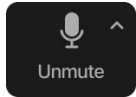


LEA-Authorized Charter Schools Monthly Call

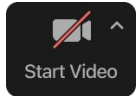


August 12, 2026

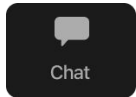
Zoom Meeting Preparation



- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”



- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”



- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.

If you require an interpreter or have other accessibility needs for future LDOE meetings, please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov.



Contact Information

Please provide your **name** and **email address** in the chat box. A copy of the presentation will be sent to you after this meeting.

To access slide decks from previous calls, you may visit the [LDOE Monthly Call](#) webpage.



Agenda

- Monthly Call Goals
- Key Dates
- Proposed 2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local Authorizers
- Proposed 2026-2027 RFA Timeline
- LEA Website Updates
- New Laws Guidance and Authorizer Resources
- Departmental Updates
 - Educator Evaluation
 - Safe and Healthy Schools
- Charter School Program Grant Updates



Monthly Call Goals



WELCOME

Goals for Local Authorizer Monthly Calls

To provide pertinent information and updates.

How will this be accomplished?

- Being **INTENTIONAL**
- Listening to your requests
- Each month provide reminders and upcoming key dates pertaining to the authorization process
- Each call will provide leaders with information tied to the Charter RFA process

REMINDER: Monthly calls are held every 2nd Wednesday @ 11:00 am



Key Dates



LDOE Submission Due Dates- Local Authorizers

Date	Action
Within the first five days of each school year	Act 782: Improper Images Information and Acknowledgement Form: Act 782 (2026) requires the principal of each public school, including charter schools, to disseminate information provided by the LDOE within the first five days of each school year to each student in grades six and above regarding the crime and consequences of unlawful dissemination or sale of images of another created by artificial intelligence and unlawful possession of images of another created by artificial intelligence. Please contact educationpolicy@la.gov with questions.
Within the first five days of each school year	Act 619: School Threat Accountability and Safety Act: Act 619 requires public school principals to inform students in grades 6–12 about the crimes and consequences of terrorizing or menacing school property, functions, and firearm-free zones. This information must be disseminated within the first five days of the school year, using the department-created form and implementation guidance . Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.



LDOE Submission Due Dates- Local Authorizers

Date	Action
August 14, 2026	Principal Development Cohort Opportunity: Designed exclusively for experienced school principals, these cohort meetings offer targeted professional development to strengthen instructional leadership. Applications will close August 14. Participation is limited to 75 principals. Please contact LouisianaLeaders@la.gov with questions.
September 1, 2026	K-8 School Literacy Plans Due: The updated Local Literacy Plan template can be found in the Literacy Library under Literacy Goals. This template reflects changes required by Act 964 (2026) for grades 4-8 literacy plans as well as the inclusion of guidance from the Tiered Pathways for Literacy Support (TPLS). Please contact Louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.



2025-2026 Annual Charter School Application Process Key Dates

To begin operation in 2027-28

Date	Annual RFA Process
January 29, 2026	Local school boards deadline to consider Type 1 and Type 3 charter applications.
January 30, 2026	Local school boards notify LDOE of board recommendations regarding the approval or denial of received applications is January 30, 2026 through the Jotform process.
March 30, 2026	LDOE submission deadline for the full application for Types 2 and 4 applicants.
➡ August 18, 2026	Types 2 and 4 Applicants: BESE considers applications for new charter schools.



2025-2026 Annual Charter School Application Process Updates

Applicant Name	Charter School Type	District
Great Hearts Lake Charles	Type 2	Calcasieu Parish
Slaughter Community Elementary School	Type 2	East Feliciana Parish

2026 Mid-Year Charter School Application Process Timeline

To begin operation in 2027-28

Date	Annual RFA Process
June 1, 2026	LDOE application opened for Type 2 and 4
June 8, 2026 (by 5 p.m.)	Letters of Intent were due to LDOE.
July 6, 2026 (by 5 p.m.)	Eligibility Determination Forms Due to LDOE.
July 20, 2026 (by 5 p.m.)	LDOE submission deadline for the full application for Types 2, 4, and 5 applicants.
December 8, 2026	Types 2 and 4 Applicants: BESE considers applications for new charter schools.

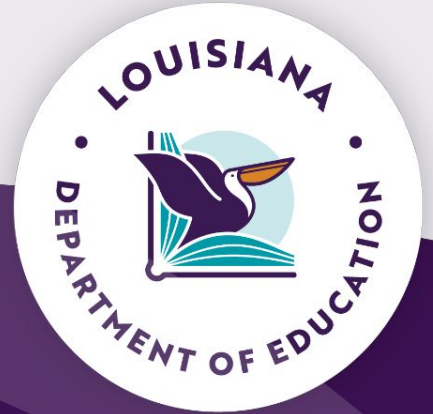


2026 Mid-Year Charter School Application Process Updates

Applicant Name	Charter School Type	District
Community Roots Leadership Academy	Type 2	East Baton Rouge Parish
Louisiana Community and Technical College Charter School	Type 2	East Baton Rouge Parish



2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local-Authorizers

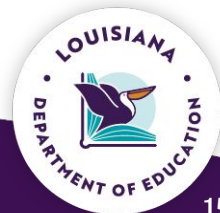


2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local-Authorizers

The LDOE will propose the **2026-2027 Charter Request for Applications (RFA)** timeline and **Common Charter Applications** for New and Experienced operators at the August 2026 BESE SIT Committee meeting, scheduled for August 18, 2026.

- LDOE will continue to offer the Annual and Mid-Year application process for BESE-authorized charter applicants.
- Schools awarded charters during this process are slated to open August 2028.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.



2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local-Authorizers

Upon approval by BESE, LDOE will release updated forms on the website by August 25th:

Updated Forms:

- Applicant Self-Assessment Completeness Checks (New/Experienced Operator)
- Eligibility Determination
- Common Charter Applications (New/Experienced Operator)
- Evaluation Rubric Standards (New/Experienced Operator)
- District Website Template
- RFA Overview Template

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.



2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local-Authorizers

The LDOE has revised the common charter school application for the 2026-2027 application cycle. The revision includes all required components outlined in Bulletin 126, §515.

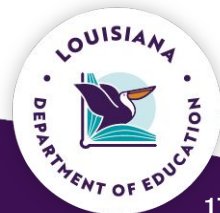
Application Types:

- New Operator
- Experienced Operator

Addendums to Application:

- High School
- Corporate Partnership
- Updated: Educational Service Provider/Charter Management Organization
- New: Network Operator
- Virtual Operator

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.



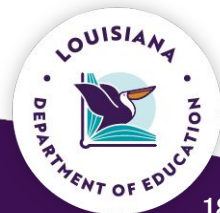
2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local-Authorizers

The Charter Request for Applications Evaluation Rubric, used as a guide for reviewing and evaluating charter applications by the third-party independent evaluator, has been updated for the 2026-2027 RFA Cycle.

Guidelines regarding the utilization of the rubric:

- Local authorizers may use these standards in the local evaluation process, but are not required.
- Charter applicants typically use these standards as a guide throughout the development of the charter application and as a rubric against which to evaluate the completeness and quality of the charter application.
- The Louisiana Department of Education uses these standards as the basis for the third-party review conducted by an independent third-party team of reviewers.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.



2026-2027 RFA Cycle for Local-Authorizers

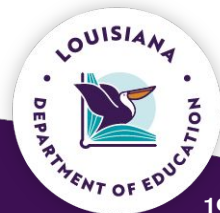
The Charter Application Evaluation Rubric includes two sets of standards:

- Standards that apply to specific pieces of evidence presented in the application, and
- Founding Team Capacity Interview standards that apply to board members and the school leader(s) through interview and performance task measures.

Revisions from 2025-2026 Rubric:

- Reduction of duplicative standards
- Revision of ESP Addendum standards to include Charter Management Organizations
- Addition of Network Operator Addendum standards

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.



2026-2027 RFA Timeline Proposal



Proposed 2026-2027 Charter RFA Timeline

Proposed Date	Action	Details
August 24, 2026	LDOE releases common applications and toolboxes with application resources.	Available on LDOE website .
September 8, 2026	Local district authorizers release Charter Requests for Applications, Timeline, Process, and Point of Contact.	Local Authorizers must provide application, process outline, and point of contact for submission of applications to the district on their website.
October 19, 2026	Local school board submission deadline for the full application for Type 1 and Type 3 applicants.	Type 1 and 3 applications shall not be accepted after this date.
November 2, 2026	Local school board deadline to notify LDOE and state legislators of charter applications received within each district.	Submit notification: Jotform
January 28, 2027	Local school board deadline to consider Type 1 and Type 3 charter applications.	Local school board action required by this date.
January 29, 2027	Local school board deadline to notify LDOE of board recommendations.	Submit notification: Jotform
February 1, 2027	LDOE Annual application opens for Type 2 and Type 4 applicants.	Denied applicants may apply as a Type 2 or Type 4



Common Charter Application: Updates

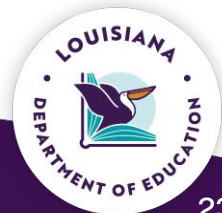


Common Charter Application: Updates

In the summer, LDOE Office of School Choice engaged with several stakeholders to garner input on the charter application and overall RFA process. LDOE reviewed the input and made improvements to the application and process.

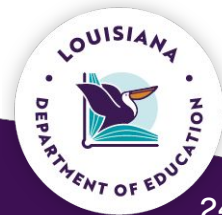
Stakeholders Consulted:

- LDOE Internal Review Committee
- Louisiana Association of Public and Charter Schools (LAPCS)
- Local District Authorizers



Common Charter Application: Updates

- Revision of Eligibility Determination to include Corporate Partnership and Vocational/Technical Education application routes
- Provision of Key Terms to provide applicants clarification on Charter terms, ie. Charter Network, Charter Operator, and Education Service Provider/Charter Management Organization.
- Update to background check process
- Refinement of questions and standards per stakeholder feedback and National Charter organization best practices.



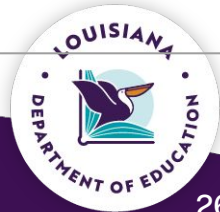
Common Charter Application: Updates

Executive Summary Revisions	Corresponding Application Question(s) Revised on the Common Application-Experienced Operator Version
ES. 3 Consolidated prompt and specified an enrollment table be utilized for response. ES. 5 Added district submission and the outcome of the submission(s) to the prompt.	3. Education Plan. Provide an overview of the education program of the proposed school, including major instructional methods. a. Using an enrollment table, specify the grade levels to be served each year for the full term of the contract. Include the minimum and maximum budgeted enrollment per year for the term of the contract. b. Summarize what the proposed school would do more effectively than the schools that are now serving the targeted population. c. If virtual, please see the addendum for additional questions. 5. Applicant groups that have submitted charter applications to the local district or the LDOE previously; list the dates of previous submissions and the outcome of the submission(s). a. Explain how you have taken the feedback from previous evaluations to reflect and revise the application. b. Address the deficiencies identified in the most recent evaluation and describe the changes made. c. Describe any changes to board leadership or school leadership since the most recent application.



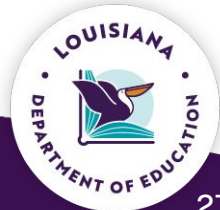
Common Charter Application: Updates

Educational Program and Capacity Revisions	Corresponding Application Question(s) Revised on the Common Application-Experienced Operator Version
EPC.6 Added an additional component to School Establishment to capture enrollment and population trends in the community identified.	6. Provide a clear and concise overview of the community you seek to serve, highlighting elements critical to success in serving the intended population. a. Provide the applicant's rationale for selecting the community; b. Performance of local schools in the community that serve a similar student population; c. Enrollment and population trends in the community identified; d. How the proposed school would serve the community you seek to serve more effectively than the schools that are now serving the intended community; and e. Explanations of any partnerships or contractual relationships central to the school's operations or mission.
Renamed Academic Plan to School Model to align with content of prompts on EPC.9	School Model 9. Provide a clear and concise overview of the proposed school model, highlighting the key design elements of the school model critical to its success in serving the intended student population, including: a. (Revised) The key design elements that reflect the school's model and mission; b. A clear rationale for the school model and key design elements, citing research and evidence of success for improving academic achievement with similar student populations, or for innovative or untested models, a strong rationale for the likelihood of success; and c. Any differences in the proposed school model from existing schools operated by the non-profit organization.



Common Charter Application: Updates

Educational Program and Capacity Revisions	Corresponding Application Question(s) Revised on the Common Application-Experienced Operator Version
EPC.12 Removed two items within the prompt that were duplicative.	12. List and provide a detailed description of the charter school's measurable academic goals aligned to LEAP 2025, ACT, and graduation rate (as applicable) reflecting where the school envisions itself academically for each of the first five years of operation taking into consideration the proposed student population, including: a. How the proposed school will establish baseline data; and b. A plan for collecting data in accordance with R.S. 17:3911; c. A plan to establish student performance goals; and d. Core components of professional development and how these components will support effective implementation of the educational program.



Common Charter Application: Updates

Educational Program and Capacity Revisions	Corresponding Application Question(s) Revised on the Common Application-Experienced Operator Version
EPC.14 Removed one component of prompt and reordered response requirements.	14. Describe the primary diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments the school will use to evaluate student knowledge and skills. This response should: a. Describe each assessment purpose, design, format, and rationale for its selection; b. If adopting or developing additional academic standards beyond state and authorizer standards, explain the types of standards (content area), the development process, how these additional standards exceed the state and authorizer standards; c. Provide exit standards that clearly set forth what students will know and be able to do. d. Describe how the school will collect and analyze assessment results; e. Describe how instructional leaders and teachers will use the assessment data to inform programmatic and instructional planning decisions and adjust instruction, curricula, and professional development; and f. (Revised) Describe the core components of professional development and how these components will support effective implementation of the educational program.



Common Charter Application: Updates

Educational Program and Capacity Revisions	Corresponding Application Question(s) Revised on the Common Application-Experienced Operator Version
EPC.16 Include component outlined within rubric into the prompt.	16. Describe approach to student discipline, behavior intervention, and classroom management. Highlight key policies, systems, and structure related to these areas, including: a. Describe how the school will communicate its approach and related policies to students and families; b. Explain interventions and consequences the school will use as alternatives to exclusionary discipline; c. Explain disciplinary policies and procedures for all students, including students with exceptionalities, that incorporate research-based discipline practices, in accordance with R.S. 17.252; d. The system the school will use to monitor the suspension and expulsion and the approach that will be taken if data suggests disproportionate or over-identification of any subgroup; e. The supervision plan for the alternate setting of suspended/expelled students; and f. The proposed school's policies to protect and outline a student's right to due process and the process by which a student or family may appeal the school's decision to expel a student.



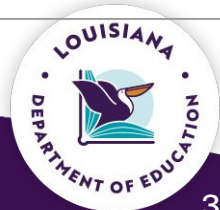
Common Charter Application: Updates

Organizational Plan and Capacity Revisions	Corresponding Application Question(s) Revised on the Common Application-Experienced Operator Version
Remove OPC.23 due to updated policy exemptions	23. Provide the teacher-student ratio, as well as the ratio of total adults to students for the school.
Financial Plan and Capacity Revisions	Corresponding Application Question(s) Revised on the Common Application-Experienced Operator Version
Addition of FPC.40 for Year 0 (pre-planning) funding and expenditures prior to MFP.	40. Provide a narrative describing Year 0 funding and expenses which specify how expenses will be budgeted prior to initial minimum foundation plan (MFP) funding disbursement.



Common Charter Application: Updates

High School Addendum	Corresponding Application Question(s) Revised on the Common Application-Experienced Operator Version
Removed Appendix 9 and HSA.2 due to duplicative prompts; consolidated into HSA.3 and associated appendix.	Appendix 9: Provide an outline of course offerings by diploma type(s) offered at the proposed school by grade level for the first five years of operation. 2. Identify the Advanced Placement course offerings, International Baccalaureate, Dual Enrollment, ACT preparation, and Career and Technical Education courses you will offer to students, as well as a rationale for choosing these programs/curricula. 3. What Industry-Based Certificate assessments will be offered to students on a Jump Start 2.0 pathway and provide rationale for these selections. Include, as Appendix 9, a table identifying the Advanced Placement course offerings, International Baccalaureate, Dual Enrollment, ACT preparation, and Career and Technical Education courses you will offer to students by grade level during the first five years of operation. Additionally: - Describe the reasoning for those selections including the alignment to in-demand occupations;; - How those selections will result in career opportunities for the proposed student population; - The use of community resources (if applicable); and - How the budget will support the additional training and/or certifications needed.



Common Charter Application: Updates

Educational Service Provider Addendum	Corresponding Application Question(s) Revised on the Common Application-Experienced Operator Version
Included Charter Management Organizations within Educational Service Provider Addendum	For all applicants intending to contract with an Educational Service Provider (ESP) or a Charter Management Organization (CMO), the following must be completed. The page limit for the Educational Services Provider (ESP)/Charter Management Organization (CMO) Addendum is 5 pages (excluding appendices).
Network Operator Addendum	Corresponding Application Question(s) Revised on the Common Application-Experienced Operator Version
Added a new addendum for network operators	For all applicants who will operate as an existing network or who will become a network upon approval of the proposed school, the following must be completed. The page limit for the Network Operator Addendum is 5 pages (excluding appendices).



Common Charter Application: Updates

Virtual Operator Addendum	Corresponding Application Question(s) Revised on the Common Application-Experienced Operator Version
Removed duplicative prompt requirement for VOA.2 (b. and f. duplicative)	2. Provide a detailed plan that includes the following: a. A plan to acquire and disseminate technology to students; b. A plan to ensure internet safety and filtering practices; c. A plan to ensure that the loss of instructional time will be minimized in the event of unforeseen technical difficulties; d. A plan to provide training and technical support on the LMS to families, and students; e. A staff/teacher acceptable use policy for technology that complies with R.S. 17:3996(21); and f. A school electronic communication policy that complies with the federal Child Internet Protection Act and R.S. 17:100.7, including information on school Internet safety and filtering practices and policies.



LEA Website Updates



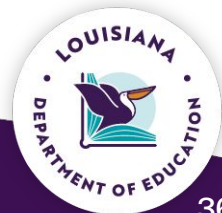
LEA Website Updates

- Districts are required to report to the LDOE the following information:
 - Charter Applicants:
 - Name of foundation and personnel submitting the application to LDOE by November 2, 2025 using the following [Jotform link](#).
 - Decisions regarding each applicant to LDOE by January 29, 2027 using the following [Jotform link](#).
 - Per August 2024 Bulletin 126 update, applicants are now required to report their submission to the local authorizer and may use the [Jotform link](#).
 - Charter Renewals:
 - Extensions by school and contract dates.
 - Closures by school and dates to begin the transition process in January.



LEA Website Updates

- District Charter Application Process Website Template- Districts may utilize the website template to comply with charter application process website requirements.
- Use of the template is optional. You may choose to use the website template as a foundation and add to it if you would like.
- To ensure compliance with the charter application process posting law articulated in RS 17:3982, all information pertaining to the application process must be posted no later than September 8, 2026.



New Laws Guidance and Authorizer Resources



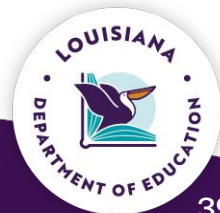
New Laws Guidance and Authorizer Resources

- NACSA- [Multiple Measures for Evaluating School Performance](#)
 - Upcoming [NACSA Conference](#) October 27-29, 2026
- LAPCS- [New Laws Guide](#)
 - Upcoming [LAPCS Conference](#) December 10, 2026
- LDOE- [Charter School Library](#)
 - Subscribe to the LDOE [Newsletter](#)
 - [Monthly Call Slide Decks](#)
- Excellence in Authorizing Consortium
 - Contact megan.thompson2@la.gov for more information.



New Laws Guidance and Authorizer Resources

- District Charter Application Process Website Template
- Eligibility Determination Form
- 2026-2027 Annual Common Charter Application (New/Experienced Operator)
- 2026-2027 Application Evaluation Standards Rubric (New/Experienced Operator)
- 2026-2027 Annual Common Charter Completeness Check (New/Experienced Operator)
- Overview Template
- [Applicant Self-Report of Submission to Local Authorizer](#)



Educator Evaluation Updates



LES Reminders

- Systems should be finalizing 2025-2026 educator evaluations in LES. Evaluations can be finalized (including VAM teachers) if all components are complete. VAM scores will be added on the backend when available. The deadline for 2025-2026 educator evaluation data is November 30.
- Evaluations should be marked incomplete for any employee who should have been evaluated but did not receive an evaluation. Refer to [Bulletin 130](#) for conditions that allow an evaluation to be marked incomplete.
- For the 2026-2027 evaluation period, staff extract data must be uploaded to Edlink 360 before evaluations can begin. This includes updated position codes, locations, and assignments.

Contact leads@la.gov with questions.

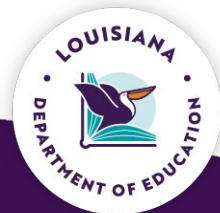


LEADS Evaluation and Training

System leaders should utilize the [Evaluation Implementation Guidance for System Leaders](#), located in the [LEADS Library](#), to prepare for the upcoming year.

- Training is required for all first time evaluators and observers utilizing the Louisiana Educator Rubric, Louisiana Leader Rubric, and Louisiana Counselor Rubric. [Register](#) on Eventbrite for selected training.
- Currently certified evaluators should take the **mandatory** 2026-2027 evaluator certification assessment by September 30.

Additional information is available in the [LEADS Evaluation FAQ](#).



Alternate Observation Rubric

- LEADS evaluations are required for all teachers, counselors, and school leaders.
- Systems may apply annually to use an [alternate rubric](#) for the observation component of evaluation; however, all other components are required.
 - The waiver is due on June 30 each year.
 - The rubric must align and follow a rating scale of 1-5.
 - Evaluators will still take an annual evaluator assessment.



Safe and Healthy Schools Updates



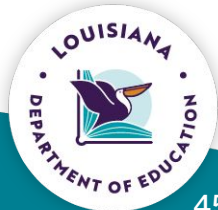
Student Suicide Prevention Awareness Act

ACT 548 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session, requires each public and approved nonpublic middle and high schools to post suicide hotline information, including the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, on school websites and, when applicable, on student identification cards to increase awareness and access to crisis support resources.

Schools are required to:

- Post the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline information prominently on their school website.
- Include the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline information on student identification cards, if the school issues ID cards to students

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.



Digital Device Guidelines

The [Digital Devices Guidelines](#), developed in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Health and other stakeholders, provide school systems with health and safety resources for the effective integration of digital devices in schools.

The resources are intended to provide school systems with age-appropriate time and usage guidelines regarding various [digital devices](#).

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.



Charter School Program Grant Updates



CSP Subgrant Application Cycle Open

Year 4 CSP Application Timeline

- Request for Applications (RFA) opened June 15, 2026
- Letter of Intent due July 30, 2026
 - Technical Assistance Webinars - August 4-13
- Eligibility Determination Forms due August 20, 2026
- Subgrant Application due September 6, 2026

For schools that intend to expand or replicate, “high-quality” metrics will be measured using 2025 performance.

Tentatively, our office intends to make award recommendations at the December BESE.

For more information

please contact tammy.morgan3@la.gov or csprgrant@la.gov



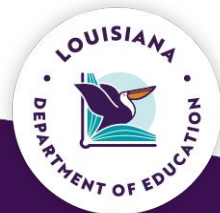
CSP Grant - Supplemental Funding

Recipient districts and LEAs continue to draw down supplemental funding awards.

As a reminder, the funding period will last through June 30, 2027, allowing schools to utilize funding toward the key initiatives supported by the State.

For more information

please contact tammy.morgan3@la.gov or cspgrant@la.gov



Helpful Links

Resource	Description
<u>Charter School Library</u>	This webpage includes links to charter school finance, guidance, reviews, and pre-opening information.
<u>Newsletter</u>	This webpage offers a links to all newsletters offered by the LDOE.
<u>Charter Inbox</u>	Please reach out to us through the Charter Inbox with your questions.



Questions

For further inquiries, please reach out to:

Charter Authorization

charters@la.gov

Ex. Director of Charter Authorization

Jade.Gambino@la.gov



Upcoming LEA-Authorized Charter Monthly Call



September 9, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

Topics: Local Authorization Requirements,
Application Review Best Practices, Legislative
Updates

