



## Statement from The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

October 21, 2022

The Tennessee Public Charter School Commission was created by the Tennessee General Assembly in 2019 to serve as an independent state agency to hear and consider public charter school appeals and to serve as the authorizer of charter schools that receive approval by the Commission. The right for charter schools to appeal decisions made by local education authorities has been a part of our state's education landscape since 2002, beginning with the State Board of Education who held this responsibility until 2021. The intent behind creating the Commission three years ago was to create an independent state entity focused exclusively on reviewing charter school appeals and charter school authorizing and to ensure that only the highest quality public charter schools receive the Commission's authorization.

The path for any public charter schools always begins by applying directly to local boards of education, and the Commission only receives applications when a charter school is denied at the local level. Once an appeal is received, the Commission begins a rigorous, independent review process outlined in statute. The appeal process consists of a fresh review of the application, a public hearing in the district of the proposed school, and receipt of public comment. In an appeal, the Executive Director's recommendation is based on these key components of the process which are critically important as Commissioners deliberate on each charter school appeal. The Charter Commission received an unprecedented 13 new start appeals from applicants across the state in 2022. Of those 13 appeals, 3 received approval from the Commission, 6 were denied, and 4 withdrew from the process. The table below provides an overview of each appeal, and the Executive Director's recommendations are located [here](#). Please contact [Chase Ingle](#) if you have additional questions regarding any of these appeals.

Applicant	County	Outcome
American Classical Academy Rutherford	Rutherford	Withdrawn
American Classical Academy Madison	Madison	Withdrawn
American Classical Academy Montgomery	Montgomery	Withdrawn
Oxton Academy	Montgomery	Denied
KIPP Southeast Nashville College Prep Elementary	Davidson	Approved
KIPP Southeast Nashville College Prep Middle	Davidson	Approved
Saber STEM Academy	Davidson	Withdrawn
Founders Classical Academy of Brentwood	Williamson	Denied
Founders Classical Academy of Hendersonville	Sumner	Denied
Tennessee Nature Academy	Davidson	Approved
Binghampton Community School	Shelby	Denied
Tennessee Volunteer Military Academy	Shelby	Denied
Academy of the Arts Charter High School	Fayette	Denied