



Innovation Network School Information and Q&A

**Lunch and Learn
Tuesday Oct. 8 2024
~Follow up to Info Session on 9/18**



Things To Know

- Session will be recorded and shared.
- This is more Q and A driven and in response to the first Info Session on Sept. 18. Please watch that session for basic info.
- OE Representatives are in attendance listening in. Since they submitted their Charter Application, they will not take an active role in this presentation but can field questions at the end.
- Staff from the Indiana Charter Innovation Center are on the call and will share some information as objective experts.
- You may submit questions during the presentation. We will try to answer as many questions as possible at the end of the presentation.
- Questions not addressed will be added to online FAQ.

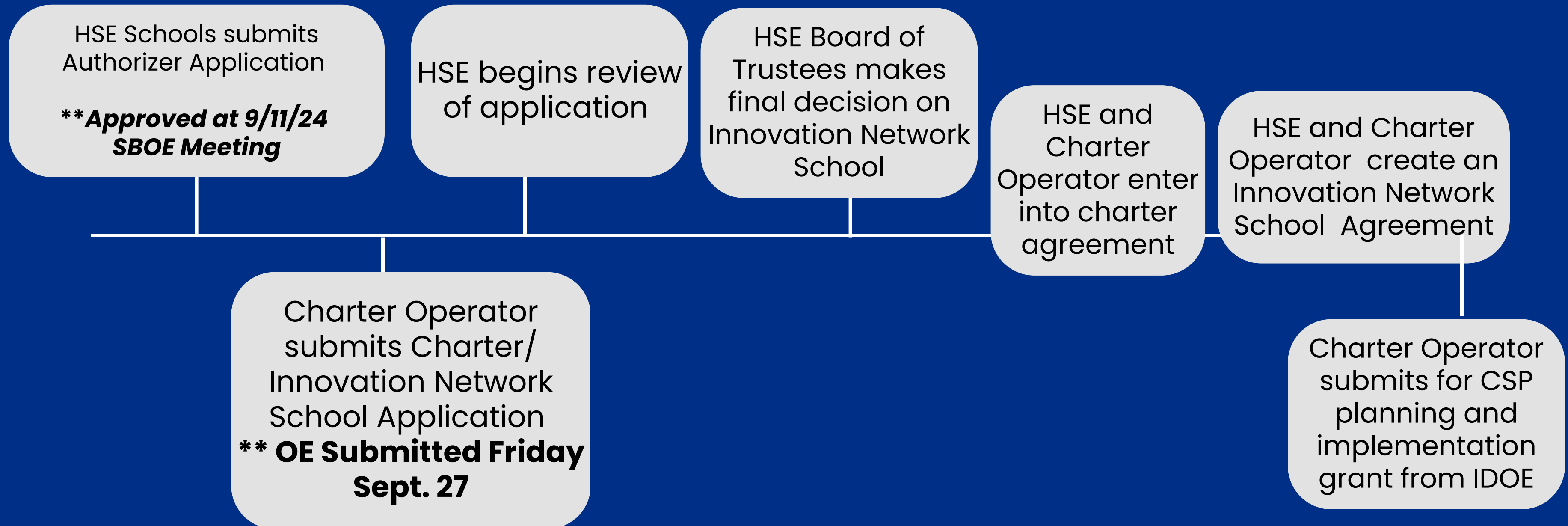


Summary of Stats

- To transition from JEL/TPI, HSE Schools must stand-up 19 CTE programs
- 88 students who initially enrolled in CTE programs in the Spring did not stay in the programs by the Fall.
- Specific programs, such as cosmetology, do not have the capacity to meet student interest; resulting in waitlists
- Our in-house CTE programs are at or exceeding capacity with limited facility space for growth.
 - Staffing will also need to be scaled to meet demand
- Currently serving 7% of HSE 9–12 students; Serving 13% of students in grades 11–12
- HSE will pay roughly \$650,000 to CTE providers for the 2024–25 school year
- Assuming capacity could be built to meet the needs of 26% of students, the cost would total around \$2.4 million annually on tuition for these opportunities, with limited capacity



Possible Timeline

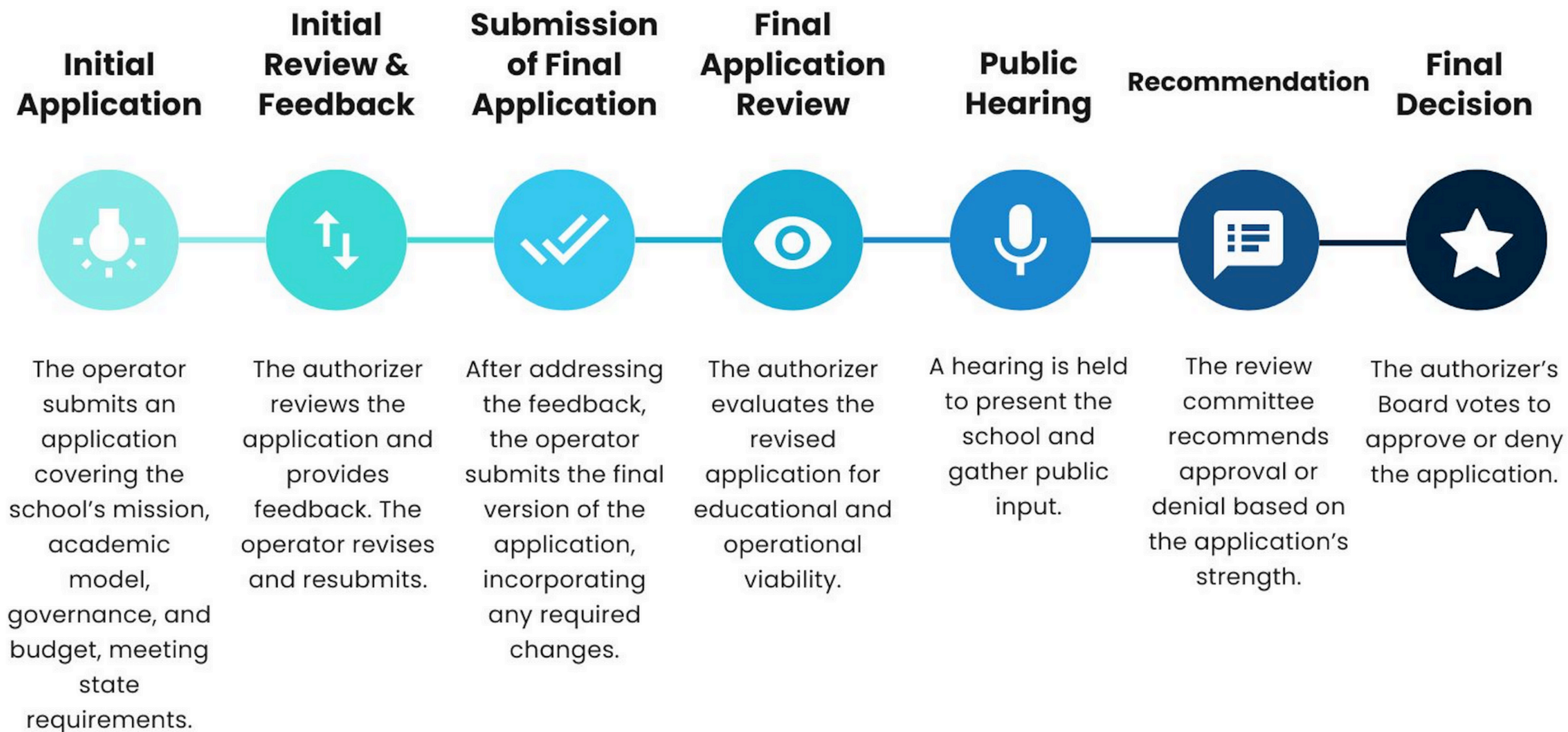


- **Should partnership move forward...**
 - **Shifting to a goal of a 2026–2027 opening**
 - **Timeline is fluid and dependent on property procurement**

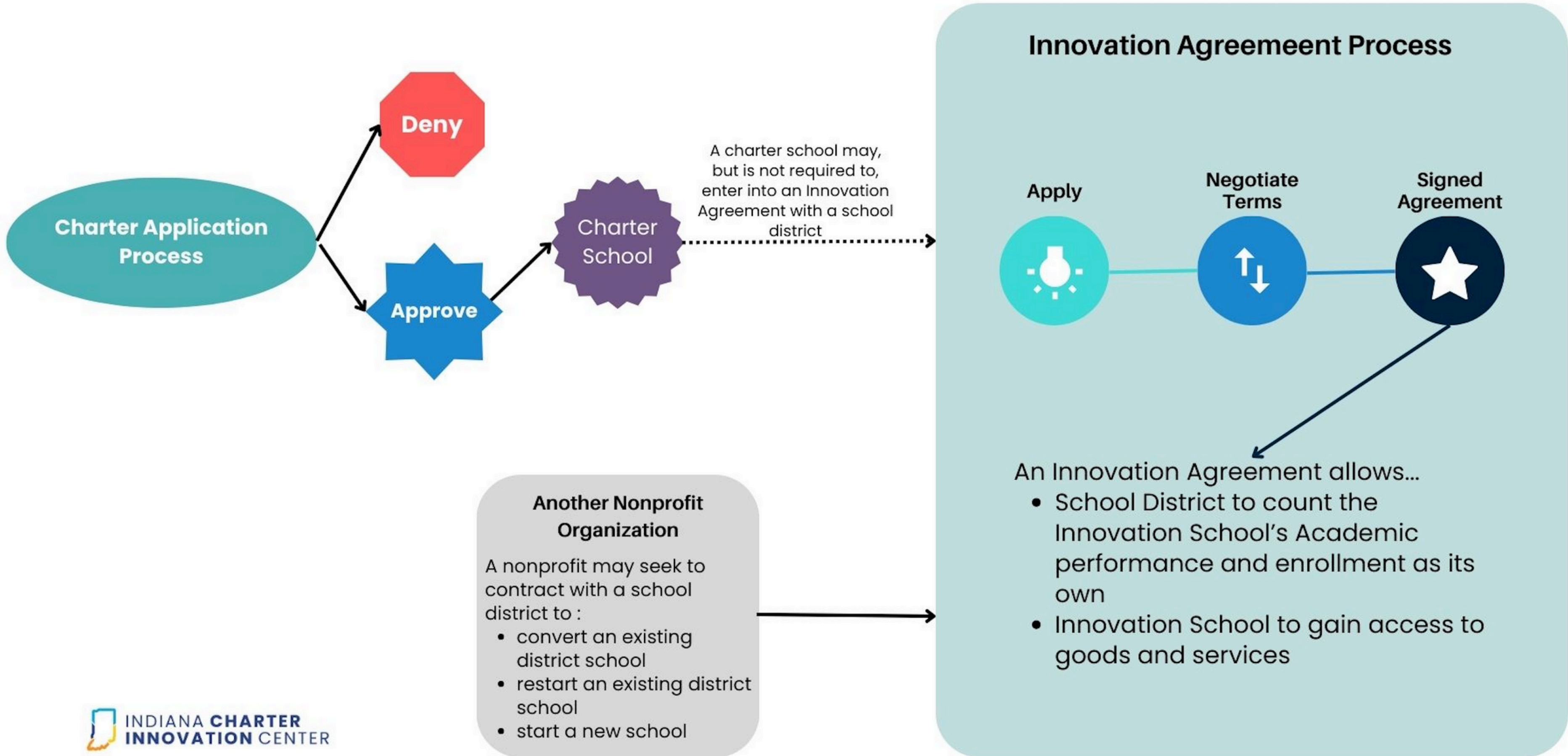


TYPICAL CHARTER APPLICATION PROCESS

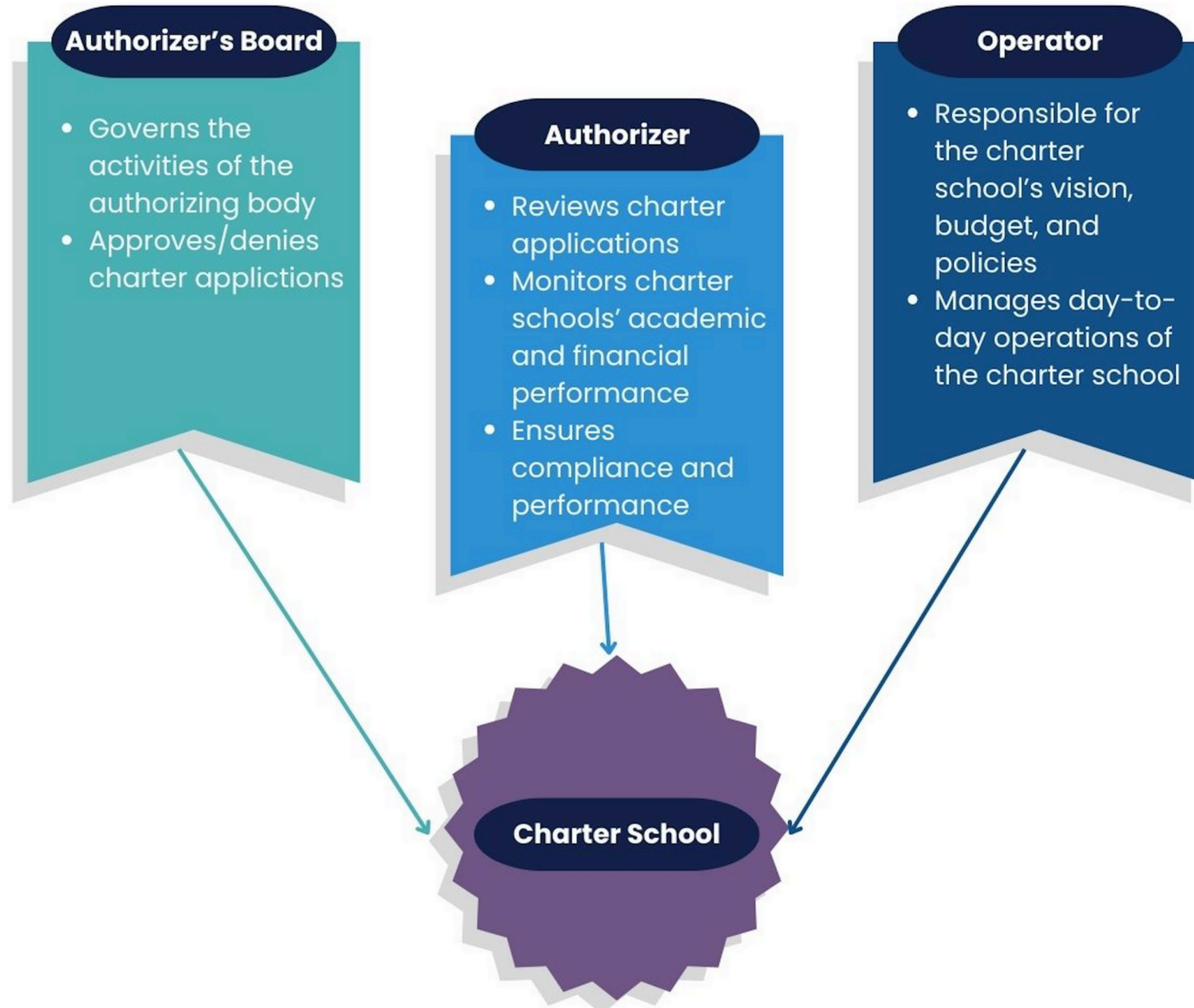
from a statewide and national perspective



INNOVATION AGREEMENTS



Roles & Responsibilities



Question Topics To Be Answered in the Future

- Facility Location and Design
- School Structures like daily schedule
- Courses and Curriculum
- Budget
- Staffing
- Diplomas
- Extracurriculars
- Measures of Accountability
- Admissions
- Technology



HOW COULD THIS IMPACT HSE FUNDING?

Innovation Network School Funding

- All state funding for the school first flows to the district
- District then allocates the school's portion of this funding based on the number of students it serves
- District may charge the Innovation Network School an administrative fee, which is typically capped at 3% of the school's state revenue. This fee covers the cost of administrative oversight and support provided by the district.
 - District may offer additional services to the school, such as:
 - transportation
 - food service
 - professional development
 - facility maintenance
 - District may charge the Innovation Network School for the cost of these services.
 - This is set up by a contract between the school and the district.
- The Innovation Network School is responsible for managing its budget to cover these costs while meeting its educational goals and performance expectations.



FUNDING EXPLANATION

- HSE's per pupil funding = \$6,838.41 (5th lowest funding in the state)
- If a Charter School enrolled 500 students, that totals: \$3,419,205.00*. (*HSE could contract with the charter school to provide services)
- CSP funding of up to \$2,000,000 could fund planning and program design, purchasing educational materials and equipment, hiring and training staff, developing infrastructure and technology, and implementing innovative instruction practices. **This funding CAN NOT be used for construction or major renovation projects.**
- Referendum dollars– Law stipulates how Charters can opt in to referendum process and currently only applies to school corporations in Lake, Marion, St. Joseph, and Vanderburgh Counties.



HOW ARE CTE PROGRAMS CURRENTLY FUNDED IN HSE?

- **2024–2025– Federal Perkins Grant Funding: \$114,901**
 - This funds equipment, supplies, materials, professional development, and contractual services.
- **2023–2024– State CTE Funding: \$2,256,228.00**
 - 82 CTE Courses– Not just the CTE programs
 - 3,936 credits
 - Many courses are dual credit
 - These funds are focused on staffing and program costs.
- **2023–2024– CTE Tuition to 3rd party providers**
 - \$554,193 paid
 - \$1,702,035 in CTE funding remaining
- **Point of reference: Buildout and Equipment for Cosmo=**
 - \$1.5–\$2 million



HOW DOES HSE'S ROLE AS A "CHARTER AUTHORIZER" IMPACT THE COMMUNITY?

- HSE will play a critical role in shaping the educational landscape of the community.
- HSE can ensure that these schools meet high standards of academic performance and offer innovative educational opportunities.
- The aim is to provide more educational choices that complement the existing district schools, ultimately benefiting students and parents by offering diverse learning environments.
- HSE ensures that charter schools are held accountable for their performance and that they contribute positively to the community.



WHAT OPTIONS ARE BEING EXPLORED TO EVALUATE CAPACITY NEEDS AND SCALE CAREER EXPLORATION EXPERIENCES FOR HSE STUDENTS?

- The Opportunity Education partnership is just one possible component to provide these experiences
- HSE High School will undergo a renovation soon, which could establish some programs on that campus. However, the space is not large enough to accommodate all needs.
- HSE Schools also owns 3 properties that are being evaluated to meet this need. This could be in partnership with OE if that option moves forward, or independent of a partner.



HOW WILL HSE TEACHERS BE ENGAGED IF THIS PARTNERSHIP MOVES FORWARD?

- Teacher voice and input is essential. Should the partnership move forward, OE and HSE administration will engage teachers in the planning and implementation every step of the way.

ARE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES RECURRING?

- The Charter School Program grant is a one-time grant to support planning and implementation. We believe other state, federal, and private grants could be utilized in the future.



WHO APPROVES THIS PARTNERSHIP? IDOE?, SUPERINTENDENT?, SCHOOL BOARD?

- As an authorizer, the HSE School Board of Trustees approves a charter operator based on their submitted charter application.

WHAT CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS WILL BE OFFERED?

- Initial programs shared in previous presentations were purely examples of what might be offered. These programs will be determined if the partnership progresses. As was established through the Ford NGL process, student interest and workforce demand will drive the creation of programs.



HOW WOULD SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULARS WORK FOR INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL STUDENTS?

- Students enrolled in traditional charter schools are not able to participate in their assigned high school's athletics and extracurriculars, but students enrolled in an Innovation Network School can. The IHSA has historically allowed this practice. Students enrolled in the Innovation Network School will be granted access to athletics and extracurriculars at their home high school. Additionally, students at HSE and FHS will have access to any extracurriculars established at the Innovation Network School.



**CAN STUDENTS ATTENDING THE INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL
CHANGE THEIR MINDS AND RETURN TO THEIR HIGH SCHOOL?
HOW WILL WE ENSURE THAT STUDENT'S LEARNING ALIGNS WITH
THE RIGOROUS EXPECTATIONS OF OUR HIGH SCHOOLS?**

- Yes. The curriculum taught at the Innovation Network School must comply with Indiana Department of Education standards. Additional metrics articulated by HSE Schools can be stipulated. A student moving from the Innovation Network School to one of our high schools would be no different than a student enrolling from another district.



WHO OVERSEES THE CURRICULUM?

- Hamilton Southeastern Schools and the Board of Trustees will ensure curriculum meets state and district standards. The Charter Operator will ensure teachers build curriculum and instruction to meet these learning targets.



**PLEASE EXPLAIN THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE BEING PROPOSED.
HOW IS THE HSE SCHOOL BOARD INVOLVED, AS WELL AS THE BOARD
THAT OVERSEES THE INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL?
HOW WILL TWO BOARDS WORK?**

- The Hamilton Southeastern Schools Board of Trustees would be the authorizer of the Innovation Network School.
- By HSE Schools authorizing a Charter with a Charter operator, by state law, an appointed board oversees the partnership.
- Put more simply, the HSE Schools Board of Trustees sets the vision for the Innovation Network School and establishes outcome and key performance indicators which they then contract with a charter operator to execute.
- The appointed board then works to oversee and support the charter operator in executing the roles and duties outlined in the charter application to deliver on the charter that guides the partnership.
- OE has committed to these appointed board members being local community stakeholders. The superintendent of HSE Schools would also likely have a board seat. These board seats are not paid positions.



Possible Governance Structure

 Hamilton Southeastern Schools	Innovation Network School Governance	 Opportunity Education
Innovation Network School Authorizer and Approver	Board comprised of local appointees HSE Superintendent would likely hold a board seat	Innovation Network School Management Organization



HOW WILL THIS IMPACT CURRENT CTE PROGRAMS AND COURSES TAUGHT IN OUR HIGH SCHOOLS? WILL CURRENT CTE TEACHERS/ PROGRAMS BE MOVED?

- HSE Schools is committed to sustaining our current CTE programs and employing the instructors of those programs. A partnership with a charter operator could allow HSE Schools to offer CTE programs not currently offered by HSE Schools.



WHAT DIPLOMA WILL THESE STUDENTS EARN?

- This is yet to be determined. An Innovation Network School would provide the option to award the diploma of a student's home high school.

WITH DECLINING ENROLLMENT ALREADY IMPACTING HSE SCHOOLS, WHY WOULD HSE SCHOOLS CREATE A PARTNERSHIP THAT WOULD DECREASE ENROLLMENT FURTHER AND THEREFORE FUNDING?

- If the Innovation Network School provides a different experience of learning for students that have left HSE Schools, we may in fact bring students back to HSE through this endeavor.



WHAT WOULD BE THE YEARLY FINANCIAL COMMITMENT OF THE DISTRICT TO THIS PARTNERSHIP?

- This is yet to be determined but the costs would be minimal. Known costs at this point would be the administrative cost of overseeing the partnership and collaboration with the charter operator.



WHAT WILL BE THE ADMINISTRATION/ STAFFING STRUCTURE OF THE INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL?

- This is yet to be determined. The Innovation Network School would definitely have a principal and the necessary teacher staffing to ensure students are provided adequate high school coursework to reach graduation.



HOW WILL THE INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL'S PERFORMANCE IMPACT HSE'S PERFORMANCE?

- The performance of the Innovation Network School will be included in district performance metrics.

WHY WASN'T AN RFP UTILIZED?

- In this context, an authorizer letter serves as an RFP.



WHY HAVEN'T THE CCAS SERVED THIS NEED?

- The CCAs were created to provide 21st Century learning and workplace environments but in design, did not include CTE type programs which require specifically designed facilities and equipment by state law.

WILL THE INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL USE OE CREATED CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL TOOLS?

- Possibly. Partnering with OE would allow teachers to use the curriculum resources and instructional tools created by OE.



MISCONCEPTIONS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS STATED OR IMPLIED IN SUBMITTED COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS

- **HSE Schools will force students into the Charter School to benefit Opportunity Education and boost it's profits.**
 - Attending such a school would be entirely the choice of students and parents.
 - HSE Schools would share this opportunity with parents and students just like any course or academic opportunity offered.



MISCONCEPTIONS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS STATED OR IMPLIED IN SUBMITTED COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS

- **We (HSE Schools/ the community) are pressuring students to join the adult workforce instead of exploring options and providing an educational foundation for whatever path students select. “We” are providing free labor to partners and encouraging students to select a pathway too early.**
 - Parents and students will have full autonomy to choose what is best for them as they navigate their educational journey.
 - The work our community did with Ford Next Generation Learning to transform the student experience over the past 18 months commands HSE Schools to provide this career exploration and foundational learning for students to step into a career, college, and/or the military upon graduation. While every high school student (not just Innovation Network School students) will pick a career lens to experience their high school learning through, this does not mean they have to choose between college, career, and or the military early in their high school experience.
 - Our current internship experiences for students ensure students are not “free labor” with student voice driving what they will learn and experiences through their placement with an employer. Additionally, some internships are paid positions.



MISCONCEPTIONS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS STATED OR IMPLIED IN SUBMITTED COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS

- **Career Technical Education (CTE) is not as rigorous as academic courses and providing these opportunities will not maintain HSE's high academic standards.**
 - All current CTE programs offered in HSE Schools and many provided by our external program partners are dual credit courses taught by our teachers that are also accredited by either Ivy Tech or Vincennes University. These high school students pursuing industry certifications and credentials are also college students. The Authorizer Letter stipulates that this level of rigor must be maintained.



MISCONCEPTIONS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS STATED OR IMPLIED IN SUBMITTED COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS

- **This is just a big money grab for Opportunity Education and specifically it's billionaire founder to just get richer while also serving the vision and ideals of OE.**
 - HSE Schools as the charter authorizer establishes the vision and performance outcomes, which a charter operator then submits a comprehensive plan articulating how these parameters will be met. Our community has already articulated this vision with detailed priorities and action steps through our work with Ford Next Generation Learning. This is not a for-profit partnership. Our community voice defines the vision and ideals.



MISCONCEPTIONS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS STATED OR IMPLIED IN SUBMITTED COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS

- **Local politicians, district administrators, and school board members will receive benefits including financial kickbacks by establishing this partnership since charter schools do not have to report their finances.**
 - Charter Schools and Innovation Network Schools have to report their finances. As an authorizer, HSE Schools and our school board will have full access to and monitor the financial status of the Innovation Network School. This partnership will have full transparency for our community.



MISCONCEPTIONS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS STATED OR IMPLIED IN SUBMITTED COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS

- **Charter schools have zero oversight. They do not have to provide transportation or food service to students, so HSE will have to fund these services for the charter school if we want to provide for the students.**
 - This a false claim and illegal under state law.
- **The Charter School will pay HSE Schools for these students.**
 - HSE Schools will receive not revenue through this partnership.
- **The main purpose of this endeavor is to insist property/ land be purchased to then financially benefit the property owner, as well as local community leaders through kickbacks.**
 - Property acquisition and finances will be fully transparent.



MISCONCEPTIONS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS STATED OR IMPLIED IN SUBMITTED COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS

- **Charter schools can exclude or do not have to serve or provide these opportunities to Exceptional Learners (Special Education students, ENL students, etc.)**
 - This a false claim and illegal under state law. Charter Schools/Innovation Network Schools must have open enrollment and cannot discriminate. They can serve special populations of students but this directive would come from our school board as the authorizer.



MISCONCEPTIONS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS STATED OR IMPLIED IN SUBMITTED COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS

- **This partnership will not be managed, evaluated, or staffed by HSE employees.**
 - This is a false claim. HSE Schools would have extensive oversight and accountability over the partner. HSE administration staff at the direction of the school board would execute duties related to oversight and accountability.
- **Our community will have zero input regarding how this school will run, the vision, or the direction it will take.**
 - This is a false claim.



MISCONCEPTIONS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS STATED OR IMPLIED IN SUBMITTED COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS

- **The Charter School cannot unionize.**
 - It is a true a Charter School cannot unionize. However, by law, an Innovation Network School can create its own union, but not operate under the Hamilton Southeastern Education Association.
- **HSE Schools will have to pay for transportation, food service, and the new location.**
 - This is a false claim. HSE Schools could be contracted to provide such services, but these services would be funded through student funding provided by the state of Indiana.



MISCONCEPTIONS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS STATED OR IMPLIED IN SUBMITTED COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS

- **If HSE Schools does not authorize Opportunity Education to operate this Innovation Network/ Charter School, local politicians will authorize it.**
 - At this time, no local politicians are authorizers.
- **Why can't OE just donate this money to HSE to do this without establishing the Innovation Network School and using student funding to operate it?**
 - Such action would not align with the vision and mission of OE, nor is it sustainable so that opportunities would be provided to students.



QUESTIONS?

