

Executive Summary

Academir Charter School of Broward County

Applicants seeking to open a charter school must complete the Model Florida Virtual Charter School Application from the Florida Department of Education School Choice website or the District's Charter School website. The application clearly specifies the statutorily required standards and supporting criteria that reviewers should expect to find. In order to demonstrate the quality of the proposed charter school, as well as the capacity of the applicant to meet the challenge of 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 August 1 of each calendar year for charter schools to be opened at the beginning of the school district's next academic year. Applications received in a timely manner are evaluated by the Superintendent's Charter School Review Committee, which is comprised of representatives from Instruction and Intervention, Budget, Facilities, District Administration, Student Transportation and Fleet Services, Exceptional Student Education and Support Services (ESE), English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and other areas of the organization.

Staff Comments and Recommendations:

The Charter School application for Academir Charter School of Broward County was reviewed by the Superintendent's Charter School Review Committee and is recommended for denial. It is recommended that the application of Academir Charter School of Broward County, be denied due to the following deficiencies:

- Failure to 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. Section 1002.33(16)(a)(3), Florida Statutes, a required element of the Model Florida Charter School Application.
 - State Board Rule 6A-6.03028(11)(i)(3), F.A.C., Provision of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and Development of Individual Educational Plans for Students with Disabilities states that, "a continuum of alternative placements must be available to meet the needs of students with disabilities for special education and related services, including instruction in regular classes, special classes, special schools, home instruction, and instruction in hospitals and institutions and a school district must make provision for supplementary services (such as resource room or itinerant instruction) to be provided in conjunction with regular class placement."
 - Application Deficiency: This application fails to provide a clear description of a continuum or levels of services to be provided to students

- with disabilities.
 - Application Deficiency: This application fails to demonstrate a clear understanding of supplemental aids needed to meet the educational needs of students with disabilities.
 - State Board Rule 6A-6.03019(2)(b)(2)(F), F.A.C., states that, “an evaluation design which addresses evaluation of progress toward the district’s goal for increasing participation by students from under-represented groups.”
 - Application Deficiency: This application fails to provide a clear explanation or plan for the school’s Gifted population.
 - State Board Rule 6A-6.0331, F.A.C., states that, “the state’s goal is to provide full educational opportunity and a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all students with disabilities ages three (3) through twenty-one (21) and to school age students who are gifted. School districts have the responsibility to ensure that students suspected of having a disability are subject to general education intervention procedures. They must ensure that all students with disabilities or who are gifted and who are in need of specially designed instruction and related services are identified, located, and evaluated, and appropriate exceptional student education is made available to them if it is determined that the student meets the eligibility criteria specified in Rules 6A-6.03011 through 6A-6.0361, F.A.C.”
 - Application Deficiency: The application fails to address a system of interventions for struggling students before they reach the evaluation level of the Response to Intervention process.
- Failure to demonstrate an understanding of the requirements of the school to serve English Language Learner Students (ELLs) and to provide a concrete plan for meeting the broad spectrum of educational needs for all enrolled students as required in Section 1003.56, Florida Statutes, English Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient Students and Rules 6A-6.0900 to 6A-6.0909, F.A.C., Programs for Limited English Proficient Students and Section 1002.33(10), Florida Statutes, a required element of the Florida Model Charter School Application.
 - State Board Rule 6A-6.0902, F.A.C., Requirements for Identification, Eligibility, and Programmatic Assessments of English Language Learners, and the state-approved District ELL Plan require that all students with limited English proficiency must be properly identified and assessed to ensure the provision of appropriate services.
 - Application Deficiency: The application fails to provide a clear understanding of district policies and procedures for identifying and placement of students in the ESOL Program.
 - Application Deficiency: The application fails to identify the assessments used for placement.
 - Application Deficiency: The application fails to provide district procedures for maintaining and creating ELLSEP folders for ELLs.
 - State Board Rule 6A-6.0903, F.A.C., Requirement for Exiting English Language Learners from the English for Speakers of Other Languages Program and the state-approved District ELL Plan require that all students identified as limited English proficiency shall continue to receive appropriate instruction until the

student meets standards for exiting the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program

- Application Deficiency: The application fails to provide a clear understanding of district policies and procedures for exiting ELLs from the ESOL Program.
- State Board Rule 6A-6.0904, F.A.C., Equal Access to Appropriate Instruction for English Language Learners and the state-approved District ELL Plan require that each student identified as limited English proficiency shall have equal access to appropriate programs and instruction which is comprehensible, equal and comparable in amount, scope, and sequence and quality to that provided to English proficient students. In addition, ELLs shall have access to trained personnel proficient in the same language to assist in basic subject area instruction.
 - Application Deficiency: The application fails to provide a clear understanding of how the school will implement Equal Access for ELLs.
- Failure to describe the contractual arrangement between the school’s governing board and such a provider as specified in the Education Service Provider section of the application.
 - Section 1002.33(7)(a)(9), Florida Statutes, states that “the financial and administrative management of the school, including a reasonable demonstration of the professional experience or competence of those individuals or organizations applying to operate the charter school or those hired or retained to perform such professional services and the description of clearly delineated responsibilities and the policies and practices needed to effectively manage the charter school...”
 - Application Deficiency: The application fails to provide the Education Service Provider history including its educational philosophy, background and experience of senior management.
 - Application Deficiency: The application fails to provide a list of schools with which the Educational Service Provider has contracts, including contact information and student and financial performance data of such schools.
- 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; Section 1002.33(18), Florida Statutes, a required element of the Model Florida Charter School Application.
 - Section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, states “a startup charter school shall utilize facilities which comply with the Florida Building Code pursuant to chapter 553 except for the State Requirements for Educational Facilities...”
 - Application Deficiency: The application fails to identify the process for having the building inspected for asbestos.
 - Application Deficiency: The application fails to identify the process for having the building inspected for lead and radon.
 - Application Deficiency: The application fails to identify the process regarding health and sanitation inspections, specifically standards for food service, drinking water, and sewer/sanitary facilities.
 - Application Deficiency: The application fails to identify the process for

providing a traffic plan to Broward County Traffic Engineering for approval.

It is requested that The School Board of Broward County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to notify Academir Charter School of Broward County of the denial of the charter application. A draft letter notifying the applicant of the decision is attached (Exhibit 3).

The applicant for the Academir Charter School of Broward County will be encouraged to resubmit an application for the 2015 Application Review Cycle after the foregoing application deficiencies have been remedied.