment	Tennessee Public Charter School Commission: The research on what young people need to thrive academically and personally is consistent: structured learning environments, strong adult relationships, and attention to mental and physical health all contribute to better outcomes. Most high schools address one or two of those things. Music City Academy is designed to address all three as an integrated system. Team Over Self creates the named adult relationships that the research on student persistence identifies as high-leverage. Passion to Purpose delivers the structured academic preparation that connects to real postsecondary outcomes, through CTE credentials in Health Science, Emergency Services, Sports and Human Performance, and Arts and Media Production. Wellness for Life ensures the school is addressing the wellbeing conditions that academic success requires. That is a school designed around what students actually need. Nashville needs more of them. Please vote yes. Bryce Page Nashville, TN 615.554.7315
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Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 18, 2026 2:18 pm
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	12.47.28.194
Unique ID:	1498900380
Location:	33.0273, -80.1768

Name	Katie Jubenville
Email	kjubenville@kay-twelve.com
Phone	(615) 438-4612
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

August 26, 2026

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

Re: Letter of Support for Music City Academy

Dear Members of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

I am writing in strong support of Music City Academy and its application to open a tuition-free public charter high school serving students in Nashville.

As someone who has spent more than two decades working in education, I have seen firsthand how important it is for students to feel connected to their school, understand the purpose behind their learning, and have opportunities to develop both academically and personally. For that reason, I believe Music City Academy offers a compelling and much-needed approach to secondary education in Nashville.

I have had the opportunity to have several conversations with Kevin Dyson, founder of Music City Academy, about his vision for the school and his commitment to Nashville's students. What has stood out to me is that his vision goes well beyond athletics. He is committed to creating an environment where academics, athletics, career preparation, wellness, character, and belonging work together to develop the whole student.

That vision is reflected in MCA's model. Every student will be part of a team, engage in daily movement, and have the opportunity to pursue career-connected pathways in areas such as sports, health, wellness, emergency services, therapeutic services, and audio/visual production. Students will have opportunities to gain hands-on experience and industry-recognized credentials while preparing for college, career, and life.

I particularly appreciate MCA's emphasis on belonging and wellness. Too many students reach high school without finding a place where they feel known, supported, and connected. MCA's model intentionally creates those connections through teams, coaches, mentors, movement, and a strong whole-child focus. The goal is not simply to graduate students, but to help them develop the confidence, resilience, skills, and sense of purpose they need to be successful beyond high school.

I also believe Nashville is uniquely positioned to benefit from a school with this type of career-connected focus. Music City Academy's pathways connect students' interests to real opportunities in sports, health, emergency services, therapeutic services, and audio/visual production. That combination of rigorous academics and practical preparation has the potential to engage students who may thrive in a learning environment that looks and feels different from a traditional high school model. My support for Music City Academy is based not only on what I have learned about its model, but also on the conversations I have had with Kevin and my understanding of his commitment to making this school successful for students. His experience in

education, school leadership, athletics, and mentoring gives him a unique perspective on what young people need to develop into well-rounded, capable adults. MCA's website notes that Kevin has spent 19 years in education, including 12 years in secondary administration, following his professional football career.

I believe Music City Academy can provide an important option for Nashville families and, most importantly, create an environment in which students who may not thrive in a traditional setting can find belonging, discover their strengths, and see a meaningful connection between what they are learning today and the opportunities available to them tomorrow.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission to approve Music City Academy's application. I believe the school has the potential to make a meaningful contribution to Nashville's educational landscape and to positively impact the lives of the students and families it will serve.

Thank you for your consideration and for the important work you do on behalf of Tennessee students.

Sincerely,

Katie Jubenville

Education Market Leader

Kay-Twelve LLC

Former Educator

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 18, 2026 2:20 pm
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	12.47.28.194
Unique ID:	1498900916
Location:	33.0273, -80.1768

Name	Al Smith
Email	asmith54pro@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 293-9522
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Dear Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

On behalf of NFL Alumni Association Tn Chapter, I write to urge approval of Music City Academy's charter application.

The case for this school is grounded in evidence and in a leader with a proven track record. Dr. Kevin Dyson's transformation of Centennial High School from a state priority school to a Reward School demonstrates that he can build the academic culture and systems required to produce real outcomes for students in Nashville's public school context.

The model he is bringing to Music City Academy is specific. Passion to Purpose structures every student's academic experience around a CTE pathway leading to an industry credential, aligned to Tennessee's workforce needs and postsecondary attainment goals. Team Over Self creates the named adult accountability structure that sustains students through that pathway. Wellness for Life ensures the school addresses the whole student, because academic outcomes depend on it.

This is a rigorous, evidence-based academic model led by a proven Nashville educator. Nashville's students deserve access to it.

Respectfully,
AL Smith
Nashville, TN

Written Comment

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/20076641079>

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 18, 2026 2:22 pm
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	12.47.28.194
Unique ID:	1498901547
Location:	33.0273, -80.1768

Name	Wes Finley
Email	wes.finley@gmail.com
Phone	(404) 585-1730
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy
Written Comment	Dear Members of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission, I am writing as a Nashville parent to express my strong support for Music City Academy. My family has experienced their work firsthand through their free open sports clinics. My son Parker loved playing with them at Geodis Park. The clinics were well run, welcoming to every kid who showed up, and completely free - which says a great deal about their commitment to this community's families. An organization that shows up for kids like that, asking nothing in return, is exactly the kind of organization that would make an outstanding school. Music City Academy has my full support. Sincerely, Wes Finley Nashville, TN 37209 wes.finley@gmail.com (404) 585-1730

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 19, 2026 9:31 am
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1499048314
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Amal Bouhabib
Email	amalbouhabib@gmail.com
Phone	(646) 241-6136
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Dear Tennessee Public Charter School Commission,

I want my child to graduate from high school ready. Not ready for more waiting, not ready for a credential they have to go earn somewhere else after the fact. Ready now, with something in hand.

My 10-year old son has ADHD and has been saved by soccer. Soccer has improved his life in every way- it not only gives him an energetic release but hones his strategic vision, gives him something to focus and work hard at, learn about teamwork, and has introduced him to the world- countries, capitals and languages. The thought that my son could be in a setting with like minded kids and be learning about a subject he loves while getting the movement he needs is beyond inspiring. The alternative has been behavior issues due to his inability to sit still for most of the day, and a dislike of school. I have been plotting leaving Nashville to find other educational alternatives, and this would change everything.

The traditional public school approach has not adapted to this new generation, particularly energetic boys. I've watched my incredibly bright, curious boy lost total interest in school as they spend a full semester each year studying for T-CAP, and read out-of-context passages from Wit and Wisdom. I don't want to watch my son languish and fall through the cracks for the next eight years, and then be launched into the world with zero real life skills. Tennessee is constantly touting school choice - athletes should have the chance to be inspired and have a school that caters to their strengths and interests.

I love that MCA is so focused on giving talented children an education in life skills as well as the opportunity for physical activity and competition. I also love that a dedicated adult is assigned to each student and is accountable for their academic progress every day - something that Nashville public schools simply don't have the resources for. And the Wellness for Life framework ensures students have what they need physically and mentally to show up and succeed. Imagine the difference this could make for athletic children who are often written off as jocks with no academic future.

Dr. Dyson's record at Centennial High School tells me this team knows how to turn a plan into real outcomes for real students. Please vote yes.

Thank you,
Amal Bouhabib
Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 19, 2026 9:34 am
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1499048740
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Kait Scharein
Email	kait.troy@gmail.com
Phone	(631) 521-4393
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy
Written Comment	Dear Tennessee Public Charter School Commission, School culture and academic outcomes are not separate things. Culture is the condition under which academic outcomes become possible, and it is built from the top. Dr. Kevin Dyson built that culture at Centennial High School, and the academic results followed. He took a school the state had identified as one of its lowest-performing and moved it to Reward School status. That is not a small thing. It means he knows how to create the conditions for academic achievement with students who have historically been underserved by traditional models. At Music City Academy, that same approach has a specific structure. Team Over Self ensures every student is seen and supported. Passion to Purpose ensures every student leaves with a credential that reflects rigorous academic and technical preparation. Wellness for Life ensures the school addresses the whole student, because that is what producing consistent academic outcomes actually requires. I strongly support this application. Kait Scharein Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 19, 2026 9:35 am
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1499048904
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Sara Carlson Striegel
Email	saralucia.carlson@gmail.com
Phone	(720) 437-0988
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	Educator
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment	Dear Tennessee Public Charter School Commission, Every family in Nashville should be able to access a public high school with a rigorous academic model and a clear commitment to preparing students for what comes after graduation. Nashville children deserve to have options and this option combines two areas-- sports and education--that can offer our kids a chance to grow in new ways that could do so much for Nashville's future. Music City Academy is built to deliver that. The Passion to Purpose framework gives every student a structured pathway to an industry credential in a high-demand field. Team Over Self ensures every student has a dedicated adult accountable for their academic progress. Wellness for Life treats the physical and mental health conditions that shape learning as part of the school's core responsibility. Dr. Kevin Dyson has already built a high-performing school in Nashville. This is an opportunity to do it again, for students who have been waiting for a school designed to take their academic futures seriously. Please vote yes. Sara Carlson Striegel Nashville, TN
------------------------	--

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 19, 2026 9:37 am
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1499049130
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Travis Commons
Email	tcommons@valorcollegiate.org
Phone	(312) 919-3522
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	Educator
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Dear Tennessee Public Charter School Commission,

On behalf of The Compass Center at Valor, I write in support of Music City Academy's application.

As the Executive Director of nationwide school and leadership support center, I have worked with over 100 school leaders and have seen that the greatest obstacle to preparing students to succeed after graduation is by far the limitations of the traditional public school model that has not significantly changed since the Industrial Revolution. We know that Nashville has the potential to continue to evolve as a national exemplar of how school choice can provide more schools that are committed to creating communities of connection and belonging along with career-trajectory opportunities that position graduates to succeed beyond high school in the modern world.

Music City Academy has the potential to be one of those shining examples. Passion to Purpose delivers structured CTE pathways leading to industry credentials in Health Science, Emergency Services, Sports and Human Performance, and Arts and Media Production. Team Over Self creates the named adult relationships that the research on persistence and academic completion consistently identifies as high-leverage. Wellness for Life integrates the wellbeing supports that enable students to be present and ready to learn.

Dr. Kevin Dyson's record at Centennial High School demonstrates the model's validity in Nashville's context. We urge the board to vote yes.

Respectfully,

Travis Commons, Ph.D.
Executive Director, The Compass Center at Valor
Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 21, 2026 3:31 pm
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1499621570
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Janna Landsperger
Email	janna.nam@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 916-1099
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Dear Tennessee Public Charter School Commission,

Every family in Nashville deserves a public high school that was actually designed to prepare their child for what comes next. For too many students, that school does not exist in the public system.

Music City Academy aligns with our values and educational goals. In our family, we prioritize health and how a balanced diet and fitness are the foundation for wellness. We also value diversity in academics and believe that having a school that is representative of the unique population of America is crucial.

Music City Academy changes that. Passion to Purpose is not an elective track. It is the academic spine of the school. Every student earns a credential in a high-demand field before they graduate, with coursework tied to real industry standards. Team Over Self means a dedicated adult is watching every student's academic trajectory and stepping in when they need support. Wellness for Life means the school has built in what students need to be present and ready to learn.

The school is led by Dr. Kevin Dyson, who has already proven he can produce academic results with Nashville students. The Centennial High School transformation is not a talking point. It is a track record.

Please give Music City Academy the opportunity to do the same for the students waiting for this school.

Thank you,
Janna Landsperger
Nashville, TN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 21, 2026 3:34 pm
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1499622630
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Leigh Ann Bussell
Email	labussell@trevecca.edu
Phone	(317) 509-2213
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Application Staff or Board Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

As an educator, I look at school design through a specific lens: does the academic model hold together, and does the leadership have the track record to execute it?

Music City Academy fills a clear gap in Nashville's educational landscape by intentionally integrating rigorous academics, sport, and a comprehensive focus on health and wellness within an established, trusted community. Through applied learning, MCA prepares students for both workforce entry and college success while building on strong existing community connections. We respectfully urge the state to approve this opportunity without delay.

Music City Academy answers both questions. The academic model is built around meaningful postsecondary preparation. Passion to Purpose places every student in a CTE concentration tied to a credential with documented labor market value. Health Science, Emergency Services, Sports and Human Performance, and Arts and Media Production are all pathways connected to fields where SCORE and TDOE data show both credential demand and above-living-wage outcomes. Team Over Self creates the accountability structure that ensures students stay on course. Wellness for Life embeds the health supports that research consistently identifies as conditions for academic engagement.

And Dr. Kevin Dyson's transformation of Centennial High School from a priority school to a Reward School is not a claim. It is a documented result, achieved in Nashville, with Nashville's students.

I ask the board to approve this application.

With respect,

Dr. Leigh Ann Danzey-Bussell
Professor
Sport & Entertainment Management
Trevecca Nazarene University

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 22, 2026 7:38 pm
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	107.208.107.136
Unique ID:	1500042709
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Dwayne Tucker
Email	dwayne.tucker@tnstate.edu
Phone	(615) 963-7402
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy
Written Comment	Please see attached.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/20091355244

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 24, 2026 8:46 am
Browser:	Chrome 153.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	38.98.209.135
Unique ID:	1500553787
Location:	36.1081, -86.7738

Name	Jorge Robles
Email	jorge.robles@mnps.org
Phone	16154307798
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	LEA Staff Member
I wish to comment in support of	Metro Nashville Public Schools

Written Comment

Comment in Support of the MNPS Board of Education's Decision

I support the Metro Nashville Public Schools Board of Education's decision to deny the proposed Music City Academy charter school application. After reviewing the applicant's appeal, I believe the fiscal analysis presented by the applicant significantly understates the financial impact that the proposed charter school would have on MNPS and the students the district continues to serve.

A central premise of the appeal is that any reduction in student enrollment would be accompanied by corresponding reductions in district expenses, thereby minimizing the financial impact on MNPS. This assumption does not reflect the realities of operating a large public school system. While public education funding is largely tied to student enrollment, many school and district expenditures are fixed or only partially variable. When students leave for a charter school, the associated per-pupil funding leaves the district. However, many of the costs necessary to operate schools remain.

More than sixty percent of MNPS's state funding is allocated directly to schools through student-based budgeting and staffing allocations. The remaining funding supports essential districtwide functions, including transportation, facilities operations, technology services, custodial support, academic programs, student services, safety and security, and other operational responsibilities that benefit all students. These obligations do not disappear when a relatively small number of students transfer to another school. As a result, enrollment shifts reduce available resources while many service obligations remain unchanged.

The applicant's analysis also overlooks the fact that school-level costs are not reduced proportionally when enrollment declines. A school that loses a modest number of students must still maintain its facility, provide utilities, operate transportation routes, maintain safe and secure learning environments, and offer a comprehensive educational program. In many cases, staffing and operational costs cannot be reduced unless enrollment declines are substantial enough to trigger structural changes. Consequently, revenue losses are often immediate, while potential cost reductions are limited, delayed, or impossible to realize.

The appeal further suggests that the proposed charter school would generate meaningful reductions in MNPS capital expenditures. This claim is unsupported. Capital investments are driven by the condition, age, safety, and functionality of school facilities across the district. Responsibilities such as repairing

roofs, replacing HVAC systems, addressing deferred maintenance, and ensuring safe learning environments continue regardless of modest enrollment changes. The loss of students to a charter school does not eliminate the district's obligation to maintain and improve its facilities, nor does it meaningfully reduce long-term capital needs.

The applicant also appears to misunderstand the nature of public school funding. MNPS operates within a finite budget that must support the educational needs of all eligible students in Davidson County. When students enroll in state-authorized charter schools, the associated funding is redirected from the district to those schools. Similarly, MNPS is required to transfer funding to district-authorized charter schools and absorbs the financial impact of other state-directed funding mechanisms. The district does not retain the funding associated with students who leave traditional schools.

The fact that MNPS manages a large overall budget does not negate the fiscal impact of enrollment losses. Public education funding is a limited pool of resources that must be allocated across competing priorities and student needs. Every student who exits the district reduces the resources available to support the students who remain. Because many costs cannot be reduced at the same rate that revenue is lost, enrollment shifts create real financial pressures on district operations and on the services provided to the vast majority of Davidson County students.

Ultimately, the relevant question is not whether MNPS has a large budget, but whether the district can reduce expenditures in direct proportion to the funding that would leave the system. The evidence demonstrates that it cannot. For this reason, the applicant's fiscal impact analysis significantly understates the burden that the proposed charter school would place on MNPS. The Board's decision appropriately recognized these financial realities and acted in the best interest of maintaining stable, sustainable educational services for all students served by the district.

Accordingly, I support the MNPS Board of Education's decision to deny the application and respectfully urge the Charter Commission to uphold that decision.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 28, 2026 1:36 pm
Browser:	Chrome 151.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	73.58.239.76
Unique ID:	1501628809
Location:	36.0048, -86.7886

Name	Scott Campbell
Email	scott@nashvilleincubator.org
Phone	(615) 484-0667
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy
Written Comment	See attached letter.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/20112151944

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 29, 2026 3:29 pm
Browser:	Chrome 154.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	170.190.198.191
Unique ID:	1502009063
Location:	36.2077, -86.8494

Name	John Little
Email	mrjohnlittle@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 584-4616
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy
Written Comment	My name is John Little, and I had the pleasure not only to be a big supporter of Music City Academy (MCA), but was personally able to meet families who were very interested in enrolling in MCA. My enrollment approach was to target sports clubs and after school programs. I can personally attest that these parents made me feel like a college scout, because, all we talked about was how to properly educate their child and the opportunity to learn from a academic and athletic leader. The parent, Sparkle Jay, was one of those parents I met in the community. Although she is the PTO president, she is one of the parents who will be bringing her rising 9th grader and then 7th grader and 6th grader to MCA!

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 30, 2026 11:45 am
Browser:	Chrome 153.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	73.58.239.76
Unique ID:	1502256217
Location:	36.0048, -86.7886

Name	Brittany Monda
Email	brittany@nashvilleincubator.org
Phone	(703) 795-5597
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	Shelby
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	Support organization and coach.
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy
Written Comment	See attached letter
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/20121337545

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	September 30, 2026 4:27 pm
Browser:	Chrome 153.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	67.54.192.153
Unique ID:	1502376321
Location:	32.7797, -96.8022

Name	Lisa Stone
Email	lisa@nashvilleincubator.org
Phone	(202) 445-4789
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy
Written Comment	Please see letter attached.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/20125577025

Form Name:
Submission Time:
Browser:
IP Address:
Unique ID:
Location:

New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
September 30, 2026 4:28 pm
Chrome 153.0.0.0 / OS X
67.54.192.153
1502376762
32.7797, -96.8022

Name	Derrick Williams
Email	dwilliams1906_9@outlook.com
Phone	(704) 200-5827
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy

Written Comment

Dear Tennessee Public Charter School Commission,

My name is Derrick Williams, and I live in Nashville's Hermitage/Donelson/Old Hickory area (37076). I'm a proud parent of three and an active member of the Nashville community.

I am writing to express my strong support for Music City Academy and respectfully urge the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission to approve its appeal. Music City Academy offers a thoughtful, distinctive high school model designed to help Nashville students develop strong minds, strong bodies, and strong character while preparing for college, career, and life.

The school's commitment to rigorous, career-connected learning addresses an important need. Through pathways in sports medicine and health science, emergency services, therapeutic services, and audio/visual production, students will be able to connect their interests with high-demand fields, gain hands-on experience, and work toward industry-recognized credentials. This practical preparation can give students a clearer sense of purpose and a stronger foundation for success after graduation.

Music City Academy's whole-child approach is equally compelling. Its model uses team membership, coaching, daily movement, and embedded wellness practices to foster belonging, accountability, discipline, and resilience. By integrating academics, athletics, mentorship, and wellness rather than treating them as separate priorities, the school is positioned to engage students who may not thrive in a conventional setting while maintaining high expectations for every learner.

Nashville families deserve access to high-quality public-school options that reflect students' varied strengths, aspirations, and learning needs. Music City Academy would add a tuition-free option with a clear mission, a coherent educational design, and meaningful connections to the health, sports, wellness, and entertainment sectors that are central to the region's economy and identity. Its emphasis on teamwork, purposeful learning, and measurable postsecondary preparation aligns with the public interest in ensuring that students graduate ready to contribute to their communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Commission to approve Music City Academy's appeal and allow the school the opportunity to serve Nashville students and families. Thank you for your careful consideration and for your commitment to excellent, accountable public education across Tennessee.

Sincerely,

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Music City Acaemy /MNPS
Submission Time:	October 1, 2026 8:46 am
Browser:	Chrome 154.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	104.189.127.114
Unique ID:	1502551864
Location:	36.1789, -86.8035

Name	Ashley Allen
Email	aallen7@tnstate.edu
Phone	(615) 715-8689
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Music City Academy
Written Comment	Please see the attached letter submitted as my written public comment regarding the Music City Academy appeal. My comments reflect my perspective as a professor of sport management and my professional experience in athlete development, education, community programming, and the sports industry. I appreciate the opportunity to provide additional context on the potential educational, workforce, health, sport tourism, and community impact of this proposed model.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/20128657910



"Think. Work. Serve."

College of Health Sciences
Dept. of Human Performance and Sport Sciences
3500 John A. Merritt Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37209
Office: (615) 963-5602
Fax: (615) 963-5594

October 1, 2026

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

500 James Robertson Parkway, 8th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

RE: Written Public Comment - Music City Academy Appeal

Dear Members of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

My name is Ashley Allen, and I am a professor who teaches sport management at Tennessee State University. I also work in athlete development, education, community programming, and the business of sports. I attended the Music City Academy appeal hearing and am submitting these comments because I was unable to complete my remarks during the public-comment period.

From my perspective, one of the greatest opportunities presented by Music City Academy is earlier exposure. By the time many students reach me at the college level, they are only beginning to understand how broad the sports industry truly is. They may initially see athlete, coach, or agent as the primary options, when the industry also includes sports medicine, athletic training, physical therapy, marketing, media, hospitality, sport tourism, event management, law, finance, analytics, facility operations, sponsorship, emergency services, and audio/visual production.

The numbers demonstrate why that exposure matters. The National Federation of State High School Associations reported a record 8,266,244 high-school sports participants in 2024-25. Yet the NCAA reports that only about 550,000 students compete at NCAA schools. In other words, millions of young people have a meaningful connection to sports even though most will not compete in college. We should not allow their connection to sports to end when their playing career ends; we should use that interest to introduce them to the many careers that exist around the game.

As a professor, I see the value of this firsthand. Students can arrive in college still discovering what sport management is and what careers exist within the industry. Imagine the difference if that exploration began in ninth or tenth grade. Students could identify interests earlier, make more intentional choices about college majors or credentials, build professional networks, and gain work-based experience before they ever step onto a college campus.

There is broader evidence supporting early career-connected education. A U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences study of career and technical education students in Indiana and Minnesota found that high-school CTE concentrators had higher employment rates and earnings during the first five years after graduation than similar students who took fewer or no CTE courses. In Indiana, employment rates were 3 to 5 percentage points higher and annual earnings were \$1,142 to \$3,068 higher for concentrators during that period. That research is not specific to sports, but it is relevant to the value of giving young people structured career pathways, applied learning, and earlier exposure to industries they may pursue.

There is also a health and engagement component. CDC data for 2025 show that only 25% of high-school students were physically active for at least 60 minutes every day, while 58% played on a sports team. Schools are uniquely positioned to connect movement, wellness, belonging, academics, and preparation for life after sport. A model that intentionally treats the student-athlete as a whole person can address more than athletic performance alone.

Nashville is especially well positioned for this model because sports are already a meaningful part of our economy. The Nashville Sports Council reports more than \$1.52 billion in cumulative economic impact from sporting events, more than 1.19 million hotel-room nights, and more than 5.56 million spectators. The 2025



TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Dept. of Human Performance and Sport Sciences**

3500 John A. Merritt Boulevard

Nashville, TN 37209

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Fax: (615) 963-5594

SEC Men's Basketball Tournament provides a useful example of sport tourism in action: 52.1% of attendees came from outside the area, stayed an average of 3.26 nights, and generated approximately 10,864 hotel-room nights. Nashville has hosted the tournament repeatedly, producing more than \$202 million in direct economic impact across its Nashville appearances.

Those numbers represent far more than athletes on a court or field. They represent hotels, restaurants, transportation, event production, media, marketing, sponsorship, security, facilities, tourism, hospitality, health care, technology, and countless other jobs. So I believe Nashville should ask an important question: Are we intentionally preparing Nashville students to participate in the sports economy that is being built around them?

That is what I find distinctive about Music City Academy. It presents the possibility of an accessible public-school environment that combines academics, athletics, wellness, career development, and exposure to the larger industry surrounding sports. It is not simply about producing better athletes. Its greater opportunity is helping students become better prepared people with multiple pathways available to them.

I also believe this conversation should be viewed through the lens of our entire educational ecosystem. During the hearing, I heard significant concern regarding enrollment and the fiscal impact on MNPS and existing schools. Those are legitimate considerations and should be examined carefully. But they should not become the only measure of value. We should also ask whether our current system is consistently developing the total student-athlete - academically, athletically, professionally, physically, and personally - while preparing young people for college, credentials, careers, wellness, leadership, financial understanding, and life after competitive sports.

A specialized school does not have to mean one institution succeeds at the expense of another. It can become a team effort. MNPS, charter schools, colleges and universities, professional teams, health systems, tourism organizations, businesses, nonprofits, coaches, parents, and community organizations can each contribute different strengths. One partner may provide mentorship, another an internship, another health-care career exposure, another college preparation, and another work-based learning through Nashville's sports and tourism industries.

That kind of collaboration is how Music City Academy can complement the educational ecosystem rather than simply duplicate it. The unique standard of the model is its focus on the total student-athlete and on preparing young people for what comes next - whether that is college athletics, higher education, an industry credential, entrepreneurship, or a career within the broader sports economy.

Not every student who enters Music City Academy will become a professional athlete, and that should never be the measure of success. Sports can be the hook. Education, credentials, workforce preparation, health, belonging, and opportunity should be the outcome.

As someone who teaches students once they reach college, I know how valuable earlier exposure can be. From a community standpoint, a specialized school focused on sports, health, wellness, and career-connected learning can strengthen Nashville's talent pipeline while connecting young people to an industry already generating significant economic activity in their own city.

Ultimately, I hope Music City Academy is evaluated not only through the question of where students or dollars may move, but also through the question of what additional opportunities its distinctive model could create for students and for Nashville as a whole.

MNPS, charter schools, universities, professional teams, health systems, businesses, families, and community organizations can work together as one team - each using our strengths to develop the whole student and prepare Nashville's young people for the opportunities and futures ahead of them.

Respectfully,



TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

"Think. Work. Serve."

**College of Health Sciences
Dept. of Human Performance and Sport Sciences**

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Sport Management Faculty

Department of Human Performance and Sport Sciences

Tennessee State University

Selected data sources: National Federation of State High School Associations, 2024-25 High School Athletics Participation Survey; NCAA, Probability of Competing Beyond High School and 2024-25 participation data; CDC, 2025 Youth Risk Behavior Survey; U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, REL 2021-090; Nashville Sports Council economic-impact reporting.

Dear Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

On behalf of NFL Alumni Association Tn Chapter, I write to urge approval of Music City Academy's charter application.

The case for this school is grounded in evidence and in a leader with a proven track record. Dr. Kevin Dyson's transformation of Centennial High School from a state priority school to a Reward School demonstrates that he can build the academic culture and systems required to produce real outcomes for students in Nashville's public school context.

The model he is bringing to Music City Academy is specific. Passion to Purpose structures every student's academic experience around a CTE pathway leading to an industry credential, aligned to Tennessee's workforce needs and postsecondary attainment goals. Team Over Self creates the named adult accountability structure that sustains students through that pathway. Wellness for Life ensures the school addresses the whole student, because academic outcomes depend on it.

This is a rigorous, evidence-based academic model led by a proven Nashville educator. Nashville's students deserve access to it.

Respectfully,
AL Smith
Nashville, TN

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Al Smith

National Lead Ambassador
National Football League Alumni Association
Inc



Dear Tennessee Public Charter Commission,

As a charter school parent, educator, and local leader deeply invested in strengthening the school options available to families in Nashville, I enthusiastically support Music City Academy and want to share my perspective on why our community needs this school.

As a parent, I know how it feels to look at the options available for your child and wonder whether any of them will truly meet their needs. I was lucky that our child got into Valor Collegiate Academies, but many of my friends and neighbors were left on waitlists, facing lottery stress, or leaving the public system entirely for private school options. School choice doesn't mean that some families get lucky; it means that every single parent has a high quality option that meets the needs of their child. That is not yet true in Nashville, and the need is especially clear in high school, where students are deciding who they want to become.

Professionally, I serve as the Director of Fellows for the Nashville Incubator, where I've been Kevin Dyson's coach for the past year and a half. What I've found in Kevin is so much more than a Nashville sports hero. He is a leader with a big heart, a thoughtful vision for what's possible for kids, and the ability to actually make it happen. Kevin embodies something I've learned throughout my career: great leaders don't try to do everything themselves. They build strong teams, trust the people around them, and create a culture where people can do their best work. Kevin has done exactly that. He has rallied an incredible community and board around this vision, over 60 educators have expressed interest in joining MCA, and at the Nashville Incubator, we are proud to be part of his team.

I also believe deeply in the model Kevin has built. Music City Academy puts health and wellness at the center of the student experience, and it engages students in content they care about. After 20 years in education, I have seen what happens when high school students see themselves in their learning: they show up, they work harder, and they begin to picture a future for themselves. Too many high school students spend their days in classes that feel disconnected from their lives and their goals. Our young people are curious, capable, and ready for more. MCA's career pathways make learning relevant, and its team centered culture builds belonging and the social and emotional skills students need to succeed after graduation.

We know that building a high quality school is incredibly hard work, and founders shouldn't have to carry it alone. That's why the Incubator has expanded the support we provide to include executive coaching, professional development, and expert support with common needs such as facilities, compliance, operations, and enrollment.

Our partnership with MCA doesn't stop with your approval. The Incubator is committed to actively coaching and supporting all of our leaders through their first two years of operation, because even great leaders need a coach in their corner. As his coach, I'll help Kevin execute on the ambitious goals he has set forth in his application, find resources to support his continued development, and be a thought partner through the inevitable pivots he will need to make as a single site charter leader.

I'm asking you to approve Music City Academy because Nashville high school students and families deserve more high quality options, and Kevin has built the team and support around him to deliver on that promise.

Sincerely,

Lisa Stone

Lisa Stone
Director of Fellows, The Nashville Incubator



Nashville, TN

info@nashvilleincubator.org

To the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission,

I am honored to write this letter of support on behalf of Music City Academy and cofounders Dr. Kevin Dyson and Christina McDonald. Dr. Dyson is a proven leader in this community who has served and led in Davidson and Williamson County as a teacher, coach, athletic director, middle school principal, and high school principal. In each school he has worked in and led he has been praised for his leadership, humility, and academic results. While most people in this town know him as a professional athlete, thousands of kids know him only as Dr. Dyson, a leader who listens to them and opens doors for their future. Christina McDonald is one of the most respected school leaders in the Nashville charter sector. In 2012, The Nashville Scene recognized Christina as its co-Person of Year for her commitment to being an extraordinary educator who gets results for kids. In the 14 years since, she has done nothing but cement her commitment to academic excellence for all children. She has gone on to help found a school in Jackson, MS, and lead multiple schools in the Nashville area. In each school she has led, she has grown academic results, built strong student and staff cultures, and left a legacy of kindness and accountability that lives on. These are two well respected and proven leaders who are committed to opening an innovative and needed public school for our community. As the Executive Director of the Nashville Incubator, we are proud to walk beside them and provide them with the financial and social capital needed to be successful in launching and running a successful career-connected charter in our community.

I want to be clear about what this support will look like over the next 3 years.

First, the Incubator is committed to spending **\$347,000** directly for Music City Academy including costs that covers staffing, enrollment, facilities, and some flexible funds for launch needs. This is 100% committed upon authorization this fall and an increase from where we have typically spent due to the increased need created by the TDOE CSP grant decisions. This commitment is \$47,000 more than was originally projected in their budget under Nashville Funders Collaborative and we expect them to still receive additional funding outside of this commitment.

Second, as the Incubator has grown in the past couple of years, we have learned the importance of ensuring a strong operational start and have committed funding and people to ensure that our schools are academically and operationally excellent in their first two years. This support is new to Incubator schools and will be provided in full to our schools launching in 2027. It will include regular leadership coaching, priority setting, operational resources, continued facilities advisory support, certified board training, and community of practice among other founders. After year two our schools will have the opportunity to join the Nashville Charter Collaborative that will continue to provide support for these growing schools. All of this work is in the effort to ensure a strong pipeline of support for early stage schools to help them reach their academic commitments to families earlier. The estimated value of this in-kind support is \$87,000 / year or \$174,000 total. In addition to this in-kind support, we will continue to allocate close to \$15,000 per school in funding for enrollment/coaching/operational needs. This support should be considered as “likely” and is contingent upon yearly budget approval by the Nashville Incubator Board of Directors.

The Nashville Incubator is supported by the generous contributions and leadership of the Joe C. Davis Foundation, SCORE, City Fund, and the Bill and Crissy Haslam Foundation. These foundations are committed to high-quality,



innovative schools in our city and state, and the Incubator is one of the primary strategies identified for launching these schools.

Third, Nashville Incubator board members have generously committed to supporting schools upon approval and opening. One example is a grant opportunity of up to \$250,000 from SCORE to support construction-related costs for incubation facilities. This grant can be used by Music City Academy to cover expenses related to construction, down payments, or rent for a short-term incubation facility. This grant should also be considered “likely” when taking into account the full amount of philanthropic dollars. Rest assured that our board members are committed to ensuring that Incubator schools ultimately succeed as high-quality schools, and each school we incubate has opportunities for additional grant funding upon approval and opening.

Finally, from a personal level, I wanted to share my confidence in Kevin and Christina as leaders and in the vision for this school. The process of selecting and supporting new founders is a long process, and I have worked with Kevin for over a year and a half. Christina I have known for 8+ years and have seen her jump into this work over the last 3 months with fire and joy. Christina was brought onto this team because of her extensive high school academic leadership experience including launching CTE programs. I couldn’t be more excited about this team. I have seen the way they show up, meet deadlines, pivot, learn from families, take feedback, and work long hours to meet the needs of students and families. They are parents themselves who understand what it means to put their trust in other adults to coach and lead, and do not take for granted the fact that others are bestowing this trust on them. I believe deeply in them, but also in their model. They have studied and researched deeply to understand what families want, but also what science and common sense says is best for young adults. All of us benefit from being on a team, being pushed, eating healthy, daily movement, mental health support, and consistent excellent coaching. Students also benefit from career-connected learning that draws on their passions and gives them a clear vision for what is possible in a world of sports entertainment. This school will provide these elements consistently for all students. This school meets the state’s rubric in all sections, but goes far beyond that. It is an innovative school with strong leaders, significant community support, financial backing, and a team of experts committed to helping it open and operate successfully. It is a school that will provide a choice for families they desperately desire. Music City Academy is going to be a school that will impact generations of Nashvillians and that will be a model for others across the country.. Dr. Dyson and Christina McDonald are extraordinary leaders and this school will fulfill the commitment we make as public educators in Tennessee to grow an informed and prepared citizenry. I am grateful to play a small role in seeing Music City Academy flourish.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Campbell
Executive Director, The Nashville Incubator



Dear Tennessee Public Charter School Commission,

I write in strong support of Music City Academy's application before the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission.

As President of Tennessee State University, I have spent my career thinking about what it takes to prepare students not just to graduate, but to thrive — in college, in careers, and in life. One of the clearest lessons from that work is that readiness cannot be built in the classroom alone. Students need academic rigor, yes, but they also need the discipline, teamwork, and physical and mental wellness that come from athletics, and they need real, structured pathways that connect what they are learning in high school to what comes next, whether that is postsecondary education or the workforce.

Music City Academy's model reflects that understanding. Every student joins a team, moves every day, and chooses a high-impact career pathway in fields like healthcare, technology, business, and the trades — all built on three pillars: Strong Minds, Strong Bodies, Strong Character. It is a model grounded in the belief that every student is qualified and capable of redefining what success looks like for their life. That is exactly the kind of intentional, whole-student design too few schools build in from the start, and exactly what Nashville families need more of.

I am especially encouraged by the shared vision between Music City Academy and Tennessee State University. We have begun exploring what a genuine partnership between our institutions could look like — from facility collaboration that could give MCA a foundation to grow from, to access to TSU's athletic spaces and fields that would let MCA deliver on its wellness commitments from day one, to job shadowing opportunities within our athletic department that would give students real-world exposure to sports medicine, athletic administration, coaching, and sports business. Perhaps most exciting is the possibility of dual enrollment, creating a clear pathway for MCA students to earn college credit while still in high school and, for many, to continue their journey right here at TSU. Together, these possibilities position both of our institutions as leaders in reimagining what education can look like for Nashville's next generation.

Nashville benefits when families have access to high-quality school options that reflect different models of excellence. Music City Academy represents precisely that kind of option — one built with intention, and one that will help ensure more students arrive at institutions like Tennessee State University, and other pathways beyond, genuinely prepared to succeed.

I urge the Commission to give Music City Academy's application its full and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,
Dwayne Tucker
President, Tennessee State University



To the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

I write in strong support of Music City Academy. Almost all of my career has been spent working in the charter school space. As a former authorizer, I have reviewed applications, monitored new schools, and seen firsthand which schools struggle in their early years and why. Today, as Director of Strategy at the Nashville Incubator, I support founders from pre-authorization through early operations.

Why the application is strong: Music City Academy gives the Commission unusually solid evidence on the factors that most often predict early failure:

- **A leader who has already turned a Nashville school around.** Dr. Kevin Dyson led Centennial High School from middle tier to Reward School. He has done the hardest version of this work, with real students, in this state. Christina McDonald has also served students in both Tennessee and Mississippi in founding and getting strong academic results.
- **A coherent model.** Athletics is the on-ramp, not a side program: the discipline, accountability, and teamwork students build through sport drive academic achievement and lead into CTE pathways, including Sports and Human Performance.
- **Demonstrated community demand.** In the school's survey, 82% of Davidson County families said current high schools are not meeting their needs, and 99% said they would consider enrolling.
- **Responsiveness to feedback.** The amended application directly addressed reviewer concerns, including a clarified leadership and operations structure, revised bylaws, and a strengthened CTE pathway narrative. How founders respond to feedback before approval is the best predictor I know of how they respond to monitoring after it.
- **Funding secured before day one.** The school has placed itself in a pipeline for grants and has also shown its commitment to ensure that they are engaging with the community directly, without compromising its non-negotiables.

Why the onramp support will be even greater. As an authorizer, I watched strong applications become struggling schools because founders were on their own in years one and two. The Incubator's new two-year launch support is built to close that gap. My team will provide regular leadership coaching, priority setting, operational resources, facilities advisory support, certified board training, and a community of practice with fellow founders.

Music City Academy is the kind of school that shows there is a commitment to the right work for students. There is a proven leader, a clear model, strong family demand, and a support system built for the years when new schools are most fragile.

Sincerely,

Brittany Monda
Director of Strategy, The Nashville Incubator

city fund

September 16, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

Since 2016, the City Fund board of directors has approved over \$15M in grants to support public education efforts in Nashville. A portion of that budget is allocated towards creating high-performing public charter schools that provide Nashville students and families the access to more great public schooling options.

Upon authorization, we are prepared to provide start-up financial support to the Music City Academy team as they work to create a new public school model for the community, and we plan to continue our support until the campus reaches full scale.

We are confident in Music City Academy's academic and financial leadership capacity to launch a high-quality option for kids and families in Nashville, and we respectfully encourage you to authorize the school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CB', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Chris Barbic
Partner