

New Charter School Application

***Staff Recommendations
DCSD Charter Applicants
June 21, 2022***

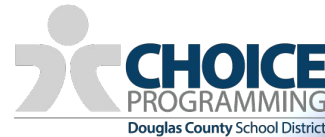


New Charter School Application Process

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.



2022 DCSD Charter Applications

In March of 2022, DCSD Choice Programming received 3 applications from charter schools.

1. Novastar Academy - Withdrew Application
2. STEM School Highlands Ranch
3. Lemay Academy of Excellence

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. The applicant and the BOE may jointly waive the deadlines set forth in this section. (This was mutually agreed upon)

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

Replication 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. Areas of focus for the replication application in DCSD are highlighted below:

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

2022 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

Stephanie Van Zante - LRPC

Sarah Cannon- Special Education

Laura Gorman- Grants

Lisa Jarvi - Charter Leader

John Gutierrez - Executive Director of Schools

Derek Stertz- Planning & Construction

Jack Kronser- Human Resource

Jen Peifer- Nutrition Services

Gordon Mosher- Choice Programming

Kristin Schmidt- Choice Programming

Gina Schlieman- Outside reviewer

Kelly Pointer, Stephanie George, Kate Welsh - DAC

Melody Matthews DAC Charter Parent

James Coope- FOC

Johanna Harth - Charter Leader

Trustin Thompson - Charter Leader and Charter Parent

Important Dates

3/18 Choice sends out Application to Charter Application Review Team (CART) BOE is notified of applications

3/19- 4/8 CART reviews applications

3/23 Choice meets with CART and DAC, FOC, LRPC to review

3/30 Choice reviews application for completion

4/12 Missing components from completion check due to the Choice Office by the Applicants

4/13 Choice Sends Charter Application updates to the Board of Education

4/19 Applicant interviews 9-2 in Boardroom. CART debrief after

4/20- 4/22 CART reviews applicant response from interview and creates additional questions

4/22 Additional questions for the applicant due to the choice office from CART, DAC, FOC, LRPC

4/25 Choice sends additional questions to the applicant

4/26 Public hearing at the DCSD Board meeting

5/2 Answers to the additional questions due to the Choice office/ Choice shares with the CART,DAC,LRPC, FOC

5/10 DAC, FOC & LRPC Review of Application due to the Choice office

5/11 CART completes individual component reviews in preparation to complete final recommendation

5/13 CART work session to complete Final Recommendation

5/25 Choice Office shares staff recommendation with Cabinet

5/26 Cabinet Recommendations sent to the Applicant

5/26 Cabinet Recommendations sent to the Board of Education

6/21 BOE Approves or Denies Application

6/22 If approved, or conditionally approved, contract negotiations begin

Additional Important Dates

- 4-22-22 After application review by subcommittees, DAC, FOC, and LRPC members on CART submitted questions to Choice Programming for use in Public Hearing during 4-26-22 BOE Meeting
- 5-11-22 Director of Choice Programming presented to MBEC on CART process
- 5-11-22 Full applications sent for distribution to all DAC members for review
- 5-19-22 Director of Choice Programming presented to DAC and heard feedback on applications



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Staff Recommendation

Recommendation to Approve

- Failure to satisfy any conditions constitutes ground for revocation of the conditional approval of a new school.

Further, it is the recommendation that if the Board approves, then mandatory conditions in the contract should include:

- Successful Renewal of Existing Site in 2022/23
- 150% of the intended enrollment numbers at each grade level are submitted as Letters of intent that are verified by student name and location by December 16, 2022.
- On or before January 15, 2023, a location lease or purchase agreement satisfactory to the district for an appropriate charter facility within the district's boundaries that complies with applicable planning, construction, and occupancy requirements for a public charter school that will be available for occupancy by the School on or before August 1 of the first year of operation (2024).



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***STEM School
Highlands Ranch***

Staff Recommendation

Recommendation to Deny

- No formal intent to enroll forms were submitted with the application, and numbers of interested families (as provided in the capacity interview) were lower than indicated in the letter of intent.
- STEM School Highlands Ranch has only identified and discussed in the application and capacity interview the desire to replicate off of Titan Road in Sterling Ranch Community. Currently, this is the only site available in Sterling Ranch for a school. Filing 1, off of Titan Road, has not been identified as surplus land by the DCSD Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC).
- It is unclear if the new campus would be financially stable if opening at 100 students, and lack of an identified facility and clear facility cost (including specialized staffing) calls into question the viability of the replication.