

PHASE ONE EVALUATION CRITERIA

Question	A thorough response should include the following:
Mission	
State the mission and vision of the proposed school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demonstrate a clear and compelling vision for the purpose of the proposed school
Applicant and Founder Information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Describe how the efforts of the founders have added to the quality of the proposed charter school and how the group’s continued participation will contribute to the success of the charter school. b) How does the founding group represent the interests of multiple stakeholders (parents, teachers, community members)? c) Describe, briefly in the narrative and then in more detail using the form included as Exhibit 1a, the team’s individual and collective qualifications for implementing the school design successfully, including capacity in areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School leadership, administration, and governance; • Curriculum, instruction, and assessment; • Performance management; • Parent and community engagement; • Staffing; • Professional development; • General operations; • Facilities management; • Financial management; • Fundraising and development; and • Accounting. d) Provide signed and completed statements of assurances, included as Exhibit 2a, from each founding Board member. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Founders who represent the interests of multiple stakeholders (parents, teachers, community members) and who demonstrate (<i>as documented by resumes, bios, and Founder and Board Information sheets for all members</i>): (a) will, capacity, and commitment to found the school effectively and (b) shared vision, purposes, and expectations for the school. ✓ Individual and collective qualifications (<i>as documented by resumes, bios, and Founder and Board Information sheets for all members</i>) for implementing the Educational Program successfully, including capacities in areas such as school leadership, administration, and governance; curriculum, instruction, and assessment; performance management; and parent and community engagement. ✓ Individual and collective qualifications for implementing the Governance and Organizational Plan successfully, including capacity in areas such as staffing, professional development, performance management, school start-up, general operations, and facilities management. ✓ Individual and collective qualifications for implementing the Financial Plan successfully, including capacity in areas such as financial management, fundraising and development, and accounting.

<p>e) In the chart, included as Exhibit 3a, identify the members of the school’s applicant team, founders, and proposed leadership team and governing board members.</p> <p>f) Provide full resumes (including contact information) and professional biographies for the individuals named.</p>	
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Enrollment and Admission Information

<p>a) Describe the recruitment and admissions policies of the charter school, including how the school will, to the maximum extent possible, seek the enrollment of a cross-section of the community’s school-age population including at-risk, special education and English language learning students.</p> <p>b) Enrollment Summary.</p> <p>c) Describe the rationale for the number of students and grade levels served in year one and the basis for the growth plan illustrated above.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Student recruitment and admissions policies that will provide equal access to all interested students and families that will lead to the school serving a cross-section of the community’s school-age population, including at-risk, special education, and English language learning students. ✓ Recruitment and admissions policies comply with N.J.S.A 18A:36A. ✓ Enrollment summary chart and growth plan that reflects a natural and realistic progression of students from grade to grade. ✓ Alignment of growth plan to mission, educational plan, operational plan and financial plan.
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Educational Program Overview

<p>Provide a synopsis of the proposed educational program including key components of the education model and any unique or innovative features of the school. Briefly explain the evidence base and performance record that demonstrate the school model will be successful in improving academic achievement for the targeted student population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A concise summary of the education program that includes key components and the unique elements. ✓ Summary of the research base and performance record demonstrating success with the target population. ✓ Alignment of growth plan to mission, educational plan, operational plan and financial plan.
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Demonstration of Need

<p>a) Provide detail regarding the current educational options (traditional public, public charter, private school) in the proposed district of residence or</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clearly identifies why the founding team chose the district/region of residence. ✓ Coherent rationale for the decision to serve this population; and compelling explanation of how
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<p>region of residence. Describe the perceived needs not currently being met by the existing school options and how the proposed charter school will provide an alternative that will meet the perceived needs and offer the greatest educational benefit to students.</p> <p>b) Complete the attached demographic analysis form, included as Exhibit 4a, to demonstrate the need for the proposed school in the identified district of residence or region of residence.</p>	<p>the proposed school will meet the perceived needs and offer the greatest educational benefit to students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identifies additional educational options that are available to students and the track record of those options (traditional, charter, private, etc.) ✓ Includes a completed demographic analysis form.
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Community and Parent Involvement

<p>a) Provide detail regarding the role of parents, families and the community in the application process. If possible, provide evidence of support among parents, students, teachers, or any combination thereof.</p> <p>b) Describe the plan for ongoing community engagement including any community meetings, parent, teacher, and student input, surveys of prospective stakeholders, etc. you plan to conduct.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Includes evidence of having engaged parents, families and the community in the application process. ✓ Specifically identifies parent involvement activities. ✓ Includes any survey data or further evidence of parental and community involvement and engagement. ✓ Provides any specific letters of support from community organizations and how they will partner with the proposed school to fulfill the mission of the school.
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Education Service Provider or Replicating Entity Information

<p>a) Provide an overview of the organization’s strategic vision and four-year growth plan for developing schools in New Jersey including years of opening, number and types of schools (grade levels), projected numbers of students and management capacity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The organization’s vision includes key strategies for implementation and identifies possible constraints ✓ Growth plan aligns to the organization’s success in past expansion efforts ✓ Expansion of central office capacity aligns to the aggressiveness of the growth plan ✓ Expansion of student enrollment and grade levels is achievable and reasonable (one grade per year)
<p>b) Briefly describe the targeted district(s) or region of residence and explain how the school would meet the identified needs in its respective community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Districts/region of residence identified ✓ District/region of residence in high-need (i.e. includes priority and/or focus schools) ✓ Knowledge of key challenges in the identified community, supported by data and research ✓ Demonstrated ability to meet specific needs of the identified community, including student data, evidence-based programs/curricula, etc. (i.e. if a

	school is to be located in a heavily Latino community, the organization should demonstrate success in serving English language learners.)
c) Include a brief history of the ESP or replicating entity's current schools including details on student achievement and fiscal performance using the Education Service Provider/ Replicating Entity Information Sheet included as Exhibit 5a .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organization demonstrates past success in replicating its school model and a stable history of financial viability ✓ See below for criteria relating to Exhibit 5a
d) Describe the proposed relationship between the school and the ESP/replicating entity and how that relationship will directly impact the school's mission and goal attainment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Due diligence in selection of an ESP ✓ Clear delineation of responsibilities between the ESP, Board of Trustees, school leaders ✓ Accountability mechanisms and appropriate governance functions of the Board of Trustees, especially addressing overlap between individuals representing the ESP, the Board and school leadership ✓ In the case of a replicating entity, a clear definition of the Board's role in governing both schools

Exhibit 5a: Education Service Provider/Replicating Entity Information Sheet

<p>1. Include the following information for every school over the last 3 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. School name; b. City/location and school contact information; c. Year opened; d. If applicable, the year in which the contract with the ESP commenced and/or ended e. State/Federal Identification #s/NCES Codes f. Contact information for the NJDOE; g. Number of students and grade levels served; h. School type (new start or turnaround) i. The following student demographic and socioeconomic data: free/reduced-price lunch status, race/ethnicity, Special Education, and English Language Learner compared to district averages; j. State assessment results (absolute proficiency numbers) both by grade level and at school level in English/Language Arts and Mathematics compared to state and district averages; k. Growth and/or value-added results by grade level and at school level in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Data provided is complete ✓ Data shows positive trends in raising student achievement and growth for similar student populations
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<p>English/Language Arts and Mathematics. Please indicate what instrument was used to determine the growth and/or value-added results; and</p> <p>i. Other performance measures including student retention rate (i.e. % students enrolled in one year who re-enroll in fall of next year), student average daily attendance rate, student 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate, high school drop-out rate, student college attendance rate and teacher attendance rate.</p>	
<p>2. Provide the following financial and organizational information regarding the proposed ESP or Replicating Entity.</p> <p>a. Description of the ESP or Replicating Entity’s management structure and summary of key personnel.</p> <p>b. Provide the ESP or Replicating Entity’s last three years of audited financial statements and management letters.</p> <p>c. Provide the ESP or Replicating Entity’s most recent internal financial statements, including balance sheets and income statements. Be sure that the ESP or Replicating Entity’s overall operations are distinctly represented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Management structure and personnel show expertise, stability and capacity for expansion ✓ Audited financial statements are clean and evidence that any findings were addressed satisfactorily ✓ Confirmation of financial processes that meet GAAP standards ✓ Financial statements show financial viability of the parent organization (positive or zero year-end balances), as well as a clear delineation of how the new school’s finances would be represented
<p>3. Provide the following information regarding the proposed ESP or Replicating Entity’s portfolio history.</p> <p>a. List any contracts with charter schools that have been terminated by either the ESP or a school, including the reason(s) for such termination and whether the termination was for “material breach.”</p> <p>b. List any and all charter revocations, non-renewals, shortened or conditional renewals, or withdrawals/non-openings of schools operated by the ESP or Replicating Entity, and explain what caused these actions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Information is complete ✓ An explanation is provided for each termination showing 1) reason, 2) steps taken to avoid the termination and 3) lessons learned. ✓ Information is complete ✓ An explanation is provided for each instance showing 1) reason, 2) steps taken to avoid the termination and 3) lessons learned.