



# TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

**REPLICATION  
APPLICATION PROCESS**

**APRIL 17, 2026**

# PRINCIPLES OF QUALITY AUTHORIZER

In line with State Board Policy 6.111, a quality authorizer:

- Grants charters only to applicants demonstrating high capacity for success.
- Conducts rigorous due diligence by evaluating written proposals and conducts substantive interview with the applicant.
- Compiles highly competent teams of internal and external evaluators with an understanding of the essential principals of charter school autonomy and accountability to conduct a review of the application.



# REPLICATION PATHWAY

- A dedicated pathway, application, and rubric were created by Public Chapter 275 for replicating proven high-quality models.
  - Intended to replicate schools with the same academic focus.
  - Available to sponsors with one school open for 1+ years.
  - Must apply to open in the geographic LEA the school currently operates in.
  - Replicating schools can apply to the local LEA or directly to the Commission.

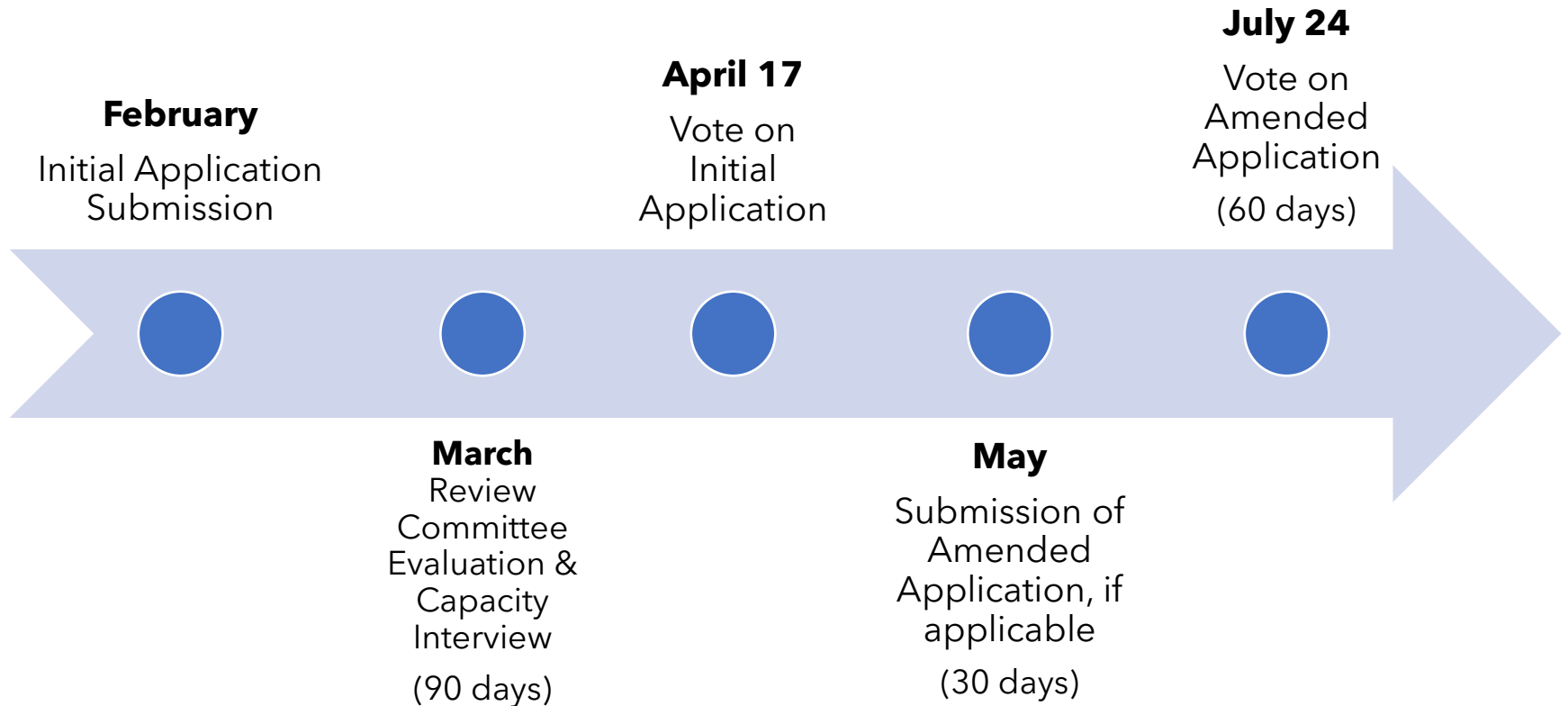


# ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

Name of School	District	Type of Application
Libertas High School	Tennessee Public Charter School Commission	Replication



# MILESTONES



# NEW START PROCESS COMPARISON

New Start Appeal	Direct Application
<b>De Novo Review</b> Commission re-examines everything in the record independently.	<b>Fresh Eyes Review</b> No prior district decision influencing the review.
<b>Considering Amended Application</b> The appeal includes the amended application that the district denied.	<b>Initial Application Followed by Amended Application</b> Applicants may amend only after initial Commission denial.
<b>Executive Director Recommendation</b> A comprehensive synthesis of the procedural history, technical analysis, and Review Committee findings, including testimony from the public hearing.	<b>Executive Director Recommendation</b> A finalized report consolidating the Review Committee's evaluation, the capacity interview results, and public hearing.
<b>Best Interest Determination Required</b> Appeals evaluate best interest of Student, LEA, or Community must be evaluated.	<b>Best Interest Not Applicable</b> Direct applications do not require a best-interest analysis.
<b>Decision bound by Record</b> No new materials may be considered beyond what LEA considered.	<b>Iterative Process</b> Applicants may clarify or submit new information during capacity interview and through amendment process, if applicable.
<b>Two Parties</b> The LEA and appellant are in dispute over denial of application and authorizer unclear.	<b>One Party</b> The Commission is the authorizer from the start.
<b>Public Hearing</b> Hearing documents the dispute and becomes part of the appeal record.	<b>Public Hearing Held During Initial Application Phase</b> Used to assess community support and not tied to a disputed record.

# **APPLICATION COMPONENTS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES**



# STAGES OF AN APPLICATION PROCESS

## 1. Evaluation of the Proposal:

- Independent review of the application, attachment, and budget
- Strengths, concerns, and questions identified by Review Committee
- Sections rates by consensus: Meets/Partially Meets/ Does not Meet
- Application must meet standard in all areas to receive recommendation for approval

## 2. Capacity Interview:

- A ninety-minute interview is conducted with the sponsor and members of the governing board.
- Sponsors address key concerns and the committee assess the capacity and readiness to execute the plan.

## 3. Public Hearing:

- Presided over by the Executive Director.
- Sponsor provides presentation, answers questions, and public comment is provided.
- Oral and written comments are entered into the official record.



# GUIDING QUESTIONS DURING REVIEW

In your review, focus on:

- A high-quality application supported by well thought out plans and evidence of success.
- Whether the school's model, people, finances, governance, and track record demonstrate the capacity to open successfully, serve all students, and sustain long-term performance.
- Are my concerns significant enough to undermine the school's overall readiness to open, based on major inconsistencies within the application, or align with the common root causes of charter school failure.
- Does the school demonstrate a readiness to open?



# ASSESSING DESIGN AND CAPACITY

## **To Meet Academic Indicators**

- A ready-to-implement, mission-aligned academic model with credible plans to serve all students and realistic enrollment grounded in community demand.

## **To Meet Operational Indicators**

- Experienced leadership, a capable board, and viable staffing and facilities, demonstrating readiness to manage first-year challenges.

## **To Meet Financial Indicators**

- A conservative, aligned budget with sustainable facilities, enrollment contingencies, and capacity to maintain positive cash flow.



# REPLICATION SPECIFIC INDICATORS

For organizations seeking to replicate an existing model, the rubric requires additional evidence of Network strength.

- Governing board readiness and capacity to launch additional school site
- A strong network performance record
- Sufficient network capacity to support a new school
- A clear, sustainable management fee/structure



# COMMISSIONER REVIEW OF THE RECORD



# REVIEW OF THE RECORD

- Commissioners must conduct a substantive review of the application materials and information obtained through public hearing and capacity interview.
- Applications must meet or exceed the standards in the State Board of Education's scoring rubric to be recommended for approval.
- Best Interest standards do not apply.



# APPLICATION DENIAL & AMENDMENT PROCESS

## Notification of Denial

- The Commission must provide objective reasons for any initial denial.
- This feedback ensures transparency and identifies specific areas for improvement.

## The Amendment Process, if necessary

- Sponsors have thirty calendar days from receipt of denial to submit an amended application.
- Applicants must address all identified deficiencies using tracked changes (or a similar method) to show resolutions.
- This phase does not require a capacity interview or public hearing.

## Final Determination

- The Commission will take action on amended applications at the July 2026 meeting.
- The Commission's decision on an amended application is final and not subject to appeal.





**THANK  
YOU!**