

Generation 31

# High-Performing Entity

## Subchapter D Open-Enrollment



**INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

**OUT OF STATE OPERATORS**

2025 Application Cycle

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## INTRODUCTION

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) welcomes applications for high-quality charter schools seeking to open in Academic School Year 2026 and beyond. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read this entire document and the corresponding Charter Request for Application RFA 701-26-104 before developing any application content.

The Commissioner of Education (the commissioner) is actively committed to attracting charter applicants who are capable of operating high-quality charter schools. The information requested through the application will inform the commissioner's decision to propose Generation 31 charter awards.

On May 30, 1995, the Texas Legislature created the Public Charter School Program to maintain a portfolio of secular, tuition-free, public charter schools that:

- Improve student learning;
- Increase the choice of learning opportunities within the public-school system;
- Create professional opportunities that attract new teachers to the public-school system;
- Establish a new form of accountability for public schools; and
- Encourage different and innovative learning methods.

The commissioner has vested authority to award Subchapter D Open-Enrollment charters and Subchapter E College/University charters (Texas Education Code (TEC), §§12.101 and 12.1011 and 12.152, respectively). Pursuant to statute, the commissioner must adopt an open-enrollment charter application form, procedures, and evaluation criteria to be used in determining whether to award a charter. Collectively, the (1) Instructions and Guidance; (2) Application; and (3) Evaluation Criteria fulfill this requirement.

## SPONSORING ENTITY AND CHARTER HOLDER

During the application process, the eligible entity applying for a charter shall be referred to as the "sponsoring entity" or "applicant" or "charter applicant." The term "charter holder" is exclusively reserved for applicants who are awarded a charter after the application process. The charter holder is the entity to which public education funds are paid if the application is approved by the commissioner and a contract is signed.

Prior to the submission of an application, TEA staff members are limited to fielding general inquiries that are associated with timelines and the overall application process. TEA staff members may not speak to application content.

## ELIGIBILITY

In accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC), §12.1011, notwithstanding TEC, §12.101(b), the commissioner of education may grant a charter to high-performing entities.

For an applicant to be eligible for consideration as a high-performing entity, the applicant must demonstrate one of the following criteria:

- The entity is affiliated with a charter operator that operates one or more charter schools in another state. The affiliated charter operator must have performed at an overall level that is comparable to the highest or second highest performance rating category under TEC, Chapter 39, Subchapter C, or
  - The entity must propose to operate the charter school program that is currently implemented in the affiliated charter operator's existing charter schools.
  - A charter operator may be considered affiliated with an entity if it utilizes shared structures, practices, or materials, including, but not limited to, a shared management structure, shared financial management or staff development practices, or shared proprietary materials, including those related to instruction.
- The entity is currently operating charter programs under TEC, Chapter 12, Subchapter C or E. The entity must have performed at an overall level in the highest or second highest performance rating category under TEC, Chapter 39, Subchapter C.

The TEA will make determinations on completeness during the completion check process. Applications that are deemed to be incomplete will be removed from any further consideration during the high-performing entities application cycle.

The TEA will make determinations on eligibility during the data analysis and eligibility review period. Applications that are deemed to be ineligible will be removed from any further consideration during the high-performing entities application cycle.

Additionally, for eligibility purposes, the proposed school model must comply with allowable provisions under state law. If the model is not executable under current law, then the application may be removed from consideration or subject to contingencies at the end of the application process.

## **FULL-TIME VIRTUAL AND FULL-TIME HYBRID CAMPUSES**

[Senate Bill 569 establishes Chapter 30B](#) of the Texas Education Code to create a new legal framework for full-time virtual and full-time hybrid public school programs. The purpose of this bill is to:

- Expand access to high-quality virtual learning options for Texas Students,
- Provide clear guidelines for authorization, oversight, and accountability of these programs,
- Ensure that virtual and hybrid campuses meet rigorous academic, operational, and funding standards, and

- Allow districts and charter schools to serve eligible students through flexible, innovative instructional models.

## **Student Eligibility Requirements**

### *Full-Time Virtual Campus*

- A student is eligible to enroll in a full-time virtual campus if the student:
  - Attended a public school in this state for a minimum of six weeks in the current school year or in the preceding school year;
  - is, in the school year in which the student first seeks to enroll in the full-time virtual campus, enrolled in the first grade or a lower grade level;
  - was not required to attend public school in this state due to non-residency during the preceding school year;
  - is a dependent of a member of the United States military who has been deployed; or
  - has been placed in substitute care in this state.

### *Full-Time Hybrid Campus*

- A student eligible to enroll in a public school is eligible to enroll at a full-time hybrid campus

## **Additional Program Requirements**

Applicants are encouraged to review the additional program requirements outlined in [Senate Bill 569](#).

**Important:** A campus approved under this subchapter may only apply for and receive authorization to operate as a full-time hybrid campus or a full-time virtual campus. A campus may not change its operation designation during the authorization process or after the campus is authorized.

## **Application Submission**

To be considered for authorization to operate a full-time virtual/full-time hybrid campus, an applicant must complete both the High-Performing Entity Out of State application and the [addendum](#). Incomplete submissions, including failure to complete all required components, will result in the application being deemed ineligible for review.



## GENERATION 31 HIGH-PERFORMING ENTITY TIMELINE

Key dates from the Generation 31 High-Performing Entity Application for Subchapter C/Subchapter G Operators timeline are listed in the table below. More detail about the application process is provided in the sections that follow the table.

### Timeline with January 2026 Approval

Activity	Dates
<b>Request for Application Published</b>	August 15, 2025
Information Sessions	August 20, 2025 (Optional)
Application Submission	October 10, 2025
Completion Check	October 14-17, 2025
Remedy Period	October 20- 24, 2025
Data Analysis and Eligibility Review	October 27-November 7, 2025
<b>Eligibility Determination Notification</b>	November 10, 2025*
Due diligence period	November 11-20, 2025
<b>Commissioner Proposes Awards</b>	November 21, 2025*
State Board of Education Meeting	January 2026
<b>Charter Start Year</b>	August 2026 or beyond

\*On or around the date listed

### Timeline with April 2026 Approval

Activity	Dates
<b>Request for Application Published</b>	August 15, 2025
Information Sessions	August 20, 2025 (Optional)
Application Submission	November 21, 2025
Completion Check	December 2-5, 2025
Remedy Period	December 8-12, 2025
Data Analysis and Eligibility Review	December 15, 2025- January 7, 2026
<b>Eligibility Determination Notification</b>	January 9, 2026*
Due diligence period	January 12 - 30, 2026
<b>Commissioner Proposes Awards</b>	February 6, 2026*
State Board of Education Meeting	April 2026
<b>Charter Start Year</b>	August 2027 or beyond

\*On or around the date listed

## KEY DATES FOR APPLICANTS

### REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA) PUBLISHED... August 15, 2025

Notification of the RFA publication is posted in the Texas Register, on the Division of Charter School Authorizing website, and subscribers are notified via the TEA GovDelivery System.

### APPLICANT INFORMATION SESSION [OPTIONAL]... August 20, 2025

One optional information session will be held via Zoom, an online platform for video conferences and webinars. This session is held to provide additional information to applicants about procedures and general considerations for the application process.

Applicants may register online for the information sessions which will be posted on TEA's website at <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/texas-schools-charter-schools/charter-school-applicants>.

### APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE... October 10, 2025, or November 21, 2025

Applications must be submitted electronically. Electronic copies must be submitted to <https://tea.sharefile.com/r-r1fc2d23c487a4f479715bb872add9d0f> by 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Please note, any application documents submitted after 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time **may render the entire application incomplete**. Applicants must ensure sufficient time to upload all documents prior to the submission deadline.

**Note:** Deadlines listed are based on SBOE approval window.

**Important:** Applicants may contact TEA staff for clarifications regarding required fields in the application and for assembly procedures; however, an applicant must not initiate contact with any TEA staff or SBOE member regarding the content of the application from the time the application is submitted and ending on the date applicants conclude the data analysis and eligibility review process.

Applications that are removed from consideration (for lack of eligibility, lack of completion, plagiarism, etc.) are still subject to the no-contact provision.

### COMPLETION CHECK... October 2025, or December 2025

TEA staff members conduct the initial application review, checking for statutory eligibility, completeness, and plagiarism violations. Applications that pass the completion check will proceed to the external review stage.

For an application to be deemed complete, applicants must:

- ✓ Submit a completed Application Package electronically by the application deadline;
- ✓ Respond to all applicable narratives and special assurances;



- ✓ Include all applicable attachments and their coversheets;
- ✓ Ensure that prohibited materials are not included pursuant to the Public Disclosure Policy;
- ✓ Prepare the Application Package in compliance with all instructions provided; and
- ✓ Ensure completeness in both form and assembly.

Submitted application narrative documents that are significantly disordered or omitting required narratives are subject to immediate removal from consideration. **Please do not submit narrative documents that are only partially complete.**

**Note:** Timeframes listed are based on SBOE approval window.

### **DATA ANALYSIS AND ELIGIBILITY REVIEW... October 27-November 7, 2025, or December 15, 2025–January 7, 2026**

All eligible applications that have successfully passed the completion check are moved to the review process. Applicants will be scored on the eligibility and required items of their application.

Each application will be reviewed on its own merits and scored in accordance with the evaluation criteria published by the TEA.

The portfolio workbook will serve as a critical data source for the analysis phase. It is essential that the data is accurate and complete to prevent any issues. TEA will use this data to assess whether a charter school meets the standard to be evaluated as a high-performing entity and has performed at a level of performance comparable to an A or B rating. In the evaluation phase, we will review current performance ratings and student achievement data on state assessments to determine if the student achievement score corresponds to an A or B rating on Domain 1 of Texas' accountability system.

If the applicant meets all requirements, the applicant will advance to the due diligence period.

Evaluation criteria for each narrative section are included in the "Terminology, Resources, and Evaluation Criteria" section of this guide.

**Note:** Timeframes listed are based on SBOE approval window.

### **DUE DILIGENCE PERIOD... November 2025, or January 2026**

During these time frames these items may be reviewed for readiness:

**Education Plan and Curriculum:** Evaluating the comprehensiveness and alignment of the proposed education plan and curriculum aligned to Texas state standards and educational best practices. Assessing student performance including demographic data along with growth and closure information.

**Financial Review:** Evaluating the financial stability and sustainability of the applicant organization, including budget projections, funding sources, and financial management

practices.

**Governance Assessment:** Assessing the governance structure, leadership capabilities, and board composition of the applicant organization to ensure effective oversight and compliance with regulatory requirements.

**Legal Compliance Check:** Ensuring compliance with all legal requirements, including charter school laws, regulations, and policies at the state and local levels.

Some additional review activities that may be conducted include but are not limited to the following:

- ✓ School site visits
- ✓ Meetings (in person or virtual)
- ✓ Interviews with current authorizer(s)

**Note:** Timeframes are listed based on SBOE approval window.

## **PROPOSED CHARTER AWARDS ... November 21, 2025, or February 6, 2026**

The commissioner reviews all relevant application information and proposes awards. In order to be proposed for award, an applicant must meet all requirements of the application and demonstrate sufficient capability during the due diligence phase.

## **OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT**

A contract for an open-enrollment charter school between the charter holder and the commissioner of education must incorporate the following:

- ✓ All applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations;
- ✓ The charter holder's completed application response to RFA 701-26-104;
- ✓ Any condition, amendment, modification, revision, or other change to the charter adopted or ratified by the commissioner; and
- ✓ All statements, assurances, commitments, and representations (written or oral) made by the charter holder during the application process

The initial term of the charter is five years.

The execution of a charter contract constitutes an assurance by the charter applicant that no false information was submitted to the TEA or the commissioner by the charter applicant, its agents, or employees in support of the proposed open-enrollment charter. Any actions that are inconsistent with the terms and requirements of the charter shall constitute a material violation of the charter contract.

The commissioner will periodically evaluate each open-enrollment charter school. The commissioner may revise, revoke, modify the governance of, or deny renewal of the charter if the commissioner determines that the charter holder has failed to satisfy any of the student, financial, compliance, and/or health and safety performance standards set out in [19 Texas Administrative Code \(TAC\) §§100.1037–100.1055](#). The procedures for commissioner action and intervention are outlined in [TEC §12.116](#) and [TAC §§100.1037–100.1055](#). In addition to the adverse actions described above, a charter school is also subject to the sanctions and interventions authorized by [TEC Chapters 39](#) and 39A.

## **APPROVAL AND AWARD PROCESS**

### **EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS FRAMEWORK**

The [Effective Schools Framework](#) (ESF) provides a clear vision of best practices that were developed in conjunction with school and district leaders about what makes high-performing schools and districts excellent. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review and consider the ESF as a primary resource for effective strategies to support powerful teaching and learning.

### **CRITERIA**

At the conclusion of the due diligence period, the commissioner will formally propose awards for open-enrollment charters to applicants who have demonstrated the capacity to open and operate high-quality charter schools. In addition to the overall quality, completeness of the Application Package, and presentation during the interview, the commissioner will consider demonstrations of the following:

- ✓ Strength of the proposed board and leadership teams;
- ✓ Strength of the national portfolio, if applicable;
- ✓ Demonstrated improvement in student performance, if applicable;
- ✓ Displays of innovative thought and practice;
- ✓ Qualifications and backgrounds of all individuals who will be involved in the management and educational leadership of the proposed charter school;
- ✓ History of the charter applicant
- ✓ Evidence that the proposed governance structure will establish and maintain sound fiscal management and administrative practices;
- ✓ Strength of the proposed financial plan;
- ✓ Plans to ensure services will begin on the date proposed in the application; and
- ✓ Indications that the proposed charter school will expand the variety of charter schools in the following ways:
  - Instructional settings,
  - Diverse student populations and programs,
  - Diverse geographic regions, and
  - Representation in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

## APPLICATION PACKAGE

### APPLICATION PACKAGE COMPONENTS

Applicants must complete and submit the following, collectively referred to as the Application Package:

- Application narrative document
- Letter of Special Assurances
- Application attachments
- (Optional) [Addendum](#)

### APPLICATION PACKAGE REQUIREMENTS

#### Application page count

- Limit the narrative document to 20 pages (this **does not include** the Table of Contents, Application Checklist, Applicant Profile Page, and the Letter of Special Assurances).

#### Attachments section

- All attachment directions and coversheets are hyperlinked on the narrative checklist page and each relevant section of the narrative document.
- All attachments must be combined and submitted as one **Attachments Submission Document**. This does not include the Financial Plan Workbook or Portfolio Overview Workbook. These documents are submitted as separate Excel documents.
- Submit all attachment coversheets for each attachment. If an attachment is not applicable, please indicate “no responsive documents” on the coversheet.
- There is **no page limit** on the Attachments Submission Document, but individual attachments may have page limits.
- There is **no page limit** on the Addendum document.

#### Disclosure

Where requested in this application, and to the extent permitted by law, all applicants must provide full and complete disclosure. Applications found to omit any required disclosure, in full or in part, will be removed from the application cycle with no further review. This decision cannot be appealed.

#### Plagiarism

If, at any time during the evaluation process, TEA staff find that an application contains plagiarized content, it will be removed from the application process and excluded from further review during the Generation 31 application cycle. This decision cannot be appealed.

The TEA defines plagiarism as the representation of the words or ideas of another as one’s own in an application. The TEA is cognizant that to discuss an existing curriculum, instructional framework, or educational model key concepts must be mentioned. It is not acceptable to copy and paste a description from another source, unless that source was originally produced by the same affiliated

entity in any other published materials. The majority of each narrative response should be original writing and thinking with citations to support specific assertions or descriptions. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or by appropriate indentation and must be cited properly. Acknowledgement is also required when material from any source is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part.

### Style Guidance

Narrative responses should be brief and specific whenever possible. It is most helpful if descriptions of vision, processes, and design are clear and concise rather than abstract or general. Do not repeat content discussed in other sections of the application. If needed, applicants may refer to or cite other responses in the narrative or attachment sections.

## SUBMISSION

Applicants are requested to submit the charter application via ShareFile. This service is a web-based interface that allows for the sharing of large files in a secure environment.

- Click <https://tea.sharefile.com/r-r1fc2d23c487a4f479715bb872add9d0f>
- The first screen will require the following:
  - Email: use the email that was provided for the applicant's main contact;
  - First/Last Name: use the main contact that was listed in the applicant's proposal;
  - Company: use the name of the sponsoring entity
- The submission should include **four** files (up to five). The first file will be the completed Narrative Document. The second file will be the Attachments Submission Document. The third file will be the completed Excel version of the Financial Plan Workbook. The fourth file will be the Excel version of the Portfolio Overview Workbook. The fifth file will be the Addendum for all applicants who propose to open at least one full-time virtual and/or full-time hybrid campus.
- Click the **upload button** in the lower left corner.
- Once the submission has been made, the application is considered electronically delivered and final. Applicants will not be able to make additional submissions or revisions to the original.

All submissions have timestamps and will constitute the official date and time of submission. File size and transmission issues could cause severe delays between submission and receipt of the application package. For this reason, the time stamp included in the submission email (received by the Division of Charter School Authorizing) will be considered the official date and time of submission.

Agency staff will be standing by to provide technical assistance for submission deadlines. Any technical issues should be communicated to staff prior to the deadline for either the initial submission or the submission of cure documents. **Technical issues communicated after the fact will not be considered in determining the completeness or timeliness of any submission.**

## TERMINOLOGY, RESOURCES, AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

### LANDSCAPE:

#### Geographic Area to Be Served

##### What is a Geographic Area?

Applicants must identify one or more geographic areas from which they plan to enroll students. A geographic area can be a community, city, region, etc.

##### Projections for Campus [Year 1]

Realistic and/or justified demographic projections for all Year 1 campuses should reflect a careful analysis of the (1) target community, (2) district of location, and (3) contiguous districts. Funds may be affected (in Year 1) if the applicant overestimates the projected student population.

##### Zip code of Location

Applicants should identify the zip code of the location for their proposed school. Applicants who propose to operate at least one full-time virtual and/or full-time hybrid campus may use the zip code of the administrative office's location.

##### Strong Responses:

- Provide a compelling rationale for selecting the proposed geographic area that clearly supports the need for the proposed school.
- Clearly explain the targeted student population.



## PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT:

### Student Performance

Student performance data describe performance and accountability from the last two years of available data. Including highlights of special programs or interventions and explaining how those service will be replicated in Texas.

### Accountability Domain

Applicants are encouraged to review the TEA's 2025 [Accountability Manual](#), which describes the state accountability system and identifies specific accountability domains.

### Additional Resources

Applicants are encouraged to review the TEA's Effective Schools Framework (ESF), [Level 4](#), Essential Action 4.1.2, and [Lever 5](#), Essential Actions 5.3 and 5.4 and TEA's Effective District Framework (EDF) [Lever 4](#), Essential Actions 4.1 and [Lever 5](#), Essential Actions 5.3.

### Planning for Texas

This section will allow applicant to explain their decision to apply for the high -performing entity application.

Strong Responses:

- Present a thorough reflection of the entity's overall student performance and accountability for the last three years.
- Clearly identify any special programs, interventions, or initiatives implemented by the charter to support student performance, with data showing their effectiveness.
- Provide compelling evidence to show the organization's decision to pursue a Subchapter D: Open-Enrollment Charter School aligns to the mission and vision.
- Identify specific research or analysis conducted that supports the need and feasibility of replicating the charter school model.
- Present a sound plan describing how the organization has prepared and assigned resources in anticipation of adding a Subchapter D: Open-Enrollment Charter School to the charter portfolio.

### Education Plan and Curriculum

This section will allow applicant to explain their educational plan for students as well as the proposed curriculum align with Texas state educational standards and requirements.

Strong Responses:

- Present a thorough reflection of the proposed curriculum align with Texas state

## TERMINOLOGY, RESOURCES, AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

educational standards and requirements.

- Present a thorough reflection of how the curriculum support the needs of diverse learners.
- Present a thorough reflection of how the curriculum be evaluated and adapted to measure its effectiveness in achieving educational outcomes specific to Texas students, and what metrics will be used to track progress and success.

## High-Quality Instructional Materials and Academic Experience

### State-Required Standards

The state of Texas requires all schools (including charters) to offer (1) foundational curriculum and (2) enrichment curriculum. See Texas Education Code, §12.111(a)(1). While charter schools enjoy curricular and instructional flexibility, an applicant must outline certain curriculum and standards in their proposal. See [Texas Administrative Code §74](#). Required curriculum can be found on the Texas Education Agency Curriculum Division [website](#). Applicants should ensure that all instructional materials are compliant with all state law. Applicants should familiarize themselves with the state standards, also known as the [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills](#) (TEKS), and the [English Language Proficiency Standards](#) (ELPS).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the list of prohibited instructional materials.

[High-Quality Instructional Materials](#) are materials that: (1) are aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), (2) have a comprehensive and cohesive scope and sequence, (3) include lesson-level materials with engaging texts (books, multimedia, etc.), problems, and assessments, and (4) are externally validated or research based.

Applicants that propose to serve early education and elementary grades should review the [Prekindergarten Guidelines](#) and requirements with [House Bill 3](#), including: implementation of a [K–3 phonics curriculum](#), attendance at literacy achievement academies, and required full-day pre-k for all eligible 4-year-olds (if pre-k is offered).

Applicants may find valuable information on accelerated student learning on the TEA [Accelerated Learning Resources](#) webpage.

Lastly, applicants are strongly encouraged to review the TEA's Effective Schools Framework (ESF), particularly: [Lever 4](#), Essential Action 4.1 and TEA's Effective District Framework (EDF) particularly: [Lever 5](#) Essential Action 5.3.

Strong Responses:

- Identify high-quality instructional materials or curricular resources for developing instructional materials (or plans to adopt materials) that are grade-level appropriate, aligned to the TEKS, and compliant with state law.

## TERMINOLOGY, RESOURCES, AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Explain why the instructional materials identified in the table above were selected and discuss how they fit the definition of high-quality: (1) aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), (2) have a comprehensive and cohesive scope and sequence, (3) include lesson-level materials with engaging texts (books, multimedia, etc.), problems, and assessments, and (4) are externally validated or research based.

## GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP, AND TALENT:

### Board Formation and Structure

This section allows applicant to review board structure and explain the selection and identification process.

Strong Responses:

- Present skill sets that demonstrate a strong capacity to meet the needs of running a successful charter school and launch an A or B rated campus.
- Present a sound plan that identifies the processes and structures that the proposed board will have in place to ensure transparent accountability and engagement with all stakeholders.
- Provide compelling evidence to show how the structure of the board will lead to effective governance for the proposed school.
- Identify a clear outline of the structures and policies in place to ensure that the board remains an independent governing body separate from the CMO, if applicable.
- Discuss the recruitment process for the proposed superintendent. If a proposed superintendent has been identified, discuss why this individual is qualified to lead the proposed school in achieving its mission. Describe the leader's connection to the community and/or ability to effectively serve the anticipated population.
- Discuss the recruitment process that will be used to identify and select the candidate best qualified to lead the proposed school in achieving its mission. Include the timeline, criteria, and selection process.

## CHARTER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS (CMO)

Applicants that are affiliated with a Charter Management Organization (CMO) with multiple years of academic performance data, strong responses will also:

- Present strong evidence for the selection of the proposed CMO.
- Provide a well-developed rationale that aligns the CMO's educational model with the needs of the targeted community and how it will improve student outcomes.
- Present a service package that will fully support the mission, vision, and design of the proposed school.
- Provide a detailed and compelling rationale for the proposed compensation structure and associated costs

Strong responses:

- Present thoughtful reflection on both student performance and accountability from the last three years of available data to showcase the entities' High-Performing eligibility.
- Identify a specific student group that has exhibited significant under-performance and clear systems of support/ interventions that were put into place to achieve stronger achievement.
- Present clear teacher retention data from the 2024-2025 school year broken down by campus or subgroup. Clearly describes how the organization tracks teacher satisfaction for your organization. Identifies a clear plan to prioritize teacher retention.
- Identify specific challenges that have affected performance among students with disabilities and presents a clear systemic approach to how they were (or are currently) addressed.
- Provide robust plans to address area(s) of growth systemically and presents clear campus supports where applicable.

## FINANCE

### Financial Plan

#### Financial Accounting Software

Applicants must select financial accounting software that complies with the requirements discussed in the Special Supplement—Charter Schools (view the Financial Accounting System and Resource Guide [module 2](#)).

#### Funding Resources

School funding is crucial to the viability of a charter school. Applicants should thoroughly review the following resources:

- The [Foundation School Program \(FSP\)](#) and [Charter School Finance](#).
- [Financial Accountability System Resource Guide](#) (FASRG), which describes the rules of financial accounting for charter schools (particularly module 10, the special supplement for charter schools).
- [Annual Financial and Compliance Reports](#).
- Charter Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas ([Charter FIRST](#)).

#### Additional Resources

Applicants should disclose any vendors they plan to hire in the financial plan workbook.

#### Statutory Requirements

Charter schools must ensure that they follow all statutory requirements. Applicants are encouraged to review the following requirements before submitting an application.

#### Texas Education Code

- §12.111(a)(10-11): Requirements to adopt an annual budget and conduct an annual audit
- §39.083: Reporting (related to Annual Financial Compliance Reports)
- §44.008: Fiscal Management (related to Annual Financial Compliance Reports)

#### Texas Administrative Code

- 19 TAC, §109.23: Independent Audits and Agreed-Upon Procedures (related to Annual Financial Compliance Reports)

#### Strong Responses:

- In the Financial Plan Workbook, present a viable budget to support the proposed programs, including services for students with disabilities, emergent bilingual students, and gifted and talented students.
- In the Audit Report, demonstrate the entity applying for the charter has liabilities that are less than 80% of its assets. (*if applicable*)



## Addendum

### Full-Time Hybrid/Full-Time Virtual Campus

#### Full-Time Hybrid Campus

Full-Time Hybrid Campus means a school district or open-enrollment charter school campus at which at least 50 percent of the enrolled students are enrolled in a full-time hybrid program authorized under [TEC, Chapter 30B](#).

#### Full-Time Hybrid Program

Full-Time Hybrid Program means a full-time educational program offered by a school district or open-enrollment charter school campus in which:

- a student is in attendance in person for less than 90 percent of the minutes of instruction provided in a school year; and
- the instruction and content may be delivered synchronously or asynchronously over the Internet, in person, or through other means.

#### Full-Time Virtual Campus

Full-Time Virtual Campuses means a school district or open-enrollment charter school campus at which at least 50 percent of the enrolled students are enrolled in a full-time virtual program authorized under [TEC, Chapter 30B](#).

#### Full-Time Virtual Program

Full-Time Virtual Program means a full-time educational program offered by a school district or open-enrollment charter school campus in which:

- a student is in attendance in person minimally or not at all; and
- the instruction and content are delivered synchronously or asynchronously primarily over the Internet.

#### Cybersecurity and Data Privacy

Applicants are encouraged to review the resources provided by the [Cybersecurity Annex \(K-12\) Checklist](#) to evaluate your Emergency Operations Plan for mandates and best practices.

#### Whole-program Virtual Instruction Provider

Whole-program Virtual Instruction Provider means a private or third-party service that provides oversight and management of the virtual instruction services or otherwise provides a preponderance of those services for a full-time virtual or full-time hybrid campus or program.

#### Evaluation Criteria

##### Academic Progress and Monitoring

## TERMINOLOGY, RESOURCES, AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

### Strong Responses:

- Clearly outlines the education program, detailing how curriculum, core instructional practices, digital tools, and assessment strategies will enhance academic achievement in a virtual or hybrid model.
- Clearly describes the delivery method (synchronous online, asynchronous online, in-person, or other.)
- Details the teacher and student-facing systems that will be used to track progress and determine success within the virtual or hybrid learning model.
- Provides a specific plan in which assessment instruments will be administered in-person for students enrolled in a hybrid or virtual course.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

#### Operations

### Strong Responses:

- Provides a thorough plan to develop and distribute written information describing each hybrid or virtual course available for enrollment.
- Discuss specific plans to offer, or not offer, any computer equipment and/or internet for virtual or hybrid students.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

#### Staffing Plan

### Strong Responses:

- Provides a clear plan to either (1) provide teachers with appropriate professional development in hybrid or virtual instruction; or (2) how determinations of sufficient experience will be made, and by whom.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

#### Data Privacy and Cybersecurity

### Strong Responses:

- Describes the process for selecting, implementing, and managing the information systems (e.g. SIS, LMS) that will be used to collect, store, and analyze student data related to the virtual or hybrid program.
- Identifies all roles and/or departments that will be responsible for data oversight and ensuring timely access to information.
- Describes the cybersecurity framework that will safeguard digital assets and personal information in online learning environments.
- Identifies specific tools, protocols, and staff responsibilities related to (1) threat detection, (2) access control, and (3) incident response.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

### **Private or Third-Party Provider**

#### **Strong Responses:**

- Clearly describes the identification and selection process for selecting the proposed whole program provider.
- Details all services to be provided. Describes all goods, instructional materials, and associated costs.
- Provides thoughtful reflection on the historical performance of the proposed educational service provider in virtual services and any applicable student outcomes.
- Describes the oversight and evaluation methods that the governing board will use to oversee the private or third-party provider. Includes the frequency, evaluation tool to be used, and expected student outcomes.
- Identifies the specific measures that would be taken if the third-party provider does not meet performance and/or student achievement outcome goals.
- Outlines a specific plan to operate the school in the event of termination of the management agreement.