

<u>Section:</u> Instructional Goals and Objectives	Knox County Board of Education Policy		
	Public Charter Schools- Applications and Agreements	Descriptor Code:	Issued:
		I-451	7/26
		Reviewed:	Revised:

This policy shall apply to potential sponsors of charter schools. It shall not apply to charter schools converting from existing public schools. Proposals from existing charter school operators or replicators and applicants proposing to contract with educational service providers shall be in accordance with state law.¹

CHARTER SCHOOLS APPLICATION PROCESS

The Board shall annually solicit applications for the establishment of charter schools through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The RFP will be posted and maintained on the Knox County Schools website to ensure it is continuously available to prospective charter school operators.²

A prospective charter school sponsor shall send a Letter of Intent to the Director of Schools or designee sixty (60) days prior to February 1 of the year preceding the year in which the proposed charter school plans to begin operation as a charter school. Applicants who fail to meet this requirement will not be eligible to submit an application for that cycle.³

In the submitted application, the sponsor shall demonstrate that the proposed charter school meets the purpose prescribed by state law for the formation of a charter school, and that the proposed charter school will be able to implement a viable program of quality education for its students.

Applications (electronic and print) shall be submitted to the Board on or before the state deadline. Applicants will be assessed a fee of \$2,500 when applications are submitted. If the deadline for either the Letter of Intent or the Application falls on a weekend or holiday, submissions will be accepted the next business day.⁴

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

All applications completed pursuant to Administrative Procedure AP-I-451 will be evaluated by a committee recommended by the Director of Schools or designee and approved by the Board of Education. As defined in Administrative Procedure AP-I-451, the charter review committee shall be comprised of members of the administrative staff for the district and community members with relevant academic organizational (governance and management), financial, and legal expertise. The district shall develop an orientation for the committee to ensure consistent evaluation standards and the elimination of real or perceived conflicts of interest.⁵

The protocol for receiving and reviewing applications shall be defined in Administrative Procedure AP-I-451.

The review committee shall use the application scoring rubric provided by the State Board of Education and submit an evaluation to the Board for each application.

APPROVAL OR DENIAL OF AN APPLICATION

The Board shall rule by resolution on the approval or denial of a charter school application within ninety (90) calendar days of receipt of the completed application, or the application will be deemed approved by state law. The district shall report the action taken by the Board to the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission (TPCSC).

Approval

The sponsor of a charter school that is approved by the Board shall enter into a written agreement with the Board, which shall be binding on the charter school's governing body. The charter school agreement shall be in writing and signed by the sponsor and the Board.⁶

Charter schools approved by the Board are expected to operate according to the terms of the approved application and charter school agreement. Material variations in operations from the approved application and charter school agreement require amendment(s) pursuant to state law.⁷

New charter school agreements are approved for a ten (10) year period.⁸ The Board may revoke or deny renewal of a charter school agreement for any of the reasons enumerated in state law.⁹

Denial

In the event the initial charter school application is denied, the Board shall notify the sponsor in writing within ten (10) calendar days, specifying the objective reasons for the denial and the deadline by which the sponsor may submit an amended application. Upon written receipt of the grounds for denial, the sponsor shall have thirty (30) calendar days within which to submit an amended application to correct the deficiencies. The Board will then have sixty (60) calendar days to deny or approve the amended application, or the amended application shall be deemed approved by state law.¹⁰

If the amended charter school application is denied, the Board shall notify the sponsor in writing. The sponsor will have ten (10) calendar days to appeal to the TPCSC.¹¹

CHARTER SCHOOL AGREEMENTS

Charter school agreements shall articulate the rights and responsibilities of each party regarding school autonomy, funding, administration and oversight, outcomes, measures for evaluating success or failure, performance consequences, and other material terms. These agreements shall be separate from the application and contain terms and performance standards as outlined in Administrative Procedure AP-I-451 under which the school shall operate.¹²

Fee-based Services

Any fee-based services shall be outlined in a separate agreement. The provision of any such fee-based services shall not be a condition of charter approval, continuation, or renewal.¹³

Legal References:

1. T.C.A. § 49-13-106; State Board of Education Policy 6.111.
2. State Board of Education Policy 6.111.
3. T.C.A. § 49-13-107; TN Comp. R & Regs 0520-14-01-.01.
4. T.C.A. § 49-13-107; TN Comp. R & Regs 0520-14-01-.01.
5. State Board of Education Policy 6.111.
6. T.C.A. § 49-13-108; TN Comp. R & Regs 0520-14-01-.01.
7. T.C.A. § 49-13-110(d); TN Comp. R & Regs 0520-14-01-.01.
8. T.C.A. § 49-13-110(c).
9. T.C.A. § 49-13-122.
10. T.C.A. § 49-13-108; TN Comp. R & Regs 0520-14-01-.01.
11. T.C.A. § 49-13-108; TN Comp. R & Regs 0520-14-01-.01.