



# St. Tammany Parish Public Schools

## Charter School Orientation Session

October 3, 2024

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# Agenda

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WELCOME

AUTHORIZER EXPECTATIONS

EXPECTATIONS FOR HIGH-QUALITY  
APPLICATIONS

APPLICATION SCHEDULE

EVALUATION CRITERIA



## Welcome

- ◆ Participant introductions
  - PFM
  - St. Tammany Parish Schools
  - Applicants



## Authorizer Expectations: District's Role

- ◆ Authorizers oversee the school application process and approve new schools; hold existing schools accountable; and provide support
  - Develop the charter application timeline, in compliance with state regulations
  - Oversee the application process
  - Provide support for existing schools
  - Rely on the independent outside contractor to evaluate the applications and to provide a recommendation
  - Approval decisions are made by the School Board



## Applicant's Role

- ◆ Submit all required materials on time by the specified dates
- ◆ Adhere to formatting requirements specified by BESE
- ◆ Include all required elements of the application, including:
  - Completeness check
  - Assurances form
  - Executive summary
  - Completed application



## Expectation for High-Quality Applications: Applicant Requirements

- ◆ Louisiana nonprofit organization
  - Registered and in good standing with the Louisiana Secretary of State
- ◆ Three certified Louisiana teachers must participate in the development of the charter application
- ◆ Free of any sectarian or religious affiliation
- ◆ Free of any entanglements with an existing private school
- ◆ Application cannot reflect the conversion of an existing private school, have overlapping board or staff membership, or substantially shared property or other assets (excluding leases)
- ◆ Free of any legal entanglements or history of adverse legal action



## Applicant Track Qualifications

| Track                 | Qualifications  |
|-----------------------|---|
| New Operators         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nonprofit organization whose primary members (founder and/or proposed school leader) do not have prior experience in leading or managing a public school; and</li><li>• Who do not intend to employ an educational service provider (ESP) with prior experience in leading or managing public schools</li></ul>   |
| Experienced Operators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nonprofit organization whose primary members (founder and/or proposed school leader) have prior experience in leading or managing a single public school; and/or</li><li>• Nonprofit organization which has operated more than one charter school; and/or</li><li>• Nonprofit organization which intends to employ an ESP which has operated more than one charter school</li></ul> |



## Types of Charter Schools Authorized by St. Tammany Parish School Board

| Type   | Description   |
|--------|---|
| Type 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A new school operated as the result of and pursuant to a charter between the nonprofit corporation created to operate the school and a local school board</li></ul> |
| Type 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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</li></ul>  |





## Application Schedule

| Task   | Date  |
|--|---|
| Orientation session  | October 3, 2024                                 |
| Applications due   | October 25                                      |
| Interview  | November 6                                      |
| Initial evaluator memo sent to applicant by School Board           | November 12                                     |
| Public meeting on charter application                              | November 14                                     |
| Deadline for applicant to respond to initial memo                  | November 18                                     |
| Final independent evaluation and recommendations to applicant      | December 4                                      |
| School Board makes decision to approve or deny application         | December 12<br>(Scheduled School Board meeting) |
| Last day for School Board to decide to approve or deny application | January 17, 2025                                |



## Evaluation Criteria: Evaluation Standards

- Will closely follow Louisiana DOE rubric, and BESE is updating the rubric for 2024-25
  - Executive Summary
  - Educational Program & Capacity
  - Growth Plan (*Experienced Operators only*)
  - Organizational Plan & Capacity
  - Financial Plan & Capacity
  - *High School Addendum (if applicable)*
  - *Corporate Partnerships Addendum (if applicable)*
  - *Educational Services Provider Addendum (if applicable)*
  - *Virtual Operator Addendum (if applicable)*

| Independent Evaluation Team Review |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Rating                             | Characteristics   |
| Meets the Standard                 | The response reflects a thorough understanding of key issues. It addresses the topic with specific and accurate information that shows thorough preparation; presents a clear, realistic picture of how the school expects to operate; and inspires confidence in the applicant's capacity to carry out the plan effectively. |
| Does Not Meet the Standard         | The response is wholly undeveloped or significantly incomplete; demonstrates lack of preparation; or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the viability of the plan or the applicant's ability to carry it out.  |

# Questions?



pfm