



# TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

**RENEWAL PROCESS**

**JANUARY 26, 2023**

# RENEWAL PROCESS

- Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-121, Commission Policy 3.600, and charter renewal guidance issued by the Commission and Department of Education, the authorizer shall provide a school with the opportunity to make a clear and compelling case for renewal.
- The Commission's renewal process includes the following:

Timeline	Item
By January 1	A cumulative performance report provided by Commission staff to the applicant.
By April 1	A full renewal application submitted by the school to the Commission.
June/July	Review committees convened of both internal and external members.
September	Renewal site visit with Commission staff.
October/November	Public hearing in local district - preliminary recommendation provided to application prior. School has opportunity to respond.
January (following year)	Final recommendation, review committee report, and site visit report presented to Commission.
By February 1	A formal Commission decision regarding the renewal is made.



# ASD TRANSITION SCHOOL UPCOMING RENEWALS

School	Began Operations	Renewal (Year 9)
<b>Lester Prep</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2023</b>
Libertas	2015	2024
Cornerstone Prep Denver	2015	2024
<b>Promise Academy Spring Hill</b> <i>[If authorized]</i>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2023</b>
LEAD Neely's Bend <i>[If authorized]</i>	2015	2024



# CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE REPORT AND RENEWAL CRITERIA

- Per Commission Policy 3.600, the Commission will provide all schools a cumulative performance report. The performance report shall summarize:
  - The charter school's performance record to date over the charter term based on the data required by law, the Commission, and the charter agreement.
  - Commission's summative findings concerning the charter school's performance against the Commission's renewal standards and criteria.
- The Commission establishes renewal criteria for schools in alignment with its school performance framework. This renewal criteria is used in addition to the renewal application rubric and the Commission's SPF and is provided to operators ahead of time.
  - Renewal applicants receive an on-track or off-track status for the renewal criteria as part of their cumulative performance report.



# LESTER PREP RENEWAL

- **Lester Prep is up for renewal as it is in the 9th year of its charter agreement.**
- Lester Prep Cumulative Performance Report:
  - Commission staff requested all performance reports for Lester Prep for the last eight years from the ASD and only received two (SY19-20 and SY 20-21).
  - Commission staff pulled all available data from the TDOE website for academic proficiency and growth.
    - There are noted gaps in 2020 (COVID-19 pandemic) and 2016 (state testing issues).
    - Additionally, in 2018 a new state test was issued which fundamentally changes proficiency scores across the board.
  - Commission staff requested from Lester Prep any past reports provided from the ASD.



# RENEWAL CRITERIA FOR 23-24 RENEWALS

- To address these unique renewal situations, Commission staff have developed a set of renewal criteria to use for ASD transition schools for the 23-24 school year that is aligned to publicly available data.
  - After Commission adoption, this criteria will be used for Lester Prep's renewal.
  - If Promise Academy Spring Hill is approved by the Commission, this renewal criteria will be used for this school as well.
  - Due to timing, Commission staff have already provided Lester Prep a draft report aligned to this criteria with on-track/off-track status.
- The school may address its status in alignment with the criteria within its renewal application to be submitted on April 1, 2023.



# RENEWAL CRITERIA FOR 23-24 RENEWALS

- This proposed criteria includes:

Category	Criteria
Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Consistent success in TVAAS scores</li></ul>
Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Trajectory of growth in proficiency for students</li><li>▪ Trajectory of growth in proficiency for subgroups of students in ELA and Math</li></ul>
Comparative Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Trajectory of closing achievement gaps in comparison to the ASD in the years prior to earning priority exit status.</li><li>▪ Trajectory of closing achievement gaps for subgroups in comparison to the resident district in terms of academic proficiency.</li><li>▪ [If applicable] graduating students at the same rate or above the ASD and resident district</li></ul>
Distinctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Met criteria to earn priority exit status</li><li>▪ Not currently a priority or focus school</li><li>▪ [If applicable] overall meeting or exceeding standards under the Commission's SPF.</li></ul>



# RENEWAL CRITERIA FOR 23-24 RENEWALS

- The following criteria is proposed for financial performance and organizational performance:

Category	Criteria
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Last three years of audits meet standard under the Commission's School Performance Framework</li><li>▪ Last five years of audits are free from financial statement findings, federal award findings, and questioned costs.</li></ul>
Organizational Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Past performance reports from the ASD present no significant, ongoing concerns including issued notices of concern.</li><li>▪ [If applicable] no significant, ongoing concerns under the Commission's SPF</li><li>▪ Exhibited an overall reduction in chronic absenteeism</li><li>▪ Maintained a steady enrollment in the last two years</li><li>▪ Complying with open meeting laws for board meetings and has necessary board-related items posted to their website.</li></ul>





# RENEWAL CRITERIA FOR 23-24 RENEWALS

- This criteria was pressure tested with all Commission-authorized ASD transition schools and the schools who are currently applying to the Commission after earning priority exit status.
- As a part of the pressure test process, we engaged with Lester Prep's Executive Director as well for feedback on the criteria.
- Findings from the pressure test:
  - Context is needed given the interruptions and changes in state testing data over the last nine years.
    - We included a "key" that outlines the different interruptions and how this affected the trajectory of performance over the last nine years.
  - All schools pressure tested out-performed the ASD, however not all schools are on track for every criteria.
  - The criteria also needs to be contextualized for turnaround models.



# DISCUSSION

- What should we be looking for in granting a 10-year renewal for a school given the following factors:
  - Former ASD/turnaround status
  - Data reliability issues as a result of testing interruptions and the recent pandemic
  - Data availability issues - relying on publicly available data
- Are there any additions or edits that need to be made to this criteria?
- School-specific considerations for the 23-24 renewal cycle:
  - Are there any considerations given Lester Prep's renewal being while they are under priority status designation?
  - Are there any considerations given the tight timeline for Promise Academy Spring Hill's renewal if it is approved to be authorized by the Commission?



# RENEWAL NEXT STEPS

- Adopt the renewal criteria.
- Commission staff will continue the renewal process with Lester Prep.
- If approved, the Commission will begin the renewal process with Promise Academy Spring Hill immediately after approval and provide the criteria with on-track/off-track status.
- Commission staff will revisit the criteria after this first renewal process and determine if any changes may be needed ahead of the next cycle.





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