



Charter Review Committee Recommendation

CLARKSVILLE-MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM


The Defining Difference

Charter School Review

Quality Authorizing Principles

- Principle 1 – Maintain High Standards
 - Ensure high standards for approving charter applications
 - Maintain high standards for operation of charter schools
- Principle 2 – Uphold School Autonomy
 - Preserve core autonomy that is crucial for school success
 - Hold schools accountable for outcomes, rather than processes
- Principle 3 – Protect Student and Public Interests
 - Keeps the well-being of students at the center
 - Hold schools accountable for fulfilling obligations to the public

Charter School Review

Quality Authorizing Standards

A quality authorizer...

- Considers diverse educational philosophies and approaches
- Requires applicants to demonstrate capacity to serve students with diverse needs...
- Implements a charter application process that is open, well-publicized, and transparent, and is organized around clear, realistic timelines
- Requires all applicants to present
 - A clear and compelling mission;
 - A quality educational program;
 - A demonstration of community support;
 - A solvent and sustainable budget and contingency financial plans;
 - A clear demonstration of effectiveness of the model for the target student population;
 - Effective governance and management structures and systems;
 - Founding team members demonstrating diverse and necessary capabilities in all phases of school development, and;
 - Clear evidence of the applicant's capacity

Charter School Review Quality Authorizing Standards

A quality authorizer...

- Grants charters only to applicants that have demonstrated competence and capacity to succeed in all aspects of their particular school model
- Rigorously evaluates each application...
- Engages highly competent teams of internal and external evaluators with relevant educational, organizational (governance and management) financial, and legal expertise, as well as a thorough understanding of the essential principles of charter school autonomy and accountability

Amended Application Review

- April 22 – CMCSS communicated Board decision regarding initial applications
- May 23 – Deadline to receive amended applications
 - Both applications were received on May 23
- June 2 – Review Committee Meeting
- June 15 – Review Committee Meeting
- June 23 – Review Committee Meeting
- July 5 – Review Committee Recommendation
- July 19 – Board Vote

Charter School Review

Amended Application Review Process

- 60 days to review and make a recommendation for Board vote
- Individual reviews with group consensus
- Reviewed entire application, but placed emphasis on changes applicants made since initial review
- [Tennessee Department of Education Rubric](#)
 - Meets or Exceeds the Standard  All summary ratings must be here
 - Partially Meets the Standard
 - Does Not Meet the Standard

Application Summary Sections

- **Section 1 – Academic Design and Capacity**
 - School Mission and Vision
 - Enrollment Summary
 - Academic Focus and Plan
 - Academic Performance Standards
 - High School Graduation and Postsecondary Readiness
 - Assessments
 - School Calendar and Schedule
 - Special Populations and At-Risk Students
 - School Culture and Discipline
 - Recruitment and Enrollment
 - Parent and Community Engagement and Support

Summary Scores

American Classical Academy Montgomery

- Section 1 – Academic Plan Design and Capacity
 - Meets the Standard

Strengths:

- Applicant made updates to curricular sections and assessment sections that showed greater alignment to Tennessee State Standards and frameworks established by the Department of Education.
- Applicant made significant adjustments to Special Populations plans.
- There were more metrics provided to show how they would measure the success of their mission and vision.
- They demonstrated a broader range of community support than in their initially-submitted application.

Summary Scores

American Classical Academy Montgomery

Remaining Concerns:

- They provided more data to show the academic success of their partner schools, but it still does not demonstrate the capacity of the classical model.
- There are still concerns about their RTI alignment in their scheduling and how they would build in intervention time for students.

Application Summary Sections

- **Section 2 – Operations Plan and Capacity**
 - Governance
 - Start-Up Plan
 - Facilities
 - Personnel and Human Capital
 - Professional Development
 - Insurance
 - Transportation
 - Food Service
 - Additional Operations
 - Waivers

Summary Scores

American Classical Academy Montgomery

- Section 2: Operations Plan and Capacity
 - Partially Meets the Standard

Strengths:

- The applicant has added Board members that are local to Tennessee.
- They have developed a relationship with a local realtor to aid in their facilities acquisition.
- There were changes to their plan to seek waivers of teacher licensure expectations.
- They made progress on their Technology plans, partnering with a vendor to provide tech support and other services.

Summary Scores

American Classical Academy Montgomery

Remaining Concerns:

- The applicant did not demonstrate concrete facilities contingency planning:
 - There are partnerships in place, but no update on progress obtaining a facility since the initial application.
 - Their contingency location is the same location they specified in the initial review, and it is not a suitable space for educational use.
 - They do not highlight any other possible locations or types of locations that they have investigated. They have only specified that they are investigating.
 - While they plan to delay opening in the event facilities fall through, ultimately, that burden and disruption will fall on the student.

Summary Scores

American Classical Academy Montgomery

Remaining Concerns:

- Insufficient evidence of a Safety and Security Plan
 - The applicant indicated they will develop a safety and security plan, but there was no indication in the amended application when that would occur.
- Insufficient Health plans
 - The applicant indicates they will align with Coordinated School Health guidelines, but does not provide much more insight around their plans to ensure a healthy learning environment for students.
- Insufficient evidence of waivers' necessity and their relationship with improved student outcomes
 - To their credit, the applicant provides some changes to their waiver requests and insight as to how their waivers will allow them to more fully implement the classical model in alignment with their mission and vision.
 - As indicated in existing concerns for Section 1, the review committee feels the applicant did not demonstrate sufficient evidence of the success of their classical model as a lever to improve student achievement. This renders their reasoning in the waiver section non-compelling.

Waiver Request Sample

T.C.A. § 49-55205;
SBE Rule 0520-01-01-.01

General
Requirements
for Evaluation

ACACM approves salaries and compensation plans during the annual budgeting process.

The classical model is unique and ACACM must have the ability to design hiring, pay, benefits, promotion and evaluation systems that are aligned with the school's mission and philosophy to deliver a high-performing classical education model.

Application Summary Sections

Section 3: Financial Plan and Capacity

- Charter School Financing

Summary Scores

American Classical Academy Montgomery

Section 3: Financial Plan and Capacity

- Meets the Standard

Strengths:

- Ultimately, additional letters of assurance provided by the applicant in the amended application assured the review committee that the applicant has necessary financial backing, should their plans require adjustments.

Summary Scores

American Classical Academy Montgomery

Remaining Concerns:

- The Review Committee feels the applicant could have made some adjustments to their budget planning based on the feedback they received from the Review Committee. It did not appear that any budget items were updated.
- Their budget may still be too conservative.

Summary Scores

American Classical Academy Montgomery

- American Classical Academy Montgomery
 - Section 1: Meets the Standard
 - Section 2: Partially Meets the Standard
 - Section 3: Meet the Standard

Summary Scores

Oxton Academy Charter High School

Section 1: Academic Design and Capacity

- Meets the Standard

Strengths:

- The applicant has an admirable, compelling, measurable mission and vision.
- They provided additional materials to show alignment between their curricular and assessment materials and the Tennessee Academic Standards.
- They provided explanations around their enrollment projections and data assumptions that alleviated earlier concerns from Review Committee members.

Summary Scores

Oxton Academy Charter High School

- Section 2: Operations Plan and Capacity
 - Meets the Standard

Strengths:

- The applicant made helpful updates to their Human Capital plans that will provide them with a few advantages to recruit CTE teachers, which will be critical to their success.
- They added information that provided a level of concreteness to their facilities planning and contingencies, allowing them to be realistic and able to be executed quickly.
- They made updates to their line items in their start-up budget to allocate more funding toward possible renovations.
- They added an extensive safety plan based on the Tennessee Department of Education Rubric, and they added more information about their health plans.

Summary Scores

Oxton Academy Charter High School

Remaining Concerns:

- The applicant still needs to pursue waivers based on some of their Human Capital plans
 - Considering certified employees at-will employees with a 75-day probationary period will require waivers of Evaluation Contracts and Termination of Contracts laws, Tenure laws, etc.
 - They do not indicate if they plan to participate in TCRS, which is still a concern.
- In pursuing their waiver of using the Tennessee Evaluation System, they need to be clearer about how use of that system compared with the TEAM rubric will benefit student achievement.

Summary Scores

Oxton Academy Charter High School

Section 3: Financial Plan and Capacity

- Meets the Standard

Strengths:

- The applicant, through both the interview and the amended application process, were able to communicate access to additional capital that helped assure the Review Committee that they could receive more financial backing.
- Ultimately, if the applicant is forced to make adjustments to their budget, those things can happen. The Review Committee would hope that if approved, the applicant will be willing to make further adjustments to their budget.

Summary Scores

Oxton Academy Charter High School

Remaining Concerns:

- Ultimately, the applicant is operating on a conservative budget. They would need to operate with immense fiscal scrutiny over the course of the next year to ensure viability and solvency.

Summary Scores

American Classical Academy Montgomery

- American Classical Academy Montgomery
 - Section 1: Meets the Standard
 - Section 2: Partially Meets the Standard
 - Section 3: Meet the Standard
- Oxton Academy Charter High School
 - Section 1: Meets the Standard
 - Section 2: Meets the Standard
 - Section 3: Meets the Standard

Summary Scores

American Classical Academy Montgomery

- American Classical Academy Montgomery - Deny
 - Section 1: Meets the Standard
 - Section 2: Partially Meets the Standard
 - Section 3: Meet the Standard
- Oxton Academy Charter High School - Approve
 - Section 1: Meets the Standard
 - Section 2: Meets the Standard
 - Section 3: Meets the Standard

Next Steps

- Board vote on the recommendations – Tuesday, July 19
- If the vote is to approve, CMCSS will become the authorizer for any approved schools.
- If the vote is to deny, the applicant/applicants have the opportunity to submit an appeal to the Tennessee Charter School Commission
 - Applicant will have 10 calendar days to submit an appeal

Public Resources

- <https://www.cmcss.net/school-board/charter-schools/>

American Classical Academy

American Classical Academy Montgomery – [Click here for the application \(pdf\)](#). [Click here to download an audio recording of the applicant interview \(3/25/22\)](#). [Click here for the amended application \(pdf\)](#).

Please Fill Out The Feedback Survey Here.

Oxton Academy Charter High School

Oxton Academy Charter High School – [Click here for the application \(pdf\)](#). [Click here to download an audio recording of the applicant interview \(3/25/22\)](#). [Click here for the amended application \(pdf\)](#).

Please Fill Out The Feedback Survey Here.

Questions?