



Technical Assistance Session New Charter School Applicants

November 21, 2019

DDOE Mission

To empower every learner with the highest quality education through shared leadership, innovative practices and exemplary services.



Delaware
Department of Education



Welcome and Introductions

Provide a brief statement on why your team believes your proposed school will improve student learning and provide a different, innovative or proven school environment.



Delaware
Department of Education



Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Technical Assistance Session Goals
- III. Review Critical Areas of Charter School Development
- IV. Questions
- V. Resources



Session Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will:

1. Understand the criteria for a high-quality charter school application.
2. Receive answers to specific questions about the application and the review process.



What Delaware Needs



Delaware
Department of Education



What Delaware Needs Vision & Mission Alignment

Legislative Intent

Delaware's Charter Schools were created to **improve student learning**; encourage use of different and **innovative or proven school environments** and **teaching and learning methods**; provide parents and students with improved measures of school performance and greater opportunities in choosing public schools within and outside their school districts; and to provide for a well-educated community. – 14 Del. Code, § 501



What Delaware Needs

Most education systems are not preparing all students for the future demands of college, career, and the global economy. The system is particularly broken for low-income students, providing them fewer opportunities and producing weaker results.



What Delaware Needs Innovation

Innovation

- Does your team understand the needs of your target community?
- Is your proposed educational program truly innovative?
- What will your proposed school offer to students that the current system does not provide currently?
- Does your team have the capacity to structure a high performing organization that others can learn from?



Do you know your location
on the Roadmap?



Delaware
Department of Education



Needs Assessment

Due Diligence Process- is there a documented need for the proposed school in the proposed location?

A needs assessment is “a comprehensive evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of targeted student populations, with the expressed goal of determining how best to build on strengths and improve areas of weakness in order to enhance student learning.” -New York Charter School Center



Roadmap for Charter School Development

Planning Phase: 2 years

1. Exploration Process

- State laws, policy environment
- Assessing the need
- Visit charter schools
- Conduct research
- Community Engagement
- Target community

2. Initial Design Process (3-6 months)

- Engage with community
- Form Core Design Team
- Articulate Initial Vision
- Nonprofit and tax-exempt status
- Initial Plan: Major design areas
- Prospectus for community
- Identify possible facilities
- Identify start-up funding sources

3. Major Design Areas (6-12 months)

- Educational Plan
- Organizational Plan
- Business Plan
- Build Community and School Board support for charter proposal



Roadmap for High Quality Charter School Development

4. Applying for a Charter

- Draft the application
- Review, Review. Review

5. DOE Review Process (4 months)

- Charter School Accountability Committee Meetings
- Public Hearings

6. Pre-Operations/Start-up (18 Months)

- Student Recruitment
- Recruit & hire staff
- Transition Founding Board to Governing Board
- Board Governance Training
- Facility



Critical Areas of the Application



Delaware
Department of Education



Innovative Educational Program

What is the innovation?

*An **Innovative School** is a public **school** that approaches education from a new perspective. Although there are many types of **Innovative Schools**, they all share a set of common characteristics: **Bold**, **creative** and **innovative** educational ideas. ... High level of educational experimentation. – Washington State*



Governance Plan

What is the innovation?

- Principles of board effectiveness (board training)
- Board recruitment (expertise and diversity)
- Beacons of uncompromising **Integrity**
- Policy making and oversight (e.g. bylaws)



Staffing Plan

What is the innovation?

- Leadership
- Staff recruitment and selection
- Teacher certification and qualifications
- Professional Development
- Staff evaluations



Raising Student Achievement

What is the innovation?

- Improved Performance Measures
- Do you understand the State Assessment and Accountability system?
- What best practices have worked elsewhere? (research)



Special Education Plan

What is the innovation?

- Meeting the needs of special populations (at-risk, English Learners, etc.)
- Exceed compliance and minimum requirements
- Hire a strong special education staff
- Charters cannot exclude or discriminate against students in need of special education services.



Student Recruitment

What is the innovation?

- Marketing/Advertising – what will attract families to your school?
- Understand the needs of your target population



School Culture & Climate

What is the innovation?

- A positive, focused school culture will shape your charter school and provide a foundation upon which learning can occur.
- Parents want safety first.
- Schools are sometimes located in ill-communities



Operations and Systems

What is the innovation?

- Facilities
- Transportation
- Food Service
- Security



Budget and Finance

What is the innovation?

- Unit Count System
- Delaware systems (e.g. First State Financials, Pension system, etc.)
- Start-up funding



Community Engagement

What is the innovation?

- The needs of today's students are beyond the capacities of many schools (opioid crisis, poverty, trauma)
- Build and demonstrate community support (social media presence)



Application Timeline



Delaware
Department of Education



Timeline

Date	Event
<p>October 31, 2019, 1:00 p.m. November 21, 2019, 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>During the technical assistance meetings for applicants, DDOE personnel will explain the application process, format and timelines, and address applicant questions about the process.</p>
<p>January 2, 2020 12:00 pm EST (recommended submission time)</p>	<p>The deadline for applications to be received by the DDOE Charter School Office (CSO).</p>
<p>January 3 - 16, 2020</p>	<p>The DDOE conducts an Initial Review of all applications for completeness and viability. Applicants who do not warrant full review will be notified by January 17, 2020.</p>
<p>January 27, 2020</p>	<p>The CSO provides an opportunity for an interview to those applicants with submissions deemed to be sufficient for a full review.</p>
<p>February 10, 2020</p>	<p>Public Hearings are held for each application undergoing full review.</p>
<p>January 30, 2020</p>	<p>The CSO issues the accountability committee initial reports.</p>
<p>February 2, 2020</p>	<p>The deadline for the DDOE to inform superintendents of all reorganized and vocational-technical school districts of receipt of new charter school applications.</p>



Timeline

February 14, 2020	The deadline for applicants to submit their responses to the accountability committee's initial reports.
March 2, 2020	Accountability committee final meetings.
March 5, 2020	The accountability committee's final reports and recommendations are released for each application.
March 16, 2020	Final public hearings are held for each application.
April 10, 2020	The public record closes.
April 16, 2020	The Secretary of Education makes a decision on each application. If an application is approved, it is submitted to the State Board of Education for assent.



Questions



Delaware
Department of Education



Application Resources



Delaware
Department of Education



Resources

People:

- Highly Effective Charter School Leaders
- Delaware Charter School Network
- Community Partners (Library, Health, Colleges, DHSS, DPH, etc...)
- Charter School Office



Resources

Charter School Office
Delaware Department of Education

John Carwell, Jr. (General questions)

john.carwell@doe.k12.de.us

302-735-4020

Brook Hughes (Budget & Finance questions)

brook.hughes@doe.k12.de.us

302-735-4020

Susan Veneema (Exceptional Children Resources)

Susan.veneema@doe.k12.de.us

302-735-4210

James Pennewell (School Facilities, Capital Project Management)

james.pennewell@doe.k12.de.us

302-857-3364