

Executive Summary
Innovation Preparatory Charter, Inc.

Applicants seeking to open a charter school must complete the Model Florida Charter School Application as provided by the Florida Department of Education. The standard application template clearly specifies statutorily required standards and supporting criteria that the reviewers should expect to find in the application narrative. In order to demonstrate the quality of the proposed charter school, as well as the capacity of the applicant to meet the challenge of successfully operating a quality charter school, applicants are asked to provide detailed plans in three areas critical to the success of the school:

- Educational Plan
- Organizational Plan
- Business Plan

Pursuant to Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, charter school applications are due on or before February 1 of each calendar year for charter schools to be opened 18 months later at the beginning of the school district’s school year or to be opened at a time determined by the applicant. Applications received in a timely manner are evaluated by the Superintendent’s Charter School Review Committee, which is comprised of representatives from Bilingual/ESOL, Budget, Elementary and Secondary Learning, Exceptional Student Learning Support (ESLS), Risk Management, Student Assessment and Research and other relevant areas of the organization.

Application Deficiencies:

The charter school application for Innovation Preparatory Charter, Inc. was reviewed by the Superintendent’s Charter School Review Committee and is recommended for denial. The recommendation for denial is based on the sections of the Model Florida Charter School Application that Partially Met the Standard or Did not Meet the Standard per the Florida Charter School Application Evaluation Instrument as provided by the Florida Department of Education. The application for Innovation Preparatory Charter, Inc. is recommended for denial due to the following deficiencies:

EDUCATIONAL PLAN

I. Section 2: Target Population and Student Body:

Failure to 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. Section 1002.33(10), Florida Statutes, a required element of the Model Florida Charter School Application.

- a. Section 1002.33(10)(b), Florida Statutes, states that, “The charter school shall enroll an eligible student who submits a timely application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. In such case, all applicants shall have an equal chance of being admitted through a random selection process.
 - i. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide enrollment projections over five (5) consecutive years.

II. Section 3: Educational Program Design:

Failure to describe the educational foundation of the school and the teaching and learning strategies that will be employed. Section 1002.33(7)(a)2, Florida Statutes, a required element of the Model Florida Charter School Application.

- a. Section 1002.33(7)(a)2, Florida Statutes, states that, “The charter shall address and criteria for approval of the charter shall be based on: The focus of the curriculum, the instructional methods to be used, any distinctive instructional techniques to be employed and identification and acquisition of appropriate technologies needed to improve educational and administrative performance which include a means for promoting safe, ethical, and appropriate uses of technology which comply with legal and professional standards.”
 - i. Application deficiency: The application fails to specify curricular alignment to Florida World Languages Standards.
 - ii. Application deficiency: The application fails to mention a school library program to support the school program especially in the use of technology and inquiry-based learning.
 - iii. Application deficiency: The application fails to explain the schoolwide design for MTSS implementation.
- b. Section 1002.33(7)(a)2a, Florida Statutes, states that, “The charter shall ensure that reading is a primary focus of the curriculum and that resources are provided to identify and provide specialized instruction for students who are reading below grade level. The curriculum and instructional strategies for reading must be consistent with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and grounded in scientifically based reading research.”
 - i. Application deficiency: The application fails to clearly state if it’s the intent of the applicant to follow Florida’s new B.E.S.T. Standards for Literacy.
 - ii. Application deficiency: The application fails to clearly state if it’s the intent of the applicant to opt-in to the District’s K-12 Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan and follow it in its entirety.
 - iii. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide evidence of a clear and coherent educational program design for English Language Arts (ELA), Intensive Reading, and Writing.
 - iv. Application deficiency: The application fails to explain how the school will support students in attaining proficiency of the Florida Standards for ELA/Writing.

III. Section 4: Curriculum Plan:

Failure to explain not only what the school will teach but also how and why. Section 1002.33(6)(a)2 and 4, Florida Statutes; Section 1002.33(7)(a)2 and 4, Florida Statutes, required elements of the Model Florida Charter School Application.

- a. Section 1002.33(6)(a)(2), Florida Statutes, states that, “Charter school applications are subject to the following requirements: A person or entity wishing to open a charter school shall prepare and submit an application on a model application form prepared by the Department of Education which: Provides a detailed curriculum plan that illustrates how students will be provided services to attain the Sunshine State Standards.”
 - i. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide the Mathematics curriculum that will be used for Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 instruction.
 - ii. The application fails to provide the course progression for courses offered in Science.
 - iii. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide the course offerings for Social Studies other than Civics.
 - iv. Application deficiency: The application fails to specify curricular alignment to Florida World Languages Standards.
 - v. Application deficiency: The application fails to describe a clear Career/Technical Education (CTE) pathway for Home Economics or Culinary Arts although the application indicates that Home Economics will be offered.

- vi. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide a clear indication if any industry certifications or digital tools will be offered and if the staff will be appropriately certified.
 - vii. Application deficiency: The application fails to mention a school library program to support the school program especially in the use of technology and inquiry-based learning.
 - viii. Application deficiency: The application fails to explain how students are to be identified for Response to Intervention (RtI) and how the students will be progress monitored.
- b. Section 1002.33(7)(a)2a, Florida Statutes, states that, “The charter shall ensure that reading is a primary focus of the curriculum and that resources are provided to identify and provide specialized instruction for students who are reading below grade level. The curriculum and instructional strategies for reading must be consistent with the Florida Standards (FS) and grounded in scientifically based reading research.”
- i. Application deficiency: The application fails to identify the instructional resources that will be utilized in the ELA curriculum.
 - ii. Application deficiency: The application fails to identify the progress monitoring tool to be used for Level 1 reading students.
 - iii. Application deficiency: The application fails to identify the instructional resources that will be utilized for reading intervention for Tier 2 and Tier 3 students.
 - iv. Application deficiency: The application fails to identify the curriculum that will be used to support students in attaining proficiency of the Florida Standards for ELA/Writing.
 - v. Application deficiency: The application fails to describe the intensive intervention schedule for intensive reading.
 - vi. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide an assessment calendar detailing a progress monitoring schedule and the tools the school will use.
 - vii. Application deficiency: The application fails to address credit recovery options for secondary students.

IV. Section 5: Student Performance, Assessment and Evaluation

Failure to 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. Section 1002.33(6)(a)3, Florida Statutes, Section 1002.33(7)(a)3, 4, and 5, Florida Statutes, required elements of the Model Florida Charter School Application.

- a. Section 1002.33(6)(a)3, Florida Statutes, states that, a charter school application “contains goals and objectives for improving student learning and measuring that improvement. These goals and objectives must indicate how much academic improvement students are expected to show each year, how success will be evaluated, and the specific results to be attained through instruction.
- i. Application deficiency: The application fails to explain why the student proficiency goals on the state assessment for ELA are set with low expectations (50%).
- b. Section 1002.33(7)(a)3, Florida Statutes, states that, “The charter shall address and criteria for approval of the charter shall be based on: The current incoming baseline standard of academic achievement, the outcomes to be achieved, and the method of measurement that will be used.”
- i. Application deficiency: The application fails to name specific assessments that will be used to determine baseline data for student academic performance.
 - ii. Application deficiency: The application fails to name specific assessments that will be used to determine student academic placement.

- iii. Application deficiency: The application fails to name specific assessments that will be used to monitor and measure student progress.

V. Section 6: Exceptional Students:

Failure to demonstrate an understanding of the requirements of the school to serve exceptional students and provide a concrete plan for meeting the broad spectrum of educational needs and providing all enrolled students with a quality education. Section 1002.33(16)(a)3, Florida Statutes, a required element of the Model Florida Charter School Application.

- a. Section 1002.33(16)(a)3, Florida Statutes, states that “A charter school shall operate in accordance with its charter and shall be exempt from all statutes in chapters 1000-1013. However, a charter school shall be in compliance with the following statutes in chapters 1000-1013: Those statutes pertaining to the provision of services to students with disabilities.”
 - i. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide an appropriate plan for evaluating the school’s effectiveness in serving exceptional students.
 - ii. Application deficiency: The application fails to describe how the school will utilize the regular school facilities and adapt them to the needs of exceptional students to the maximum extent appropriate including the use of supplementary aids and services or the additional ADA compliance requirements as detailed in Section 1003.57, Florida Statutes and State Rule 6A-6.03028, Florida Administrative Code.
 - iii. Application deficiency: The application fails to describe the prescribed IEP process for Students with Disabilities (SWD) documenting the student’s present level of performance, priority educational needs, impact of disability, and educational goals as detailed in State Rule 6A-6.03028(3)(h)1 and 2, Florida Administrative Code.
 - iv. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide a comprehensive plan for providing Extended School Year (ESY) to SWDs as detailed in State Rule 6A-6.03028(3)(g)12, Florida Administrative Code.
 - v. Application deficiency: The application fails to indicate that appropriately certified staff members will instruct students in the Gifted program as required by Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations, 300.18(b).
 - vi. Application deficiency: The application fails to identify the specific measures to be used in the quarterly progress monitoring of Gifted students as required by State Rule 6A-6.030191(4)(d), Florida Administrative Code.

VI. Section 7: English Language Learners:

Failure to demonstrate an understanding of the requirements of the school to serve English Language Learner Students and to provide a concrete plan for meeting the broad spectrum of educational needs and providing all students with a quality education. Section 1002.33(10)(f), Florida Statutes, a required element of the Model Florida Charter School Application.

- a. Section 1002.33(10)(f), Florida Statutes, states that, “Students with disabilities and students served in English for Speakers of Other Languages programs shall have an equal opportunity of being selected for enrollment in a charter school.”
 - i. Application deficiency: The application fails to demonstrate a clear understanding of the procedures for identification and placement of English Language Learners (ELL) as required by State Rule 6A-6.0902, Florida Administrative Code.
 - ii. Application deficiency: The application fails to demonstrate a clear understanding of the procedures for exiting ELLs as required by State Rule 6A-6.0903, Florida Administrative Code.
 - iii. Application deficiency: The application fails to demonstrate a clear understanding of the procedures for creating and maintaining required documentation for ELLs as required by State Rule 6A-6.090, Florida Administrative Code.

- iv. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide a comprehensive and compelling plan for educating ELLs as required by State Rule 6A-6.0904, Florida Administrative Code.
- v. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide a clear plan for monitoring and evaluating the progress of ELLs as required by State Rule 6A-6.0906, Florida Administrative Code.
- vi. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide a realistic staffing plan as required by State Rule 6A-6.0907, Florida Administrative Code.

VII. Section 8: School Culture and Discipline:

Failure to describe the learning environment of the school and provide evidence that the school will ensure a safe environment conducive to learning. Section 1002.33(7)(a)7 and 11, Florida Statutes, required elements of the Model Florida Charter School Application.

- a. Section 1002.33(7)(a)7, Florida Statutes, states that, “The charter school shall address and criteria for approval of the charter shall be based on: The admissions procedures and dismissal procedures, including the school’s code of student conduct. Admission or dismissal must not be based on a student’s academic performance.”
 - i. Application deficiency: Although the application indicates that the school will use the District’s Code of Conduct, the application fails to align the language relative to expulsion recommendations in the application with that of District’s Code of Conduct.
 - ii. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide a plan with objectives for addressing proactive and reactive behaviors.

ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN

VIII. Section 10: Governance:

Failure to describe how the policy-making and oversight function of the school will be structured and operate. Section 1002.33(7)(a)15, Florida Statutes and Section 1002.33(9), Florida Statutes, required elements of the Model Florida Charter School Application.

- a. Section 1002.33(7)(a)15, Florida Statutes, states that, “The charter school shall address and criteria for approval of the charter shall be based on: The governance structure of the school, including the status of the charter school as a public or private employer as required in paragraph (12)(i).”
 - i. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide the Governing Board By-Laws as required in Attachment J of the application.
 - ii. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide governing board membership that meets the minimum requirement of three (3) members.

IX. Section 12: Human Resources and Employment:

Failure to define the policies and procedures that frame the school’s relationship with its staff. Section 1002.33(7)(a)14, Florida Statutes and Section 1002.33(12), Florida Statutes, required elements of the Model Florida Charter School Application.

- a. Section 1002.33(7)(a)(14), Florida Statutes, states that, “The charter shall address and criteria for approval of the charter shall be based on: The qualifications to be required of the teachers and the potential strategies used to recruit, hire, train, and retain qualified staff to achieve best value.”
 - i. Application deficiency: The application indicates that the school will utilize the sponsor’s MEP Evaluation. The Sponsor does not use the MEP Evaluation.
 - ii. Application deficiency: The application does not include an annual salary adjustment under the performance salary schedule that reflects the percentage requirements of Section 1012.22, Florida Statutes.

X. Section 13: Professional Development:

Failure to clearly describe the proposed expectations and opportunities for administrators, teachers, and other relevant personnel.

- a. There is no statutory reference for this section.
 - i. Application deficiency: The application does not demonstrate an understanding of the school-based learning opportunities endorsed by Broward County Public Schools.

XI. Section 14: Student Recruitment and Enrollment:

Failure to describe how the school will attract and enroll its student body. Section 1002.33(7)(a)7 and 8, and Section 1002.33(10), Florida Statutes, required elements of the Model Florida Charter School Application.

- a. Section 1002.33(7)(a)8, Florida Statutes, states that, “The charter school shall address and criteria for approval of the charter shall be based on: The ways by which the school will achieve a racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves it within the racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the same school district.”
 - i. Application deficiency: The application fails to explain how racial/ethnic balance will be achieved nor does it provide a policy or anti-discrimination statement that the school will follow.
- b. Section 1002.33(10)(b), Florida Statutes, states that, “The charter school shall enroll an eligible student who submits a timely application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. In such case, all applicants shall have an equal chance of being admitted through a random selection process.”
 - i. Application deficiency: The application fails to explain the enrollment timeline and any preferences for enrollment and/or the lottery process.

BUSINESS PLAN

XII. Section 16: Facilities:

Failure to provide an understanding of the school’s anticipated facilities needs and how the school plans to meet those needs. Section 1002.33(7)(a)13, Florida Statutes and Section 1002.33(18), Florida Statutes, required elements of the Model Florida Charter School Application.

- a. Section 1002.33(18), Florida Statutes, states that, “A startup charter school shall utilize facilities which comply with the Florida Building Code pursuant to charter 553 except for the State Requirements for Educational Facilities...”
 - i. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide an understanding of the requirements for an educational facility.

XIII. Section 19: School Safety and Security:

Failure to provide a description of the school’s plan to ensure the safety and security of its students and faculty. Section 1002.33(7)(a)11, Florida Statutes and Section 1002.33(16)(b)8,12, and 14, Florida Statutes, required elements of the Model Florida Charter School Application.

- a. Section 1002.33(7)(a)11, Florida Statutes, states that, “The charter school shall address and criteria for approval of the charter shall be based on: A description of procedures that identify various risks and provide for a comprehensive approach to reduce the impact of losses; plans to ensure the safety and security of students and staff; plans to identify, minimize, and protect others from violent or disruptive student behavior; and the manner in which the school will be insured, including whether or not the school will be required to have liability insurance, and, if so, the terms and conditions thereof and the amounts of coverage.”

- b. Section 1002.33(16)(b), Florida Statutes, states that, “Additionally, a charter school shall be in compliance with the following statutes:
 - 8. Section 1006.12, relating to safe-school officers.
 - 12. Section 1006.07(6)(c), relating to adopting an active assailant response plan.
 - 14. Section 1012.584, relating to youth mental health awareness and assistance training.
 - i. Application deficiency: The application fails to include the updated requirements for this section and therefore, does not provide a response to any of the required elements.

XIV. Section 20: Budget:

Failure to provide financial projections for the school over the term of its charter. Section 1002.33(6)(a)5, Florida Statutes and Section 1002.33(6)(b)2, Florida Statutes, required elements of the Model Florida Charter School Application.

- a. Section 1002.33(6)(a)5, Florida Statutes, states that, “A person or entity wishing to open a charter school shall prepare and submit an application on a model application form prepared by the Department of Education which: Contains an annual financial plan for each year requested by the charter for operation of the school for up to 5 years. This plan must contain anticipated fund balances based on revenue projections, a spending plan based on projected revenues and expenses, and a description of controls that will safeguard finances and projected enrollment trends.”
 - i. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide current FEFP information as required in Attachment W of the application. The information provided was from the 2015-2016 school year.
 - ii. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide enrollment projections in the budget section that match the enrollment projections in Section C. It is unable to be determined if the budget is viable without the correct numbers.
- b. Section 1002.33(6)(b)2, Florida Statutes, states that, “A person or entity wishing to open a charter school shall prepare and submit an application on a model application form prepared by the Department of Education which: In order to ensure fiscal responsibility, an application for a charter school shall include a full accounting of expected assets, a projection of expected sources and amounts of income, including income derived from projected student enrollments and from community support, and an expense projection that includes full accounting of the costs of operation, including start-up costs.”
 - i. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide a start-up budget as required in Attachment Y of the application.
 - ii. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide proof of external funding as required in Attachment Z of the application.
 - iii. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide an adequate budget for an ESE teacher. The amount allocated is under-budgeted for a school with a tentative projected enrollment of 564 students.
 - iv. Application deficiency: The application fails to show consistent expenses for the estimated rent expense in Section 16: Facilities and Section 20: Budget.

XV. Section 22: Start-Up Plan

Failure to provide a clear roadmap of the steps and strategies that will be employed to prepare the school to be ready to serve its students well on the first day of operation. Section 1002.33(7)(a)16, Florida Statutes, a required element of the Model Florida Charter School Application.

- a. Section 1002.33(7)(a)16, Florida Statutes, requires “A timetable for implementing the charter which addresses the implementation of each element thereof and the date by which the charter shall be awarded in order to meet this timetable.”
 - i. Application deficiency: The application fails to provide a timeline with dates that are aligned to the start-up process.

XVI. Application Process Overview

Page 4, Part B. of the Model Florida Charter School Application, states, “Plagiarism: Individuals and groups seeking the right and responsibility to educate public school children at public expense should be accountable to the highest standards of academic integrity. Plagiarism, including copying of language from substantive portions any other charter application without proper attribution or authorization, is prohibited. In order to implement an existing curriculum, instructional framework, or educational model (e.g. Montessori, arts integration, project-based learning, blended learning, etc.) with fidelity, key concepts must be discussed. However, it is not acceptable to copy and paste this discussion or description from another source. A high-quality applicant team with the capacity to operate a high-quality school must be able to thoughtfully explain in their own words how they intend to educate children. Existing operators or applicants with their own previously submitted applications may use their own intellectual property without violating this provision.

- i. Application deficiency: The information provided in Section 12: Human Resources and Employment, Part B (Performance Evaluations) is, in part, identical to the information provided by an unrelated entity within this application submission cycle.

It is requested that The School Board of Broward County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify Innovation Preparatory Charter, Inc. of the denial of the charter application. A draft letter notifying the applicant of the decision is attached.

The applicant for Innovation Preparatory Charter, Inc. is permitted to submit a new application for the 2021 Application Review Cycle after the foregoing application deficiencies have been remedied.