

# SC CharterStarters Webinar 7: Give Thanks and Get Writing

Public Charter School Alliance  
of South Carolina

Schools for South Carolina's Future



# Who is The Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina?

## What does the Alliance do?



# Starting a charter

*The Alliance process.*

- The Alliance believes new school development thrives in a coaching environment. We teach you to fish. We do not give you the fish.
- We help Charter Starters understand the application and approval process.
- Your charter application will need to answer why and map out how.
- We will cover how to tackle this process effectively.
- These webinars are a free component in that process.
- There is also an incubator for charter committees where they are coached throughout the development of their charter application, the approval process with mock hearings and interviews, the pre-operation year, and the first two years of operation.

Thanks for  
coming

We provided over 40  
scholarships to the  
conference in 2015!

15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL  
**CONFERENCE**

A circular logo for the 15th Year Celebration. It features the number '15' in a large blue font, with 'TH' in a smaller blue font to its upper right. To the right of the '15' is the word 'Year' in orange and 'Celebration!' in orange below it. The central text is surrounded by a ring of ten stylized human figures in various colors (red, yellow, green, blue, purple) with their arms raised, forming a circle.

**NOVEMBER 16 – 18, 2015**  
MARRIOTT HOTEL • COLUMBIA SC

# Give Thanks and Get Writing

- Application is due February 1 2016 for 2017-18 openings.
- Links to all of the information can be found at [www.sccharterschools.org](http://www.sccharterschools.org)

Give thanks that you have 1680 hours per person on your team left to get this done...oh wait you need to sleep and work. Lets say 70 days x 5 hours per day – you have 350 hours per person on your team. Give thanks to your team!



Give Thanks –  
we have a  
charter law  
that is top ten  
in the country!

What is the  
purpose of  
public charter  
schools in  
South  
Carolina?

**Section 59-40-20.** This chapter is enacted to:

- (1) **improve student learning;**
- (2) **increase learning opportunities** for students;
- (3) encourage the **use of a variety of productive teaching methods;**
- (4) **establish new forms of accountability for schools;**
- (5) **create new professional opportunities for teachers,** including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site;
- (6) **assist South Carolina in reaching academic excellence;** and
- (7) create new, innovative, and more flexible ways of educating children within the public school system, with the goal of **closing achievement gaps between low performing student groups and high performing student groups.**

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t59c040.php>

# Steps in Applying for a Charter in SC

Identify a Need in the Community and Research Solutions

Read the Charter Act <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/getfile.php?TYPE=CODEOFLAWS&TITLE=59&CHAPTER=40>

Network and Bring Together Community Members and Partner Organizations

Begin Writing Charter

Submit Letter of Intent to Sponsor at least 90 days prior to Submitting Application – NOVEMBER 1, 2015

Outreach and Document Support for School

Explore Facility Options

Meet with Sponsor

File Articles of Incorporation with SC Secretary of State and Hold Organizational Meeting

Submit Charter Application to Sponsor and give Copy to SCDE – Final day – FEBRUARY 1, 2016.

Inform Legislative Delegation. Inform District you will be located in if going to SCPCSD or Higher Ed Institution.

Sponsor has 90 Days to Hold Hearing to Approve or Deny Charter

Charter Contract is Drafted and Signed by School and Sponsor

Year of Planning (Facilities, Faculty, & Find Students)

# Alignment in Application



Vision of  
Students  
Learning



Admin  
Structure



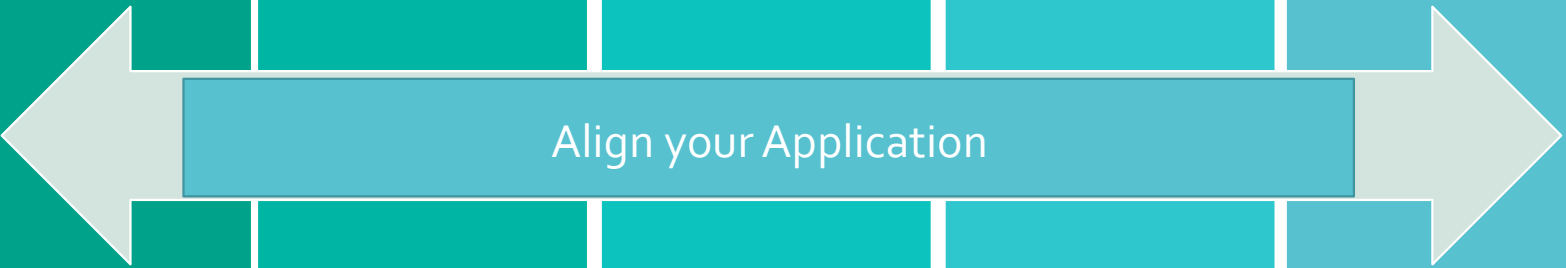
Board



Policies and  
Procedures



Your  
Budget...



Align your Application



# What is innovation?

Innovation = Ideas + Execution

In the application continue to fine tune  
how you will accomplish your mission.

## 7 Keys to a Successful Charter:

- Know **WHY** you are doing this and **WHO** you are doing this for.
- Create a mission for the school that **inspires** innovative paths to educating children and align all of the components in the charter to that mission.
- Develop a charter committee with the **capacity** to survive one of the most difficult things they will ever do.
- Demonstrate capacity with a budget that is financially sound, is supported by actual documented student interest, and is **aligned** with what is in the charter document.
- Find one person that is detail oriented and computer savvy to **orchestrate** the compilation of the final documents – that person, most likely, it is not the visionary in the group.
- With increased autonomy comes increased **accountability**. Make whatever you are going to measure in your goals and objectives matter to your mission.
- Provide the **community** with a reason to believe that the status quo is not their only option.

Is your application reflecting the needs in your community?

- What did your research tell you?
- Where have your conversations lead you?

# Writing with the Evaluation Criteria in Mind

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

A response that meets the standard will:

- Include brief profile of each member of the charter committee, including any leadership experience and credentials.
- Summarize the process involved in developing the charter committee and the outreach it conducted; profiles are also provided.
- Provide a clear description of the model or philosophy of governance of the proposed charter school which will guide the board
- Explain the authority of the charter committee to develop policies, make decisions, and execute each of the following responsibilities:
  - employing and contracting with teachers and nonteaching employees;
  - ensuring that all certified personnel, teachers, and noncertified teachers undergo background checks and other investigations before they are employed in the school;
  - contracting for other services including, but not limited to, transportation, accounting, and legal;
  - developing pay scales, performance criteria, and discharging policies for its employees, including the school's administrator;
  - deciding all other matters related to the school's operation, including budgeting, curriculum, and operating procedures; and
  - ensuring that the school will adhere to the same health, safety, civil rights, and disability rights requirements applicable to all public schools operating in the same school district.
- Provide how a lead administrator will be hired and how the transition of leadership and charter committee responsibilities will happen
- Include a plan for ongoing board training and capacity building aligned to the budget line that includes board training
- A description of the ongoing parent and community involvement in the governance of the school

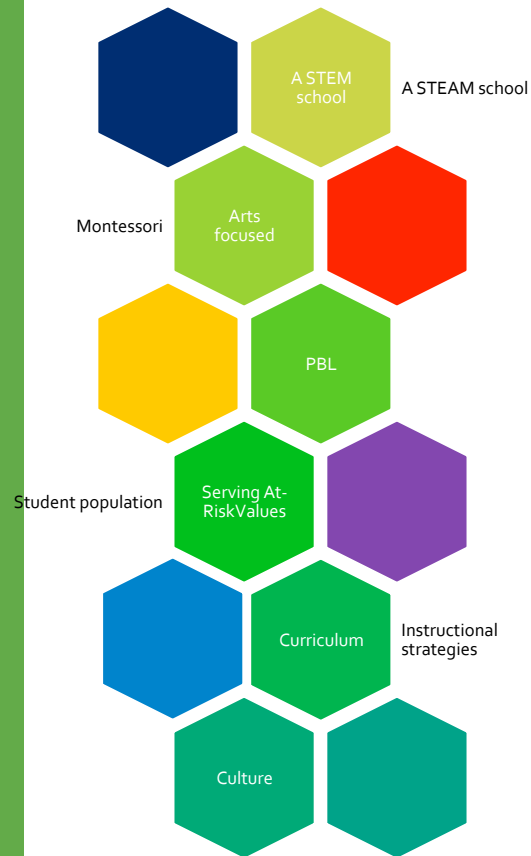
Appendices have all items and are fully developed:

- Charter committee resumes
- Bylaws should clearly include:
  - A description of the election process of the governing board, including when elections will occur and the voting procedures. Procedures should include that parents/legal guardians will have one vote for each student enrolled in the school. In addition, each employee will have one vote.
  - A detailed a plan for dissolving the charter committee and instituting the first governing board. Procedures should specifically describe how nominations will be taken, when the vote will occur, how eligible voters will cast their ballots, and when training will be provided for these governing board members.
  - An explanation of the powers and duties, size, terms, composition, qualifications, term limits, officer positions and duties, election procedure,

Avoid the  
Patchwork  
Quilt  
Approach



# What are you weaving in?



- ❖ Instructional practices?
- ❖ Targeting a specific population?
- ❖ Mixed age grouping?
- ❖ Students wear uniforms?
- ❖ Parent involvement?
- ❖ Extended learning?
- ❖ Year round school?
- ❖ Single gender?
- ❖ Looping with the same teacher?
- ❖ Blended learning?
- ❖ Behavior expectations?
- ❖ Personalized learning?
- ❖ Theme based instruction?
- ❖ Language immersion?

Share your vision with graphics that organize your big ideas into a cohesive vision.

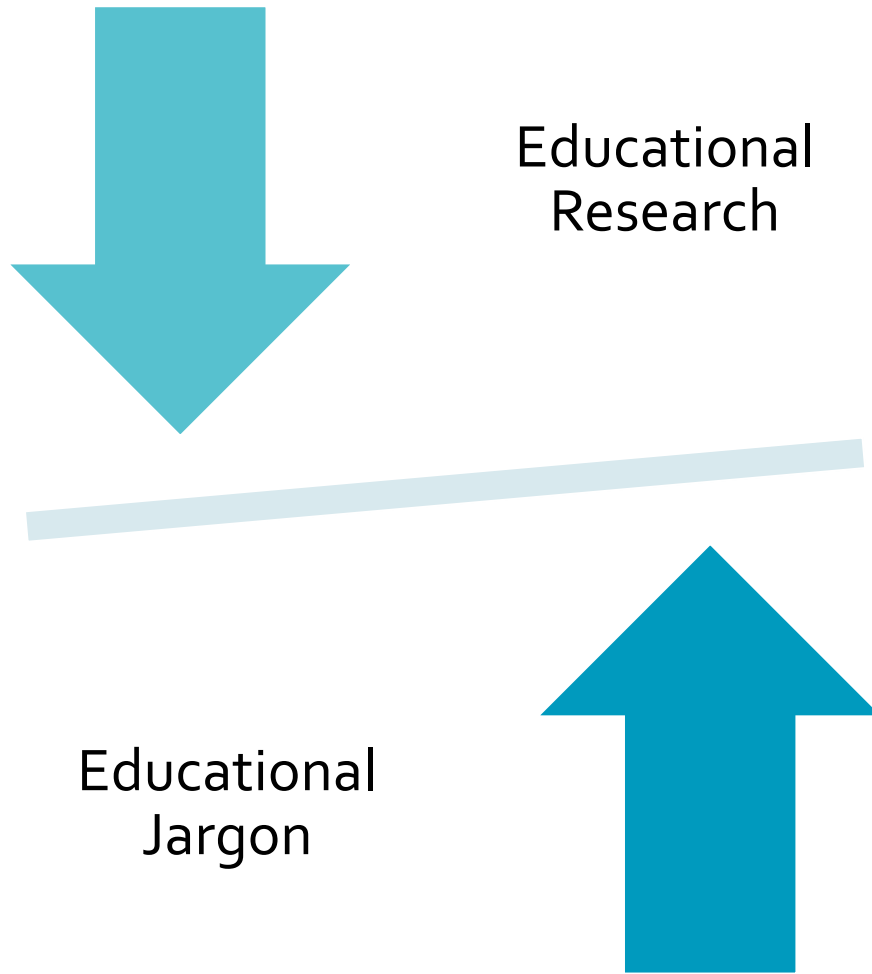
The application tells you to:

A one-page chart or graphic organizer illustrating how the proposed educational program's curriculum and instructional design support the mission of the school and increase student achievement.

How does your mission tie to your educational program? How is all of this going to increase student achievement?

Use SmartArt in Word or an infographic creator online like Piktochart or Canva. Find someone to help you.

Balance





# Take the Application and Create Subheadings to Keep Organized and Use Similar Language to Make the Sections Easy to Find

## Introduction

- An introduction to the educational program that includes an overview of the curriculum and instructional design
- **Educational Philosophy.** The guiding educational philosophy
- **Alignment to the Mission.** How the educational program aligns to the mission of the school
- **Student Achievement.** How the education program will improve student achievement.
- A one-page chart or graphic organizer illustrating how the proposed educational program's curriculum and instructional design support the mission of the school and increase student achievement – *USE This to tie your vision together and help visual learners understand what you are proposing.*

## Meeting and Exceeding Academic Standards

- Explain *how* the charter school will meet or exceed the academic performance standards and expectations
- Include *how* the school will ensure alignment with the academic standards adopted by the State Board of Education. *Provide a process for this.*
- A correlation or other documentation must be included or *process identified* to ensure that the school will provide an instructional program that meets or exceeds the academic standards.
- Explain how the instructional design, learning environment, class size and structure, curriculum, and teaching methods will enable each pupil to achieve these standards per 59-40-60 E(5).

## Research Supporting the Curriculum and Instructional Strategies.

- A description of how the educational program is research based and data driven including why the selected curriculum was chosen for the anticipated population of students

## Supporting All Students

- The plan to address the needs of struggling learners through a Response to Intervention (RTI) or other research based child study process. Include a description of the proposed charter school's procedures for taking corrective action in the event that pupil performance falls below the achievement goals, including a timeline, responsible person(s), and staffing changes as appropriate.

# Get the tempo right in your application



## Send us your One Pager

- Vision – almost mission, but do not chisel that in granite yet
- Articulate the WHY
- Student population – grades to be served
- Focus of the School
- Need/Solution
- Dates for community meetings
- Email and place to go for more info
- List of community members involved

# Questions?



Resources for your CharterStarter needs:  
<http://www.sccharterschools.org/charter-application-resources>

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