

Florida Charter School Application Evaluation Instrument

Each section presents criteria for a response that meets the standard. These criteria should guide the overall rating for each section of the charter application. The Strengths and Weaknesses boxes provide space to identify data and other evidence that supports the rating. The rationale for each rating is important, especially if some of the data or evidence does not fit neatly into the criteria provided.

The following definitions should guide the ratings:

- Meets the Standard:** The response reflects a thorough understanding of key issues and demonstrates capacity to open and operate a quality charter school. It addresses the topic with specific and accurate information that demonstrates thorough preparation and presents a clear, realistic picture of how the school expects to operate.
- Partially Meets the Standard:** The response addresses most of the criteria, but the responses lack meaningful detail and require important additional information.
- Does Not Meet the Standard:** The response lacks meaningful detail; demonstrates lack of preparation; or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant's understanding of the issue in concept and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice

OVERALL ASSESSEMENT – COMPLETE THIS SECTION LAST

Would you recommend approval of this application for a public charter school? Explain your recommendation in the Summary Comments section below.

DENY	APPROVE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of Charter School:

Reviewer:

Position title:

Date:

Comments:

I. Educational Plan

The education plan should define what students will achieve; how they will achieve it; and how the school will evaluate performance. It should provide a clear picture of what a student who attends the school will experience in terms of educational climate, structure, assessment and outcomes.

1. Mission, Guiding Principles and Purpose

The Mission, Guiding Principles and Purpose section should indicate what the school intends to do, for whom and to what degree.

Florida Statutory References:

s. 1002.33(2)(a); s. 1002.33(2)(b); s. 1002.33(2)(c); s. 1002.33(6)(a)(1); s. 1002.33(7)(a)(1)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A compelling mission statement that defines the purpose and values of the school.
- A set of priorities that are meaningful, manageable and measurable, and focus on improving student outcomes.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

2. Target Population and Student Body

The Target Population and Student Body section should describe the anticipated target population of the school and explain how the school will be organized by grade structure, class size and total student enrollment over the term of the school’s charter.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(10)(e); s. 1002.33(6)(b)(2); s. 1002.33(7)(a)(1); s. 1003.03

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- An understanding of the students the charter school intends to serve.
- A manageable plan tied to enrollment projections that will allow the school to meet its constitutional class size obligations.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

3. Educational Philosophy

The Educational section should describe the educational foundation of the school and the teaching and learning strategies that will be employed.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(7)(a)(2)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present an educational philosophy that:

- Is clear and coherent;
- Is based on effective, research-based educational practices, teaching methods and high standards for student learning;
- Aligns with the school’s mission and responds to the needs of the school’s target population, and
- Presents evidence that the proposed approach will lead to improved student performance for the school’s target population.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

4. Curriculum Plan

The Curriculum Plan section should explain not only *what* the school will teach but also *how* and *why*.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(6)(a)(2); s. 1002.33(6)(a)(4); s. 1002.33(7)(a)(2); s.1002.33(7)(a)(4)

A response that meets the standard will present a curriculum plan that:

- provides a clear and coherent framework for teaching and learning;
- is research-based;
- is consistent with the school’s mission, educational philosophy and instructional approach;
- will enable students to attain Sunshine State Standards and receive a year’s worth of learning for each year enrolled; and
- will be appropriate for all students at all levels.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

5. Student Performance, Assessment and Evaluation

The Student Performance, Assessment and Evaluation section should define what students attending the school should know and be able to do and reflect how the academic progress of individual students, cohorts over time, and the school as a whole will be measured.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(6)(a)(3); s. 1002.33(7)(a)(3); s. 1002.33(7)(a)(4); s. 1002.33(7)(a)(5)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- Measurable educational goals and objectives that set high standards for student performance.
- Promotion and graduation standards that are based on high expectations and provide clear criteria for promotion from one level to the next, and for graduation.
- Evidence that a range of valid and reliable assessments will be used to measure student performance.
- An assessment plan that is sufficiently frequent and detailed to determine whether students are making adequate progress.
- Evidence that data will inform decisions about adjustments to the educational program.
- Plans for sharing student performance information that will keep students and parents well informed of their academic progress.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

6. Exceptional Students

The Exceptional Students sections should demonstrate an understanding of the requirements of the school to serve all students and provide a concrete plan for meeting the broad spectrum of educational needs and providing all students with a quality education.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(16)(a)(3)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- Demonstrated understanding of state and federal requirements regarding the education of exceptional students.
- A commitment to serving the full range of needs of exceptional students.
- Sound plans for educating exceptional students that reflect the full range of programs and services required to provide all students with a high quality education.
- Demonstrated capacity to meet the school’s obligations under state and federal law regarding the education of exceptional students.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

7. School Climate and Discipline

The School Climate and Discipline section should describe the learning environment of the school and provide evidence that the school will ensure a safe environment conducive to learning.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(7)(a)(7); s. 1002.33(7)(a)(11); s. 1002.33(9)(n)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A school calendar and schedule that meets the minimum statutory requirements. Charter schools are required to adhere to the district’s school calendar unless previously approved otherwise.
- An approach to student discipline that creates and sustains a safe and orderly learning environment.
- Legally sound policies for student discipline, suspension, dismissal and recommendation for expulsion.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

II. Organizational Plan

The Organizational Plan should provide an understanding of how the school will be governed and managed. It should present a clear picture of the school’s governance and management priorities, what responsibilities various groups and people will have and how those groups will relate to one another.

8. Governance

The Governance section should describe how the policy-making and oversight function of the school will be structured and operate.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(7)(a)(15); s. 1002.33(16)(5)(b)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- Documentation of proper legal structure of the governing board.
- Adequate policies and procedures for board operation.
- Evidence that the proposed governing board will contribute to the wide range of knowledge and skill needed to oversee a charter school.
- A clear, sensible delineation of roles and responsibilities in relation to governance and school management.
- A plan for the meaningful involvement of parents and the community in the governance of the school.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

9. Management

The Management section should describe how the day-to-day administration of the school’s operations will be structured and fulfilled.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(7)(a)(9); s. 1002.33(7)(a)(14)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A management structure that includes clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities for administering the day-to-day activities of the school.
- A sound plan for the recruitment, selection and evaluation of the school leader.
- A viable and adequate staffing plan.
- A sound plan for recruiting and retaining qualified and capable staff.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

10. Education Service Providers

The term “education service provider” (ESP) refers to any number of organizations that contract with the governing board of a school to provide comprehensive services. The three major types of ESPs that serve charter schools are education management organizations, comprehensive school design providers, and virtual school management organizations. The Education Service Provider section should describe, if applicable, the contractual arrangement between the school’s governing board and such a provider.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(7)(a)(9)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A persuasive explanation of the reasons for contracting with an education service provider.
- A persuasive explanation that the proposed relationship with the ESP will further the school’s mission and program.
- A clear description of the services to be provided by the ESP
- A clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities between the school’s governing board and the ESP.
- A clearly defined performance-based relationship between the school’s governing board and the ESP.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

11. Employment

The Employment section should define the policies and procedures that frame the school’s relationship with its staff.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(7)(a)(14); s. 1002.33(12)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A compensation plan that will attract and retain quality staff.
- Policies and procedures that hold staff to high professional standards.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

12. Parent and Community Support and Partnerships

The Parent and Community Support and Partnerships section should describe how parents and the community will be engaged in the operations of the school.

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- Meaningful partnerships with parents and the community that further the school’s mission and programs.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

13. Student Recruitment and Enrollment

The Student Recruitment and Enrollment section should describe how the school will attract and enroll its student body.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(7)(a)(7); s. 1002.33(7)(a)(8); s. 1002.33(10)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A student recruitment plan that will enable the school to attract its targeted population.
- An enrollment and admissions process that is open, fair and in accordance with applicable law.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

III. Business Plan

The Business Plan should provide an understanding of how the charter operators intend to manage the school’s finances. It should present a clear picture of the school’s financial viability, including the soundness of revenue projections and expenditure requirements; and how well the school’s budget aligns with and supports the effective implementation of the educational program.

14. Facilities

The Facilities section should provide an understanding of the school’s anticipated facilities needs and how the school plans to meet those needs.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(7)(a)(13); s. 1002.33(18)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A realistic plan for securing a facility that is appropriate and adequate for the school’s program and targeted population.
- Evidence that the school has access to the necessary resources to fund the facilities plan.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

15. Transportation and Food Service

The Transportation and Food Service section should describe how the school will address these services for its student body.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(20)(a)(1)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A transportation plan that will serve all eligible students.
- A food service plan that will serve all eligible students.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

16. Budget

The Budget section should provide financial projections for the school over the term of its charter.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(6)(a)(5); s. 1002.33(6)(b)(2)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- Budgetary projections which are consistent with all parts of the application, including the school’s mission, educational program, staffing plan and facility.
- A realistic assessment of the projected sources of revenue and expenses that ensure the financial viability of the school.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

17. Financial Management and Oversight

The Financial Management and Oversight section should describe how the school’s finances will be managed and who will be responsible for the protection of student and financial records.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(6)(a)(5); s. 1002.33(7)(a)(9); s. 1002.33(7)(a)(11)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A fiscal management system that is appropriate, follows generally accepted accounting principles and properly safeguards assets.
- Evidence of proper insurance coverage.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)

18. Action Plan

The Action Plan should provide a clear roadmap of the steps and strategies that will be employed to prepare to be ready on the first day of operation to serve its students well.

Florida Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(7)(a)(16)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present an action plan that:

- Provides a thoughtful and realistic implementation plan that covers major operational areas and provides flexibility for addressing unanticipated events.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Statutory Reference	Page(s)
Concerns and Additional Questions	Statutory Reference	Page(s)