
Charter School Applications

Staff Recommendations for DCSD Charter Applications - May 27, 2025



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 between February 1 and April 1 annually.

Charter School Application Process

- Douglas County School District welcomes high quality charter school applications that will add to student and parent choice and increase the diversity of educational offerings in the District.
- Applications have been received from three (3) Charter Schools for this application cycle
 - Two (2) Replication Applications
 - One (1) New Application (from an existing DCSD authorized Charter School)
- All applicants have:
 - Submitted their application for review by April 1, 2025 at 4:00pm
 - Participated in a Capacity Interview where the full CARTeam was present
 - Presented to the DCSD Board of Education in a Public Hearing on May 6, 2025

Charter School Application Process

- In Alignment with DCSD [Board Policy LBD-R-1](#), all Charter Applications to the District are Reviewed in Accordance with Colorado Revised Statute (CRS 22-30.5-106).
- Components of the Application for a Charter School are:

Executive Summary	Mission and Vision	Goals, Objectives, and Pupil Performance Standards	Evidence of Support	Educational Program
Plan for Evaluating Pupil Performance	Budget and Finance	Governance	Employees	Insurance Coverage
Parent and Community Involvement	Enrollment Policy	Transportation and Food Services	Facilities	Waivers
Student Discipline, Expulsion, or Suspension	Serving Students with Special Needs	Dispute Resolution Process	School Management Contracts	

Process and Next Steps

- **April 1** - Applications received; CARTeam Assembled to begin review
- **April 17** - Executive Director of Choice meets with full DAC for feedback
 - All DAC members received all applications for review
- **April 22** - Capacity Interview for Applicants
- **May 6** - Public Hearing #1
 - Public Comment Opportunity for the Public
 - Presentation to the DCSD Board of Education by the Applicant(s)
- **May 14** - Staff Recommendation shared with each Applicant
- **May 27** - Public Hearing #2
 - Public Comment Opportunity for the Public
- **May 27** - DCSD Board of Education Meeting: Board Vote by Resolution to Approve or Deny the Application(s)



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 ANVILAR software. Staff compiles a list of questions for each applicant for use during the Capacity Interview

3 Applicant Interviews

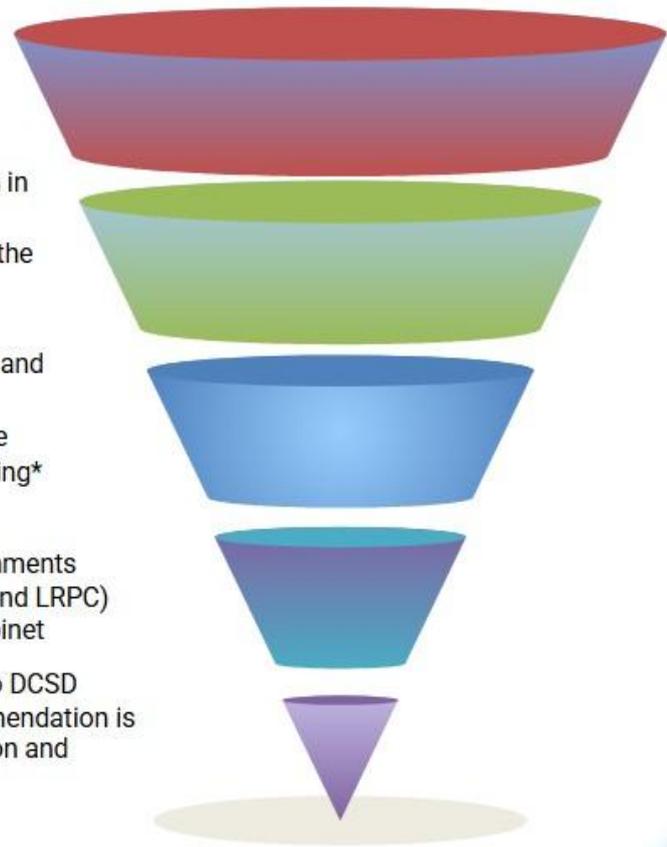
All members of the CART participate in the Capacity Interview and debrief for each applicant *Members of DAC, FOC, and LRPC provide additional questions to Choice Programming which are compiled and sent to the DCSD BOE for use in the Public Hearing* (CART ends here)

4 Staff Final Work Session - Staff Recommendation

Members of DCSD 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





**Douglas
County**
School District

Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow

**LEMAN ACADEMY OF
EXCELLENCE - PK-8
REPLICATION**

Staff Recommendation

The Recommendation is to Deny the replication application for Lemman Academy of Excellence (PK-8)

- No verifiable letters of intent have been submitted with the application
- There is no verification that there is sufficient evidence of demand for the replication
- No viable school location has been selected
- No facilities plan was submitted with the application
- An application would be welcome in the future when the demonstration of demand has been established



**Douglas
County**
School District

Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow

**STEM SCHOOL
HIGHLANDS RANCH -
PK-5 REPLICATION**

Staff Recommendation

The Recommendation is to Deny the replication application for STEM School Highlands Ranch (PK-5)

- No verifiable letters of intent have been submitted with the application
- There is no verification that there is sufficient evidence of demand for the replication
- No geographic location has been identified and no viable school location has been selected
- No facilities plan was submitted with the application
- An application would be welcome in the future when the demonstration of demand has been established



**Douglas
County**
School District

Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow

**RENAISSANCE PK-12
CHARTER SCHOOL -
NEW PK-5 SCHOOL**

Staff Recommendation

The Recommendation is to Deny the application for Renaissance PK-12 Charter School (PK-5)

- Letters of intent have been submitted with the application, but are insufficient to support an economically sound charter school
- No viable school location has been selected, but the applicant has identified a geographic region of Castle Rock and has engaged with an architectural firm
- The assumption that the waitlist of the Renaissance Elementary Magnet School, which is a District-managed Magnet School, will transfer to enrollments at the new Renaissance PK-5 is not warranted
- An application would be welcome in the future when the demonstration of demand has been established



Discussion

