

Hamilton County Board of Education

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| Monitoring: Review: Annually in February | Descriptor Term: Charter School Renewal | Descriptor Code: 4.2121 | Issued Date: 03/16/23 |
| | | Rescinded: | Revised: 11/09/23 |

RENEWAL APPLICATION

Any school that seeks renewal from the HCS Board of Education (“the Board”) as its authorizer pursuant to T.C.A. 49-13-121, shall submit a renewal application in accordance with T.C.A. 49-13-121 and any charter renewal guidance issued by the HCS or the Department of Education. The guidance (found in HCS Charter School Handbook) shall also include the standards and criteria that shall guide the HCS Board of Education’s renewal decisions. A school may choose not to submit a renewal application to the Board of Education, in which case the charter school shall close at the end of its current charter term.

The deadline for the submission of all renewal application is no later than April 1 of the year prior to the year in which the charter expires. This is the 9th year of enrollment.

The renewal application shall provide a school with the opportunity to make a clear and compelling case for renewal, respond to its cumulative performance report, and to submit any corrections or clarifications for the report. The renewal application shall require the charter school to present evidence supporting its case for charter renewal that is aligned with the HCS Board of Education’s renewal standards and the charter school’s performance standards and goals in the charter agreement, as well as any additional evidence and improvements undertaken during the charter term. The renewal application shall also require each charter school to present its plan for the next charter term.

RENEWAL CRITERIA

The HCS Board of education shall ensure that renewal decisions are based on demonstrable merit and grant renewal only to charter schools that have sufficiently met the Board’s high standards, sufficiently achieved the targets stated in the charter agreement, are organizationally and fiscally viable, have been faithful to the terms of their charter agreement and applicable law, and present sound academic, financial, and organizational plans for the next charter term.

The Board shall not make renewal decisions on the basis of political or community pressure or solely on promises of future improvement.

Ongoing monitoring, data collection and reporting requirements shall be aligned with the Board’s renewal standards and criteria.

The renewal application shall be evaluated using the TN Model Scoring Rubric for Charter School Renewal, found in the TN Department of Education’s guidance on “Charter School Renewal Application.”

RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

1 The Charter Schools Coordinator, under direction of the Board, shall assemble a renewal application
2 review committee comprised of teams of internal and external evaluators with relevant and diverse
3 educational, organizational (governance and management), financial and legal expertise, as well as a
4 thorough understanding of the essential principles of public-school autonomy and accountability. The
5 Board, or it’s designee, shall provide training to the Renewal Review Committee members to ensure
6 consistent standards and fair treatment of all renewal application reviews.
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8 The Renewal Review Committee shall review the renewal application received directly by the Board as
9 the authorizer.
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11 The Board shall ensure that the renewal review process, Renewal Review Committee members, and
12 decision-making processes are free of conflicts of interest and shall require full disclosure of any
13 potential or perceived conflicts of interest between Renewal Review Committee members and applicable
14 charter schools.
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16 The Renewal Review Committee members, led by the Charter Schools Coordinator, shall provide an
17 evidence-based recommendation to the Chair of the HCS Board of Education.
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19 The Board shall consider the recommendation of the Renewal Review Committee when rendering a
20 decision on the renewal, but the Board is not bound by the recommendation. The Board shall meet and
21 render a decision on or before February 1 of the year following submission of the charter renewal
22 application. If the Board grants the renewal application, the school shall continue to operate for the
23 prescribed period of ten (10) academic years (subject to the right of the Board to revoke the charter
24 agreement), and the Board shall continue to the authorizer.
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26 If the Board denies the renewal application, the charter school may appeal to the Tennessee Public
27 Charter School Commission within ten (10) days of the date of the decision to deny.
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29 **RENEWAL CHARTER AGREEMENT**
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31 For all charter schools where the HCS Board of Education serves as the authorizer, the Board’s approval
32 of a charter school’s renewal application is separate and distinct from the Board’s approval of its renewal
33 charter agreement and a school’s right to remain open.
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35 Once a renewal application is approved by the Board, the Board shall negotiate a renewal charter
36 agreement with the school’s governing body that must be signed by both parties and submitted to the
37 board for approval.
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41 Legal References:

- 41 1. T.C.A. 49-13-121
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41 Cross References: