



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

August 30, 2024

Alabama
State Board
of Education

MEMORANDUM

Governor Kay Ivey
President

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

Jackie Zeigler
District I

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education

Tracie West
District II

RE: Charter School Conversion Procedures

In accordance with the [Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act 2023-420, as amended](#), allows conversion charter schools to be established in Alabama in accordance with the law. The procedures for converting a non-charter school are outlined below:

Stephanie Bell
District III

Procedures for Converting a Non-Charter Public School into a Conversion Charter School

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

1. The local school board should already be approved or [apply to become a charter school authorizer](#) with the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE).

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V
Vice President

2. Once approved, the local school board authorizer should participate in the required annual training approved by the ALSDE. The [Charter School Authorizers Annual Trainings memo](#) contains information regarding the training opportunities.

Marie Manning
District VI
President Pro Tem

3. The non-charter school or part of the school to be converted should be identified using the following information completed by the local school board authorizer:

- Community Engagement—Stakeholder Interest—Formation of Governing Board
- Academic Performance Analysis
- Financial Performance Analysis
- Operational Performance Analysis

Belinda McRae
District VII

4. The local school board authorizer should have a plan described in the request for proposal/application to be released by November 1.

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

5. The application can be completed by community stakeholders, the proposed governing board, and/or an approved charter operator.

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

Governing Board—An independent board of a proposed conversion charter school that will contract with the authorizer. Membership must have 20% as parents of students who will attend or have attended the non-charter school for one year. Other possible board members should include community members with expertise in education, finance, law, etc. A local school board authorizer may also be selected to be on the conversion charter school's governing board.

Charter Operator—An entity with which a local school board authorizer has awarded a performance contract to oversee the implementation of any conversion charter school.

6. The proposed governing board should apply for 501(c)(3) status if the board does not currently have this status.
7. The proposed governing board, the community stakeholders, and/or the charter operator should complete a charter school application describing the academic, financial, and operational plan for the school and submit it to the local education agency authorizer.
8. The local school board authorizer or contracted charter operator must release a request for proposal allowing education service providers an opportunity to apply for the selected non-charter school to be converted. If a qualified Education Service Provider applies and is approved using a rubric approved by the ALSDE, a performance contract is negotiated with the selected Education Service Provider.

Education Service Provider—An entity with which a public charter school, local board authorizer, contracted charter operator intends to contract with for educational design, implementation, or comprehensive management.

9. The submitted applications for the selected non-charter school to be converted will be reviewed and evaluated by the local school board authorizer using a process and rubric approved by the ALSDE.
10. The local school board authorizer will contract with the Education Service Provider after an evaluation and review of submitted proposals using a rubric developed by the ALSDE.
11. After five years, if a local school board authorizer chooses not to reapply for charter authority or its authorizer application is denied, any conversion charter schools will begin a transition period to revert to non-charter public schools.

If you have any questions or concerns related to the charter school conversion process, please contact Dr. Margaret M. Jones at charterschools@alsde.edu or (334) 694-4994.

EGM/MMJ/MTV

FY24-3056