

Twenty-five Charter Schools Seek Approval to Open in either 2021 or 2022

Raleigh, NC

August 5, 2020

Twenty-five non-profit boards submitted applications to open public charter schools by the July 24th application deadline. Of these, five boards are seeking approval for Fast-Track or Acceleration to open in the 2021 school year with another twenty aiming for 2022. A list of all applications can be found at (insert link) on the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Office of Charter Schools' Website (link). To be approved to open on an acceleration schedule, Fast-Track applicants must meet certain conditions as outlined in the State Board of Education [Policy - CHTR-016](#), and Acceleration applicants must meet the conditions outlined in the State Board of Education [Policy - CHTR-013](#).

Each applicant paid a \$1,000 application fee and performed criminal background checks on its proposed board members, in addition to providing a detailed description of the proposed school's mission, goals, education plan, operations and governance plan, and financial plan. Applications were submitted via the Edlusions application platform. The applications are then prepared for and assigned to external evaluators before being submitted to the N.C. Charter Schools Advisory Board (CSAB). CSAB will begin reviewing applications in mid-August in preparation for applicant interviews to begin at the September CSAB meetings.

By statute, Fast-track applications must be either approved or denied within 120 days of the date of the application. Accelerations receive priority review and must participate in the Office of Charter Schools Ready to Open (RTO) planning year prior to opening.

North Carolina currently has 201 charter schools serving over 120,000 students including eight that received approval by the State Board of Education this past July. 5 schools were approved by the State Board of Education to begin a planning year (RTO) for preparation to open in August of 2021. These schools will be joined by 5 schools in their second year of planning and 5 schools in the new cycle that are required by statute to participate while they await State Board of Education approval.

Charter schools are public schools operated by non-profit boards. The schools have open enrollment and no tuition is charged to attend. Tax dollars are the primary funding source for charter schools.

Visit the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/> for more information.