



TENNESSEE
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

School Year 2026-27 Pre-Opening Update

July 23, 2026

Pre-Opening Process

- The pre-opening process begins in November for all new or expanding schools.
- Commission staff has monthly check-ins with pre-opening schools, focused on the deliverables for that month.
- Commission staff host monthly training sessions to prepare schools on best practices.
- School walkthroughs are completed in late July before school begins.

Schools Approved to Open Fall 2026

School	Geographic District	Status
Jackson Museum School	Jackson-Madison County School System	Opening Fall 2026
Knowledge Academy at the Crossings	Metro Nashville Public Schools	Opening Fall 2026 (authorizer transition)
The Rock Academy	Metro Nashville Public Schools	Opening Fall 2027
Rocketship TN 4	Rutherford County Schools	Opening Fall 2027



Ready to Open Criteria

Item	Deliverables
Startup Plan	Updated timeline for “Ready to Open” items.
Facility	Identify suitable facility; submit construction scope & timeline (if needed); submit final lease/purchase agreement
Staffing	Hire head of school; adequate teachers per plan/enrollment
Enrollment	Submit preliminary enrollment projections; 75% enrolled by April 15, 100% by July 15
Financial Plan	Complete & board-approved operating budget; notify Commission if enrollment is off-track; Submit final approved budget.



Enrollment Trends

- Jackson Museum School demonstrated strong interest in a new option.
 - Currently over 100% enrolled.
- Knowledge Academy shows steady enrollment compared to the previous year.

Staffing Trends

- Jackson Museum School had strong interest from teachers looking to try a new model.
- Stable staffing for Knowledge Academy



Facility Trends

- Facilities continue to be one of the most difficult parts of the pre-opening process.
- For Jackson Museum School, located in a county new to charter schools:
 - Will open in a temporary facility while securing permanent facility.
 - Lease signed for temporary space, slated to begin school on-time on August 3.



Delaying Schools

- Rocketship TN4 chose to delay due to renovations needed on their facility and the timeline necessary to complete.
 - Facility has been purchased.
- The Rock Academy chose to delay due to enrollment challenges resulting from being the first opportunity school and narrow enrollment criteria for at-risk students.





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