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**LDE Monthly Call for  
Local Charter Authorizers**  
August 10, 2022

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# Agenda

1. Louisiana Charter Schools Overview
2. Common Charter School Application
3. Updates to the Common Charter Application and Process
4. Local Authorizer Actions
  - a. What is required
  - b. What to have prepared and when

# A charter school is an independent public school

1. Improve pupil learning;
2. Increase learning opportunities and access to quality education for pupils;
3. Increase educational opportunities for students in formerly failing schools;
4. Increase learning choices for families;
5. Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods;
6. Require appropriate assessments and measurement of academic results;
7. Account better for educational results;
8. Create new opportunities for teachers and staff;
9. Provide competition within the system to stimulate improvement; and
10. Expand the capacity of the public school system





# Louisiana Charter School Types: Locally Authorized

Charter Type	Definition	Authorizer	Governance
<b>Type 1</b>	A new school operated as a result of a charter between the nonprofit corporation created to operate the school and a local school board	Local School Board	Non-profit Board of Directors
<b>Type 3</b>	A preexisting public school converted and operated as the result of and pursuant to a charter between a nonprofit corporation and the local school board	Local School Board	Non-profit Board of Directors
<b>Type 3B</b>	A former Type 5 charter school transferred from the Recovery School District to the administration and management of the transferring local school system	Local School Board	Non-profit Board of Directors

# Louisiana Charter School Types: BESE Authorized

Charter Type	Definition	Authorizer	Governance
<b>Type 2</b>	A new school or a preexisting public school converted and operated as the result of a charter between the nonprofit corporation created to operate and BESE	BESE	Non-profit Board of Directors
<b>Type 4</b>	A preexisting public school converted and operated or a new school operated as the result of and pursuant to a charter between a local school board and BESE	BESE	Local School Board
<b>Type 5</b>	A preexisting public school transferred to the Recovery School District (RSD) as a school determined to be failing pursuant to state statute and operated as the result of and pursuant to a charter between a nonprofit corporation and BESE	BESE	Non-profit Board of Directors

Charter Type	Creation	Authorizer	Governance	Total # of Schools (10/1/2021)	Total Students Served (10/1/2021)
Type 1	Charter school is a new school operated as a result of and pursuant to a charter between the nonprofit corporation created to operate the school and a local school board.	Local School Board	Non-profit Board of Directors	53	26,456
Type 2	Charter school is a new school or a preexisting public school converted and operated as the result of and pursuant to a charter between the nonprofit corporation created to operate and BESE.	BESE	Non-profit Board of Directors	40	25,741
Type 3	Charter school is a preexisting public school converted and operated as the result of and pursuant to a charter between a nonprofit corporation and the local school board.	Local School board	Non-profit Board of Directors	14	11,748
Type 3B	Charter school is a former Type 5 charter school transferred from the Recovery School District to the administration and management of the transferring local school system.	Local School board	Non-profit Board of Directors	33	21,009
Type 4	Charter school is a preexisting public school converted and operated or a new school operated as the result of and pursuant to a charter between a local school board and BESE.	BESE	Local School Board	1	394
Type 5	Charter school is a preexisting public school transferred to the Recovery School District (RSD) as a school determined to be failing pursuant to state statute and operated as the result of and pursuant to a charter between a nonprofit corporation and BESE.	BESE	Non-profit Board of Directors	5	1,594



# Common Charter Application

BESE Bulletin 126 states that:

- BESE shall approve at least one charter cycle per year
- This is commonly referred to as the Charter School Application Timeline
- A framework of all BESE requests for applications must be submitted to BESE by the department prior to the release of the request
- The application questions shall consist of questions in the following areas: executive summary, education program design and capacity, organizational plan and capacity, and financial plan and capacity
- Each local school board shall use a common charter application developed by the department and approved by BESE

# Application Components

In accordance with Bulletin 126:

- Charter school application questions shall consist of questions in the following areas: executive summary, education program design and capacity, organizational plan and capacity, and financial plan and capacity
- If the school intends to contract with an education service provider, the application shall require additional information
- The charter school application questions for all types of charter schools shall address 54 required application components



# Application Components

Component	Corresponding Question
Rationale and purpose for seeking to serve the proposed student population	<p>Describe the anticipated student population the school seeks to serve. Explain how the intended student population is representative of the demographics of the location. Provide rationale for seeking to serve this population.</p> <p>Describe the strategy to recruit and enroll the intended student population including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Process, timeline, and requirements for parents and students to apply;</li><li>b. Identification of potential barriers to access to the school and explain how the school mitigate the barriers;</li><li>c. Description of the admission policy for the school, including any preferences; and</li><li>d. Explanation of lottery procedures (if applicable).</li></ul>

# Application Types

- New Operator
- Experienced Operator
- Virtual School Application

Required of all applications:

- Overview Template





# Improvements to the Common Charter Application

- In the spring and summer, LDE engaged with several stakeholders to garner input on the charter application and overall RFA process
  - Prior applicants
  - Local authorizers
  - LDE Internal Review Committee
  - SchoolWorks, Inc.
  - Stakeholder organizations
- Office of School Choice reviewed the input and, in addition to changes from the OSC, made improvements to the application and process

# Improvements to the Common Charter Application

Some highlights of the *improvements to the application* include:

- Streamlining application and standards
  - Removing redundant questions and standards
- Improved clarity in verbage
- Using existing data for experienced operator performance
- Clearer alignment with policy (Bulletin 126)
- Removing non-evaluated questions
- Increased page limits for applicant categories with additional questions (ESP, High School, Corporate Partnerships)
- Removal of questions not required in policy that are in the pre-opening process
- Removed questions that referenced the Overview Template (review of template will be included separately as a completeness check)



# Improvements to the BESE Charter Application Process

Some highlights of the *improvements to the process* include:

- Application timeline for both local and state RFA processes in one academic year
  - Clearer for applicants
  - Full planning year for all new schools
- Strengthening the iterative process for applicants to have an opportunity to succeed
- Additional feedback provided prior to the capacity interviews
- Additional touch points for applicants on the process and opportunities to ask procedural questions
- More targeted capacity interview tasks specific to applicant, while having a consistent structure
- A crosswalk of changes from prior application to the updated one

Improvement to questions or sections of questions	# of Questions	Example (new charter application)
Removed unnecessary questions or parts of questions	8	Does the school plan to seek approval to participate in athletics with the Louisiana High School Athletic Association?
Removed similar questions	6	<p><b>Removed:</b> Why is the proposed school a good fit for the previously identified community and students?</p> <p><b>Addressed in:</b> Provide a narrative analysis of the community you seek to serve in the proposed school including: [...]</p> <p>c. Performance of local schools in the community that serve a similar student population in meeting the community’s need; and</p> <p>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.</p> <p>e. Based on your outreach, research, and understanding of the community and students you seek to serve, what are the main challenges to the success of the students in the community you seek to serve? What does your proposed school intend to do to address these challenges?</p>
Streamlined or clarified questions	11	<p>Provide a narrative analysis of the community you seek to serve in the proposed school including: [...]</p> <p><b>Original:</b> Performance of local schools in meeting the community’s need</p> <p><b>Update:</b> Performance of local schools in the community that serve a similar student population</p>



# 2022-23 Charter Application Proposed Timeline

Date	Process
August 29, 2022	LDE releases common application and toolbox with application resources
September 7, 2022	Local school authorizers release Charter Request for Applications, Timeline, Process, and Point of Contact
October 28, 2022	Local school boards submission deadline for the full application for Type 1 and Type 3 applicants
January 20, 2023	Local school boards deadline to consider Type 1 and Type 3 charter applications
April 21, 2023	LDE submission deadline for the full application for Types 2, 4, and 5 applicants
August 22, 2023	Types 2, 4, and 5 Applicants: BESE considers applications for new charter schools

# Charter Request for Applications Timeline Update

- Changes to the timeline such that the local cycle and the BESE cycle may take place within one academic year
- Application and review windows remain the same
- Shifting the timeline up by two months
  - Both the local and state RFA processes occur on a timeline that is more logical for both authorizers and applicants
  - Process will begin and end in the same school year (August- August)
- All charters will have at least a year for the pre-opening and planning processes prior to opening



# Charter Request for Applications 2022-23

## Local Authorizer RFA Process Notes

- Common charter application (and overview template) must be used, but additional questions may be added
- Evaluation process can be determined by local authorizer
  - Third-party independent review is mandated
  - Additional review/information/considerations is up to local systems
- LDE standards are used as a guide
  - Clarified standards will be released

# Charter Request for Applications 2021-22

## What to have ready now

1. Websites must be updated by **September 7th** to provide:
  - a. all forms required for submission of a charter proposal (common charter application, overview template, required eligibility documentation, etc.)
  - b. the timelines established for accepting and reviewing charter proposals
  - c. the process that will be used to review charter proposals submitted to the board
  - d. the name and contact information for a primary point of contact for charter proposals
2. Have third party independent review contractor selected or in place
3. Applicant Orientation
  - a. prior to full application submission
  - b. application process information
  - c. expectations/evaluation process



# Charter Request for Applications 2021-22

## What to be planning for

1. Board meeting/ public hearing prior to vote
  - a. public input
2. Plan for board meeting in December/January for recommendations
  - a. Start board engagement soon
  - b. Reviews should be completed by the end of December
3. Notifying each state senator and state representative in whose district the charter school is to be located that application has been submitted
  - a. date submitted
  - b. local school system
  - c. charter type
  - d. location of proposed school

# September Authorizer Monthly Call

1. Applicant eligibility and completeness checks
2. Application review
  - Required components in policy
  - Review process components and best practices
3. Required actions of local school systems