



**TENNESSEE**

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

**NEW START CHARTER  
SCHOOL APPEALS  
REFRESHER**

**MARCH 22, 2024**

# 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**.

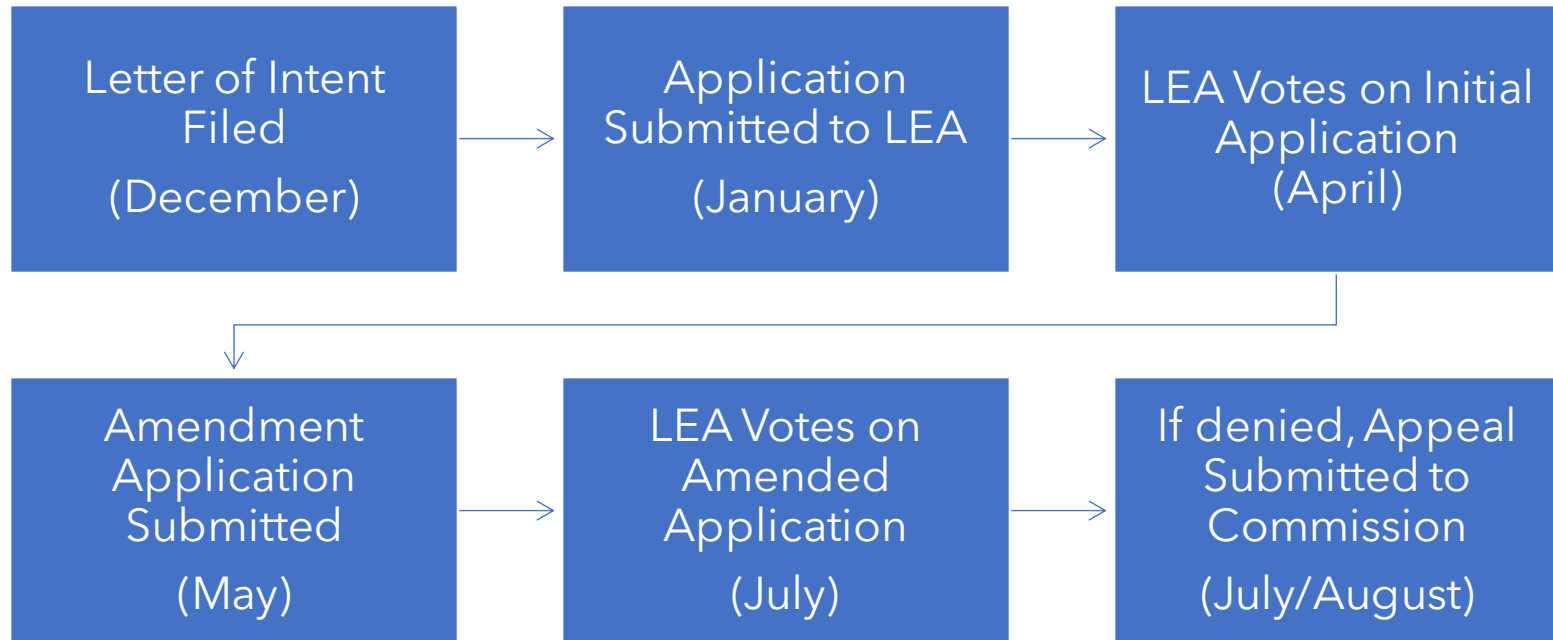


# ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

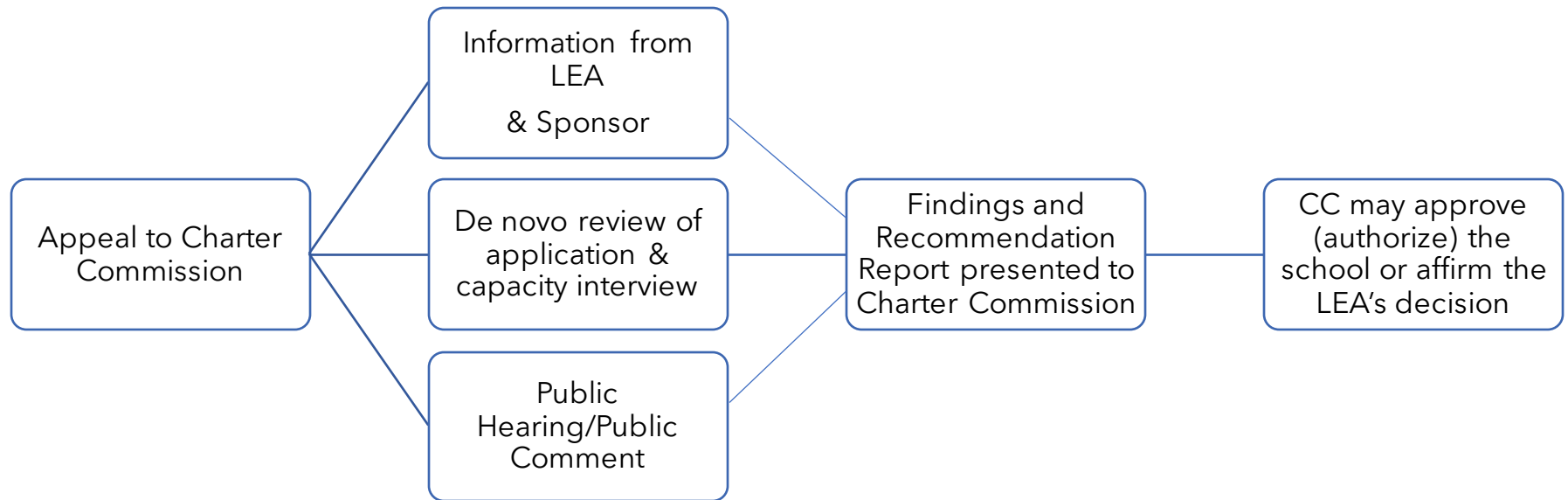
District	Number of Applications
Memphis-Shelby County Schools	4
Metro Nashville Public Schools	5
Rutherford County Schools	1
<b>Total Active Applications</b>	<b>10</b>



# LEA NEW START PROCESS



# APPEALS PROCESS FLOWCHART



A maximum of 75 calendar days



# KEY ELEMENTS OF NEW START PROCESS

- Information obtained from LEA and Sponsor
  - Information obtained from appellant related to the application and denial
  - Information from LEA relevant to their review and decision-making process
  - Any additional clarifying information requested is communicated to both the LEA and appellant
- Review Committee reviews amended application and conducts a capacity interview
- To protect the de novo review, the review committees are not provided the reasons for denial by the local LEA



# KEY ELEMENTS OF NEW START PROCESS

- A public hearing is required to be held in the district in which the proposed school proposes to locate
  - During the hearing, the sponsor of the school and the local board of education present on the appeal and answer questions from the Executive Director
  - Public comments provide an opportunity for members of public to demonstrate support for or against the proposed school
- Upon completion of the review of the record, capacity interview, and public hearing a review committee report and Executive Directors Recommendation are drafted



# UPDATES FOR 2024 CYCLE

- Review Committee training updated to highlight charter school autonomy
- Continue trainings with potential LEAs and appellants in July
- Continue weekly emails to review committee members, LEAs, and appellants
- Guidance document updated to include additional clarity related to public comments at public hearing





# NEW START APPEALS

- Commission 2-step review
  - Hold an open meeting in the LEA where the proposed charter school submitted its application
    - Commission staff conducts a public meeting, including notice and an opportunity for public comment
  - Conduct a **de novo on the record review** of the proposed charter school's application
    - Staff compiles the record for Commission review
    - Commission record is the totality of the evidence in consideration for Commissioner vote
- T.C.A. § 49-13-108(5)



# NEW START APPEALS

- Commission Review
  - **De Novo** - “from the beginning”
    - **The commission shall review an amended application anew, without deference to the denial from the local district that preceded the appeal**
      - There is no presumption of correctness with regard to the local district decision
      - The amended application is the foundation of the Commission’s review



# NEW START APPEALS

- Commission Review
  - **On the Record** - the evidence under consideration by the Commission
    - Proposed Charter School's Amended Application, as submitted to the local district
    - Notice of appeal and related exhibits, as named in Commission rule
    - Commission Review Committee Capacity Interview and final rubric
    - Public Hearing, held in the LEA where the school proposes to locate
    - Any clarifying documentation, requested in accordance with Commission rule
    - Public Comments, both oral and written at the public hearing
  - Any information received outside of the record shall not be considered in the Commission's decision





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