

# Application Decision-making

## Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board

May 19, 2014



# MCSAB and application decision-making

- Establish and oversee a high quality application evaluation process
- Consider recommendations, analysis, evidence
- Authorize high quality charter schools, particularly schools designed to expand opportunities for underserved students
  - Approve quality applications that meet criteria for approval
  - Deny weak or inadequate applications

# 2014 application evaluation process



- 31 letters of intent received

- Applicant orientation sessions hosted by MCSAB and NACSA

- 12 applications received

- Conducted by MCSAB and NACSA

- 3 applications complete and eligible

- Independent evaluations (April)

- Capacity interviews (May 8)

- Public hearings (May 20-22)

- Recommendation reports (May 29)

# Preparing for application decisions

Board members should review the following\* before June 2:

- Application executive summaries
- Due diligence report for experienced operator (RePublic Schools)
- NACSA recommendation reports

Additional evidence:

- Complete applications
- Public hearings
- Video recordings of capacity interviews

\* Materials will be uploaded to application 'electronic binders' on Dropbox

## Proposal Overview

Nonprofit Applicant Name

Enter the name of the nonprofit applicant organization.

Proposed School Name

Enter the proposed school name.

Mission

Enter the mission statement as presented by the applicant.

Proposed Location

Enter the district AND neighborhood and/or specific location.

Enrollment Projections

Academic Year	Planned # Students	Maximum # Students
Enter year 1	Enter #	Enter #
Enter year 2	Enter #	Enter #
Enter year 3	Enter #	Enter #
Enter year 4	Enter #	Enter #
Enter year 5	Enter #	Enter #
Enter capacity year	Enter #	Enter #

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Enter the name of the nonprofit applicant organization.

## Executive Summary

Enter the proposed school name.

### Summary Analysis

The summary should be a synthesis of primary judgment pages. It should summarize at a high level your findings that make the case for approval or denial. There should be no summary; rather, all content should appear in similar paragraphs.

It is useful to present the summary in three sections. The first paragraph is a summary of the primary weaknesses. If capacity was a major concern, you would synthesize governance, operations, etc., as one concept). The second paragraph concerns the third paragraph should summarize any encouragements to the applicants. For APPROVALS, the third paragraph of the primary strengths organized by concern. The third paragraph should identify any concerns required to address if the application is approved.

Maximum 275 words.

### Summary of Section Ratings

Opening and maintaining a successful, high-performing charter school and identifying highly capable individuals to execute that plan can compensate for material weaknesses in others. *Therefore, the application must Meet the Standard in all areas.*

#### I. Culture

Enter the proposed school name.

#### II. Leadership

Enter the proposed school name.

#### III. School Structure and Operations

Enter the proposed school name.

#### IV. Education Program

Enter the proposed school name.

#### V. Instructional Staff

Enter the proposed school name.

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Enter the name of the nonprofit applicant organization.

Recommendation

Approve or Deny

## I. Culture

Enter the proposed school name.

Rating

### Plan Summary

Briefly describe this section as proposed by the applicant, including any notable characteristics or distinctive elements.

This section should not contain any judgements—explicit or implied—regarding the quality of the proposal.

Maximum 150 words.

### Analysis

Present the team's analysis of and judgments about the quality of the section in relation to the criteria for approval.

This analysis should begin with a topic statement such as: "The [section] [meets/partially meets/does not meet/falls far below] the standard for approval because..."

The topic sentence should be followed by two to three paragraphs elaborating on the strengths (if the section meets expectations overall) or weaknesses (if it does not ultimately meet expectations) of the plan.

A final paragraph may be used to present any significant analysis that runs contrary to the overall judgment. For example, if the section meets expectations overall but there are important issues of which the authorizer should be aware and perhaps monitor as part of pre-opening, they can be addressed in the final paragraph. On the other hand, if the section is generally weak, but there are some redeeming qualities, a final paragraph may be used to highlight these strengths of an otherwise unsatisfactory plan.

Maximum 350 words.

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# Application deliberations

- RFP Committee members lead discussion of each application
  - Overview of the proposal
  - Application recommendation (review recommendation report, noting Committee alignment/opposition with independent evaluators)
  - Motion to adopt the recommendation
  - Questions and discussion
- MCSAB approves or denies applications

# Discussion

[www.qualitycharters.org](http://www.qualitycharters.org)