



**TENNESSEE**  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

**NEW START CHARTER  
SCHOOL APPEALS  
UPDATE**

**JULY 28, 2023**

# A QUALITY AUTHORIZER

- Grants charters to applicants that have demonstrated **competence and capacity to succeed** in all aspects of their model, **consistent with the state's scoring rubric criteria**.
- Rigorously evaluates each application through **thorough review of the written proposal**, a substantive **in-person interview** with each qualified applicant, and all **appropriate due diligence** to examine the applicant's experience and capacity, conducted by knowledgeable and competent evaluators.
- Engages, for both written application reviews and applicant interviews, highly competent teams of **internal and external evaluators** with relevant educational, organizational (governance and management), financial, and legal **expertise**, as well as thorough **understanding of the essential principles of charter school autonomy and accountability**.



# ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

## LEA Denied Amended Application

Sponsor	Name of School	LEA
Capstone Education Group, Inc	Cornerstone Prep Lester Campus	Memphis Shelby County Schools
Green Dot Public Schools	Fairley High School	Memphis Shelby County Schools
Frayser Community Schools	Humes Middle School	Memphis Shelby County Schools
Frayser Community Schools	MLK College Prep High School	Memphis Shelby County Schools
Empower Career and College Prep Schools	Empower Memphis Career and College Prep Charter School	Memphis Shelby County Schools
Pathways Management Group	Pathways in Education - Memphis	Memphis Shelby County Schools
TGAND Outreach	Change Academy	Memphis Shelby County Schools
American Classical Education, Inc	American Classical Academy Madison	Jackson-Madison County Schools
Invictus Nashville Charter School	Invictus Nashville Charter School	Metro Nashville Public Schools
ReThink Forward	Nashville Collegiate Prep High School	Metro Nashville Public Schools
Pathways Management Group	Pathways in Education - Nashville	Metro Nashville Public Schools



As of July 25, 2023

# ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

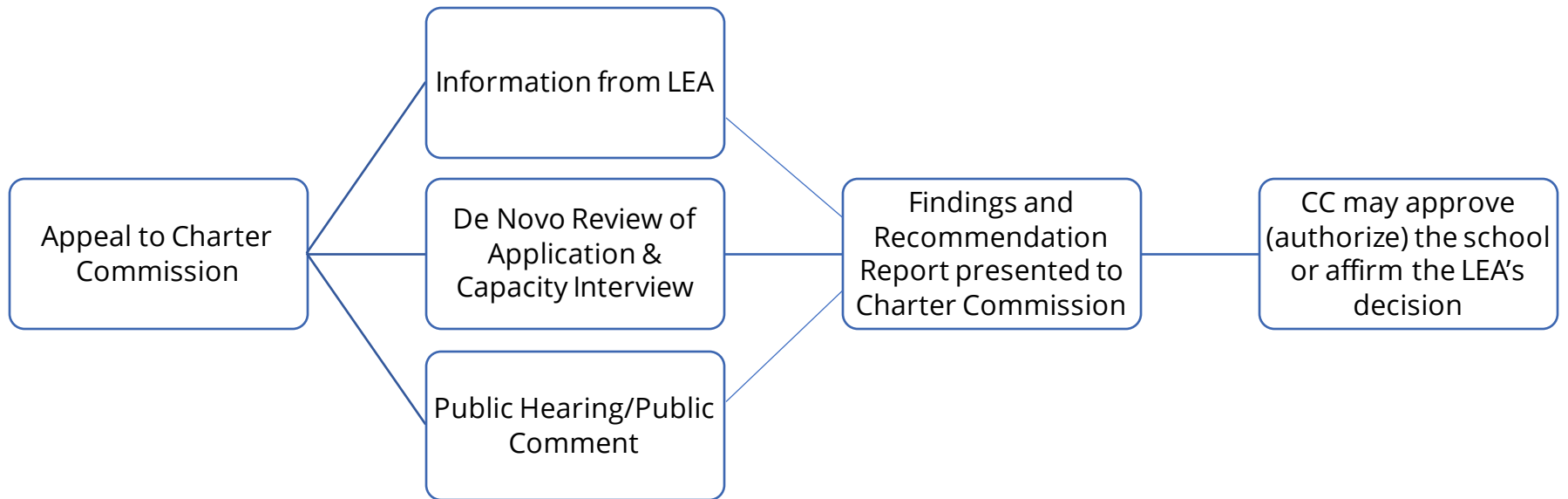
LEA Decision Outstanding

Sponsor	Name of School	LEA
American Classical Education, Inc	American Classical Academy Maury	Maury County Public Schools



As of July 25, 2023

# APPEALS PROCESS FLOWCHART



A maximum of 75 calendar days



# REVIEW COMMITTEE



# REVIEW COMMITTEE

- Review Committee Selection and Training
  - Review committees are assembled with internal and external experts and includes geographical representation
  - Review committees reflect a balance of expertise and are free of potential or real conflicts
  - Each reviewer has attended required training in July
- Initial Application Review
  - Reviewers are required to complete the Tennessee Department of Education scoring rubric
  - Committee members are responsible to review all areas of the application
  - To protect the de novo review, the review committees are not provided the reasons for denial by the local LEA



# REVIEW COMMITTEE

- Capacity Interview and Consensus Building
  - A 90-minute capacity interview is conducted with the applicant to assess the applicant's capacity and to ask clarifying questions
  - At the conclusion of the capacity interview, the review committee begins to form consensus and each member completes a final application review pulling from the application and capacity interview
- Review Committee Report
  - The review committee report is compiled summarizing the committee's consensus ratings and is provided to the Executive Director in consideration of her recommendation
  - Applications must meet standard in all categories in order to merit a recommendation for approval by the committee





# PUBLIC HEARING



# PUBLIC HEARING

- Public hearings will be held in the district in which the proposed school proposes to locate in late August/early September
- During the hearing, the sponsor of the school and the local board of education present on the appeal
- The executive director asks questions of the sponsor and the local board based on staff's initial review of the record
- Public comments provide applicants the opportunity to affirm the communities interest in the proposed school and the applicant's ability to meet enrollment projections
- Conversely, public comments provide the opportunity for community members to speak in opposition of the proposed school



# **COMMISSIONER REVIEW OF THE RECORD**



# REVIEW OF THE RECORD

- Commissioners must conduct a “de novo on the record review” of the appeal.
- Information that can be considered is limited to what is officially “on the record” in the appeal.
- The Commission shall review amended applications without deference to the district’s denial.
- Commissioner’s record will include:
  - Executive Director’s Recommendation inclusive of the review committee report
  - Correspondence from the Commission staff to parties
  - Notice of Appeal from the Sponsor
  - Recording of Capacity Interview
  - Public Hearing and Public Comment
  - Written statements in response recommendation



# REVIEW OF THE RECORD

- Start with the executive director's recommendation
  - This summarizes the materials and information in the record and provides a recommendation based on the Commission's statutory charge
  - Provides overview of the public hearing and the resources used to determine whether the application has clear community support
- Closely review the review committee's report and the capacity interview.
  - This evaluates the application against the state's scoring rubric.
  - Focus on:
    - Does the school have a developed, quality academic program?
    - Can the school serve all students?
    - Is the school likely to meet enrollment projections?
    - Does the school have an effective governance structure?
    - Are the proposed governing board members capable of strong oversight?
    - Can the school recruit and staff to support the program?
    - Are the revenue projections confirmed and reasonable?
    - Does the school/network's performance merit expansion?



# REVIEW OF THE RECORD

- Listen/watch the recording of the public hearing
  - Provides a good summary of the sponsor's argument in support of the application and the local board of education's reasons for denial
  - Opportunity to listen to the public's views on the proposed application
  - The public hearing is also summarized in the executive director's recommendation
- Review public comments submitted
- The Commission may approve the application if the application
  - 1) meets or exceeds the metrics outlined by the department of education's application-scoring rubric **and**
  - 2) approval of the application is in the best interests of the students LEA or community



# TIMELINE FOR REVIEW



# TIMELINE FOR REVIEW

- Quarterly Meeting: October 5th and 6th, 2023
  - By September 22, the following will be made available to Commissioners in TNShare.
    - Notice of appeal
    - LEA documentation
    - Public hearing materials (recording, presentations, public comment)
    - Any additional written public comment
  - By September 29, the Executive Director's recommendations will be provided.







**TENNESSEE**  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION