

Nashville School of Excellence Statement to the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

The following statement is submitted on behalf of Nashville School of Excellence by Dr. Samuel Beyhan, Executive Director of Read Foundation.

Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement, and thank you to Executive Director Stovall and her team.

Nashville School of Excellence comes from a network that has served Memphis students since 2010, now in its seventeenth year. We bring a proven model, and Nashville wants it.

The community support is strong. In just months, 539 families completed interest forms, more than three times the 150 seats needed in year one. We attended 25 public events, visited 46 community organizations, and received 37 letters of support. Of 239 written comments, none opposed us. Roughly 95 people attended the public hearing in person.

Our students are college-ready. Our graduation rate has held between 97 and 100 percent for ten years. The Class of 2025 had 100 percent graduation, 100 percent college acceptance, and 97 percent FAFSA completion. Winchester had the highest graduation rate in Shelby County Schools for the Class of 2024.

STEM is for every student, not a select group. Pathways begin in sixth grade, and high schoolers earn industry certifications in cybersecurity, web design, and coding. All four of our schools hold the Tennessee STEM School Designation.

We also build character. Our Cordova secondary school was named the 2025 State School of Character, the only school in Tennessee, and Winchester is a 2025 to 2026 National School of Character. All four schools are Purple Star Schools.

We have an executed letter of intent for a facility on Nolensville Pike, Nashville board members, and a founding principal living here. We respectfully ask the Commission to approve Nashville School of Excellence. Nashville families are ready, and so are we. Thank you.