

Model Florida Charter School Application High-Performing Charter School System Replication Evaluation Instrument

Each section presents criteria for a response that meets the standard, and these criteria should guide the overall rating for the section. The Strengths and Weaknesses boxes provide space to identify data and other evidence that support the rating. The rationale for each rating is important, especially if some of the data or evidence does not fit neatly into the criteria provided.

Capacity Interview:

Applicants may have the opportunity to present their plan and demonstrate the team’s capacity to open and maintain a high-quality charter school as well as to answer questions about their proposal. Any information or evidence from the capacity interview that is used by the sponsor as a basis for denial of the application must be properly documented by means of a recording or transcript.

The following definitions should guide the ratings:

- Meets the Standard:** The response reflects a thorough understanding of key issues and demonstrates capacity to open and operate a quality charter school. It addresses the topic with specific and accurate information that shows thorough preparation and presents a clear, realistic picture of how the school expects to operate.
- Partially Meets the Standard:** The response addresses most of the criteria, but the responses lack meaningful detail and require important additional information.
- Does Not Meet the Standard:** The response lacks meaningful detail, demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant’s understanding of the issue in concept or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

Authorizers are encouraged to align their application review process with the Florida Principles and Standards for Quality Authorizing.

Would you recommend approval of this application for a public charter school? Explain your recommendation in the Summary Comments section, below.

DENY	APPROVE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of Person Completing Assessment: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Section 1: Replication Overview

The Replications section should identify the High-Performing System submitting the application, the High-Performing School being replicated, and a description of how the proposed school will be substantially similar to the school being replicated.

Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(6), Florida Statutes (F.S.)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present an action plan that:

- Evidence that the applicant’s school and the school to be replicated (if different) are designated by the Commissioner of Education as a High-Performing Charter School.
- Evidence that the proposed school will be substantially similar to the high-performing school that is being replicated. Reviewers should base this determination on the response to this question as well applicant’s proposed educational, organization, and business plans as described throughout the application.
- Evidence that the organization or individuals involved in the establishment and operation of the proposed school are significantly involved in the operation of the high-performing school that is being replicated.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Reference

Concerns and Additional Questions	Reference

2. Mission, Guiding Principles and Purpose

The Mission, Guiding Principles and Purpose section should indicate what the school intends to do, for whom and to what degree.

Statutory References:

s. 1002.33(2), F.S.

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A clear and compelling mission and vision statement that defines the guiding principles and values of the school.
- Adequate references to evidence that the application fulfills the statutory guiding principles and purposes for charter schools. (Note: the substance of each addressed principle and purpose will be evaluated within appropriate application sections.)

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Reference
Concerns and Additional Questions	Reference

3. Educational Program, Curriculum, and Instructional Design

The Educational Program Design section should describe the educational foundation of the school and the teaching and learning strategies that will be employed.

Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(7)(a)2., F.S.

Evaluation Criteria:

Reviewers will look for an educational program, curriculum and instructional design that is substantially similar to the high-performing charter school that is being replicated.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Reference

Concerns and Additional Questions	Reference

4. Student Performance, Assessment and Evaluation

The Student Performance, Assessment and Evaluation section should 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.

Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(6)(a)3.; s.1002.33(7)(a)3.; s.1002.33(7)(a)4.; s.1002.33(7)(a)5., F.S.

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- An indication that the applicant will hold high expectations for student academic performance.
- Measurable goals for student academic growth and improvement.
- Evidence that a range of valid and reliable assessments will be used to measure student performance.
- A proposed assessment plan that is sufficient to determine whether students are making adequate progress.
- Plans for sharing student performance information that will keep students and parents well informed of academic progress.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Reference

Concerns and Additional Questions	Reference

5. Student Recruitment and Enrollment

The Student Recruitment and Enrollment section should describe how the school will attract and enroll its student body.

Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(10), F.S.

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A student recruitment plan that will enable the school to attract its targeted population.
- An enrollment and admissions process that is open, fair, and in accordance with applicable law.
- A plan and process that will likely result in the school meeting its enrollment projections

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Reference

Concerns and Additional Questions	Reference

6. Management and Staffing

The Management and Staffing section should describe how the day-to-day administration of the school’s operations will be structured and fulfilled.

Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(7)(a)9.; s. 1002.33(7)(a)14., F.S.

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A management structure that includes a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities for administering the day-to-day activities of the school.
- A viable and adequate staffing plan.
- A compensation and benefits plan or outline of such a plan that is aligned with the proposed budget.
- An adequate plan to ensure proper and timely background screening for all personnel.

Meet the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Reference

Concerns and Additional Questions	Reference

7. Facilities

The Facilities section should provide an understanding of the school’s anticipated facilities needs and how the school plans to meet those needs.

Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(7)(a)13.; s. 1002.33(18), F.S.

Evaluation Criteria:

If a facility is acquired, reviewers will look for:

- Evidence that the proposed facility complies with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies and can be ready for the school’s opening OR a timeline to ensure the facility will be in compliance and ready by school’s opening.
- A facility that is appropriate and adequate for the school’s program and targeted population.
- Evidence that the school has the necessary resources to fund the facilities plan.
- A reasonable back-up plan should the proposed facility plan fall through.

If a facility is not yet acquired, reviewers will look for:

- A realistic sense of facility needs.
- A plan and timeline for securing a facility that is appropriate and adequate for the school’s program and targeted population.
- Reasonable projections of facility requirements.
- Evidence that the school has the necessary resources to fund the facilities plan.
- Adequate facilities budget based on demonstrated understanding of fair market costs.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Reference

Concerns and Additional Questions	Reference

8. Transportation Service

The Transportation section should describe how the school will address these services for its student body.

Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(20), F.S.

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- An outline of a reasonable transportation plan that serves all eligible students and will not be a barrier to access for students residing within a reasonable distance of the school.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Reference

Concerns and Additional Questions	Reference

9. Food Service

The Food Service section should describe how the school will address these services for its student body.

Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(20)(a)1., F.S.

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A food service plan that will serve all students and makes particular provisions for those students who may qualify for free or reduced price lunch.
- A food service plan that places an emphasis on quality, healthy foods.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Reference

Concerns and Additional Questions	Reference

10. School Safety and Security

The School Safety and Security section should provide a description of the school’s plan to ensure the safety and security of its students and faculty.

Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(7)(a)11., F.S.

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A plan that will reasonably ensure the safety of students and staff and the protection of the school facility and property. Note that a fully developed plan will be completed upon approval of the application.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Reference

Concerns and Additional Questions	Reference

11. Budget

The Budget section should provide financial projections for the school over the term of its charter.

Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(6)(a)5.; s. 1002.33(6)(b)2., F.S.

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- Budgetary projections that are consistent with and support all key aspects of the application, including the school’s mission, educational program, staffing plan, and facility.
- A realistic assessment of projected sources of revenue and expenses that ensure the financial viability of the school.
- A sound plan to adjust the budget should revenues not materialize as planned.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Reference

Concerns and Additional Questions	Reference

12. Financial Management and Oversight

The Financial Management and Oversight section should describe how the school’s finances will be managed and who will be responsible for the protection of student and financial records.

Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(6)(a)5.; s. 1002.33(7)(a)9.; s. 1002.33(7)(a)11., F.S.

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present:

- A clear description of how the school’s finances will be managed, including who (or what contracted entity) will manage the finances. Such plan should contain strong internal controls to ensure appropriate fiscal management and ability to comply with all financial reporting requirements.
- A plan for the governing board to regularly exercise oversight over and take accountability for all financial operations of the school.
- Provisions for an annual financial audit.
- Appropriate public transparency of school financial health.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Reference

Concerns and Additional Questions	Reference

Addendum: Education Service Providers

The ESP section should provide a rationale for contracting with the ESP, evidence of ESP success in operating high-quality charter schools, the capacity of the ESP to successfully operate this school, and evidence that the governing board and ESP are able to operate free from conflicts of interest.

Statutory Reference(s):

s. 1002.33(6)(a)

Evaluation Criteria:

A response that meets the standard will present an action plan that:

- A comprehensive list (Form IEPC-MIA) of all schools affiliated with the ESP and ensuing performance data used to support the selection of the ESP (past and current).
- A clear delineation of the roles and responsibilities and decision-making authority of the school’s governing board and the ESP, structured to ensure a clearly defined arm’s-length, performance-based relationship that is free from conflicts of interest. This includes evidence that the school’s governing board has a clear plan for holding the ESP accountable for negotiated performance.
- A clear delineation of the term of the management agreement, the conditions, grounds and procedures by which the agreement may be renewed and terminated, and a plan for continued operation of the school in the event of termination.
- A draft of the proposed contract with all key terms included.

Meets the Standard	Partially Meets the Standard	Does Not Meet the Standard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strengths	Reference

Concerns and Additional Questions	Reference