

# ***New Charter School Application***

***Staff Recommendations for  
DCSD Charter Applicants  
May 23, 2023***

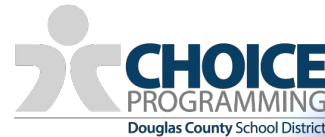


# New Charter School Application Process

In alignment with the [Colorado Charter School Act](#) 22-30.5-107 (b):

*The local board of education shall receive and review all applications for charter schools. If the local board of education does not review a charter application, it shall be deemed to have denied the charter application.*

The Douglas County School District welcomes high-quality charter applications on an annual basis, with letters of intent due on March 1, and full applications submitted through CHARTER TOOLS between March 1 and March 15 annually.



# 2023 DCSD Charter Applications

In March of 2023, DCSD Choice Programming received 8 applications from charter schools (ASI in four locations, JDI embedded into each)

1. Alexandria School of Innovation (ASI) Ridgegate
2. Alexandria School of Innovation (ASI) Sterling Ranch
3. Alexandria School of Innovation (ASI) Crystal Valley
4. Alexandria School of Innovation (ASI) Highlands Ranch
5. John Dewey Institute (JDI) Ridgegate
6. John Dewey Institute (JDI) Sterling Ranch
7. John Dewey Institute (JDI) Crystal Valley
8. John Dewey Institute (JDI) Highlands Ranch

In accordance with [CO Charter Schools Act](#) 22-30.5-107: ***The local Board of Education shall rule by resolution on the application ... within ninety days after receiving the application.***

# New Charter School Application Process

## Colorado Charter School Act 22-30.5-106.

The Checklist for a Comprehensive Application will be used by both the applicant and DCSD to monitor the completeness of the application. The Evaluation Criteria provides DCSD with means of determining the quality of the application component, but may also be used by the applicant when targeting a high-quality school program. The required components of the application are as follows:

A - Executive Summary

B - Vision and Mission Statements

C - Goals, Objectives and Pupil Performance Standards

D - Evidence of Support

E - Educational Program

F - Plan for Evaluating Pupil Performance

G - Budget and Finance

H - Governance

I - Employees

J - Insurance Coverage

K - Parent and Community Involvement

L - Enrollment Policy

M - Transportation and Food Service

N - Facilities

O - Waivers

P - Student Discipline, Expulsion, or Suspension

Q - Serving Students with Special Needs

R - Dispute Resolution Process

S - School Management Contracts

Appendix A: Charter School Intent to Submit Form

Appendix B: Evaluation Rubric

# 2023 Charter Application Review Team

Erica Mason- Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Nate Burgard- Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Colleen Doan- Business Services

Kristen Haneke- Business Services

Natasha Straayer- Gifted Education

Dr. Remy Rummell- Language, Culture and Equity

Sarah Cannon- Special Education

Laura Gorman- Grants

Diana Simpson - Charter Leader

Dan McMinimee - Executive Director of Schools

Shavon Caldwell- Planning & Construction

Chris Meehan - Planning & Construction

Jen Peifer- Nutrition Services

Gordon Mosher- Choice Programming

Kristin Schmidt- Choice Programming

Mackenzie Kahn- Outside reviewer

Ashley Opfer - District Accountability Committee

Larry Mugler - Long Range Planning Committee

Michael Kemp - Long Range Planning Committee

Trustin Thompson - Charter Parent



**1 Charter Application Review Team Assembled**

Subcommittee Members of FOC, DAC, LRPC, DCSD Staff, DCSD Charter School Staff, Independent Outside Reviewer compiled by Choice Programming Office



**2 CARTeam Reviews Applications**

All members of the CART submit questions on the application in their area of focus/expertise using CHARTER TOOLS software. Staff compiles a list of questions for each applicant for use during the Capacity Interview



**3 Applicant Interviews**

All members of the CART participate in the Capacity Interview for each applicant \*Members of DAC, FOC, and LRPC provide additional questions to Choice Programming which are compiled and sent to the DCSD BOE for use in the Public Hearing\*



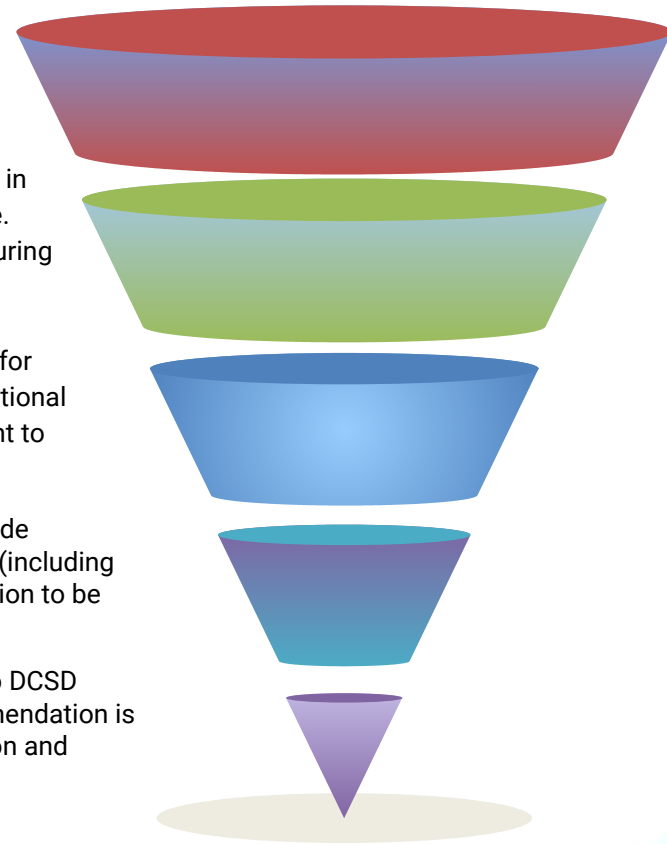
**4 CARTeam Final Work Session - Staff Recommendation**

Members of DCSD Staff, DCSD Charter School Staff, and Outside Reviewer discuss all comments and questions from full CART (including info from DAC, FOC, and LRPC) to create a staff recommendation to be shared with DCSD Cabinet



**5 Recommendations to Cabinet and BOE**

Choice Programming Office presents staff recommendation to DCSD Cabinet. After review and evaluation, final DCSD Staff Recommendation is provided to the DCSD Board of Education for their consideration and ultimate decision



# Important Dates

<b>March 1</b>	Letters of Intent due to Choice Programming Office	<b>April 18</b>	Applicant Interviews - Capacity Interview
<b>March 1-15</b>	Charter Applications Submitted to Choice Programming through Charter Tools	<b>April 20</b>	Additional Questions for the applicant sent (following capacity interview)
<b>March 17- April 7</b>	CARTeam reviews applications	<b>April 27</b>	Answers to additional questions due to the Choice Office from the Applicant - Choice Office shares with CART
<b>March 20</b>	Choice Office meetings with DAC, FOC, and LRPC (initial conversations)	<b>May 3</b>	CART work session (staff only) to complete staff recommendation
<b>March 30</b>	Choice Office reviews for Completion	<b>May 9</b>	Public Hearing #1, Public BOE Presentation
<b>April 7</b>	CART (DAC, FOC, and LRPC) Initial Questions for the interviews due	<b>May 23</b>	Public Hearing #2, DCSD BOE Takes Action on Applications

*DAC Members sent all applications for review on **April 11**. Director of Choice met with DAC and heard feedback on **April 20***



**Douglas  
County**  
School District

*Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow*

**ALEXANDRIA SCHOOL  
OF INNOVATION (ASI)**





# Staff Recommendation

## Recommendation to Deny the applications for ASI in all four proposed locations

- The proposed budgets for ASI are dependent on Notices of Claim that have been reported as “submitted” but have not been “approved.”
- The DCSD Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has not identified land parcels in the applications as surplus, therefore this land is not available for charter schools.
- There are extremely low (3) letters of intent that have been submitted and/or collected (unverified).
- The proposed Governance structure is not at arms-length. There is no evidence of a school Board of Directors, or a viable Charter Management Organization (CMO).
- The financial viability of the school is dependent on a claim made to the Colorado School District Self Insurance Pool (CSDSIP).
- The school application only included one person, and there were no others represented (either in person or virtually) in any meeting, presentation, or interview.



*Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow*

*John Dewey  
Institute (JDI)*

# Staff Recommendation

## Recommendation to Deny the applications for JDI in all four proposed locations

- The DCSD Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has not identified land parcels in the applications as surplus, therefore this land is not available for charter schools.
- There are extremely low (2) letters of intent that have been submitted and/or collected (unverified).
- The proposed Governance structure is not at arms-length. There is no evidence of a school Board of Directors, or a viable Charter Management Organization (CMO), and the Governing Board does not have a clear line of authority over the CMO.
- Douglas County Schools has approximately 900 students identified as students with autism indicating that almost every student in DCSD with autism would need to enroll at JDI schools to fulfill enrollment.
- The financial viability of the school is dependent on a claim made to the Colorado School District Self Insurance Pool (CSDSIP).
- The school application only included one person, and there were no others represented (either in person or virtually) in any meeting, presentation, or interview.