



Fall 2017 Charter RFA – Part 1 Webinar

July 25, 2017

Agenda



- ▶ Overview
 - ▶ OPSB as Charter School Authorizer
 - ▶ Key Statutory and Policy Provisions
 - ▶ Authorizing Priorities

- ▶ Preparing to Apply
 - ▶ Eligibility
 - ▶ Timeline & Key Dates

- ▶ Fall 2017 Charter RFA Key Changes

- ▶ Application Process – Part 1
 - ▶ Prospectus



Overview



Overview: Authorizers in Orleans Parish

- ▶ **OPSB Authorizes Three Types of Charter Schools:**
 - ▶ **Type 1:** new start-up, transformation, or reconfiguration
 - ▷ Not entitled to a district public school building
 - ▶ **Type 3:** conversion of an existing public school
 - ▷ Must enroll students from Orleans Parish only, with first preference to currently enrolled students at existing facility (R.S. 17:3991(C)(1)(c)(ii))
 - ▷ State law and district policy provides that Type 3 conversions must retain the facility in which they operate at the time of conversion
 - ▶ **Type 3B:** conversion of a former Type 5 (RSD) charter school
- ▶ BESE directly authorizes Type 2 charter schools
- ▶ BESE, through the Recovery School District (RSD), oversees Type 5 charter schools.
 - ▶ These schools will convert to Type 3's by July 1, 2018

Refer to LA R.S. 17:3973(2)(b) for complete definitions

Type 1 & Type 3 Charters



Type	Definition	Notes
Type 3 Conversion	The conversion of existing OPSB district-operated public schools to charter schools.	Eligible for Type 3 conversion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benjamin Franklin ES • Mary McLeod Bethune ES • McDonogh #35 HS
Type 1 – New Start	Proposals for new charter schools.	
Type 1 - Transformation	Proposals that intend to serve all or some of the students in an existing Orleans parish charter school that is subject to closure.	Pursuant to state law, any operator seeking the conversion of a Type 5 charter school currently under the jurisdiction of the Recovery School District (RSD) should submit an application as a Type 1 Transformation.
Type 1 – Transformation (Full Takeover)	Charter applicants which intend to continue to serve all grade levels and all students currently enrolled at the closing school.	
Type 1 – Transformation (Reconfiguration)	Charter applicants which intend to change the grade levels served at the closing school, while serving all eligible students currently enrolled at the school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase Outs: begin by serving all current students, but intend to discontinue one or more grade levels as current students matriculate • Phase Ins: begin by serving only a subset of grade levels currently offered by the school, but serve all current students in those grade levels

Type 1 & Type 3 Conversions : Key Statutory & Policy Provisions



▶ **Admissions/Enrollment**

- ▶ Must enroll students from Orleans Parish only (R.S. 17:3973(B)(2)(i))
- ▶ Must participate in EnrollNOLA, the parishwide common enrollment process (R.S. 17:10.7.1; OPSB Policy HA, Section 6), and the parishwide common expulsion process (R.S. 17:10.7.1; OPSB Policy HA, Section 8)
- ▶ May not establish admissions requirements without approval of the School Board, and may not establish academically-selective admissions processes (R.S. 17:3991(B)(3) and OPSB Policy HA, Section 5)

▶ **Transportation (OPSB Policy HA, Section 9)**

- ▶ Free transportation, including yellow school bus service for students up to grade 6, must be provided to all students who reside more than one mile from the school's location.

▶ **Governing Boards (OPSB Policy HA, Sections 3-4)**

- ▶ Required Orleans residency for a majority (60%) of Board members, including parent/guardian/alumni representation
- ▶ Required background checks upon appointment, and annual financial and ethics disclosures during term of service
- ▶ Restrictions: no employees of the charter operator, no administrative employees of OPSB, no current or former (within 2 years) elected officials may serve on the governing board of an OPSB-authorized charter school

Fall 2017 OPSB Charter RFA Cycle Priorities



- ▶ Priority 1: Type 1 Transformations
 - ▶ Targeted focus on re-enrollment of existing students and educating students with a similar at-risk population as the prior school
 - ▶ Sixteen schools are up for renewal during the 2017-18 school year
- ▶ Priority 2: Type 3 conversions of remaining OPSB direct-run schools

OPSB, as part of its unification efforts, will be announcing a broader set of priorities during Fall 2017



Preparing to Apply

Eligibility to Apply



- ▶ Louisiana non-profit organization (RS 17:3983)
 - ▶ Registered and in good standing with the Louisiana Secretary of State
- ▶ 3 certified Louisiana teachers must participate in the development of the charter application (RS 17:3983)
- ▶ Free of any sectarian or religious affiliation (RS 17:3991)
- ▶ Free of any entanglements with an existing private school (RS 17:3991)
 - ▶ Application cannot reflect the conversion of an existing private school
 - ▶ Overlapping board or staff membership, substantially shared property or other assets (excluding leases)
- ▶ Free of any legal entanglements or history of adverse legal action
- ▶ Non-profit board requirements (OPSB Policy HA, Sections 3-4)
 - ▶ OPSB requires 3 members at eligibility determination (Aug), 5 members at School Board approval (Dec), and 7 members at execution of an Operating Agreement (as early as Jan 2018)
 - ▶ Majority (60%) Orleans residents
 - ▶ At least 1 parent/legal guardian of a current student at the school (effective 90 days after opening)
 - ▶ No elected officials may serve on charter boards (2 year cooling off period)
 - ▶ No more than one member of the same family may serve on a charter board
 - ▶ No OPSB administrative employees (e.g., principals, Central Office staff) may serve on charter boards
 - ▶ No charter board member may be employed by or receive compensation from the school

Applicant Pathways



▶ New Operator

- ▶ nonprofit organization whose primary members (founder and/or proposed school leader) do not have prior experience in leading or managing a public school, AND
- ▶ who do not intend to employ an educational service provider (ESP) with prior experience in leading or managing public schools

▶ Existing School Operator

- ▶ nonprofit organizations whose primary members (founder and/or proposed school leader) have prior experience in leading or managing a single school, AND/OR
- ▶ who intend to employ an educational service provider (ESP) with prior experience in managing a single school

▶ Experienced Charter Operator (CMO)

- ▶ nonprofit organizations which have operated more than one charter school, AND/OR
- ▶ nonprofit organizations which intend to employ an education service provider (ESP) which has operated more than one charter school

Applicants invited to participate in the transformation process will be contacted in the fall.
Transformation applicants must successfully be awarded a charter and
complete the separate transformation process.

OPSB Fall 2017 Charter RFA Timeline (Tentative)



Fall 2017 Charter RFA Timeline

MILESTONE/TASK	DATE
RFA Release	July 21, 2017 – Part 1 August 1, 2017 – Part 2
Part 1: Information Session	11:00 a.m., July 25, 2017
Fluid Review Portal Opens	July 26, 2017
Part 1: Eligibility & Prospectus due	12:00 p.m., August 7, 2017
Eligibility Review presented to Applicants	August 9, 2017
Part 1: Prospectus Feedback Sessions	Tentative: August 16, 2017
Part 2: Information Session	August 16, 2017
Part 2: Complete Applications due	12:00 p.m., August 31, 2017
Completeness Findings Re-submission due	5:00 p.m., September 6, 2017
Initial Independent Evaluator ratings / Request for Clarification presented to Applicants	October 2, 2017
Application Resubmission / Response for Clarification response due	12:00 p.m., October 13, 2017
Capacity Interviews	November 6 - 10, 2017
Final Independent Evaluation Reports presented to Applicants and OPSB staff	November 10, 2017
Applicant response to Independent Evaluation Report due	November 13, 2017
Public Hearing	Tentative: November 16, 2017
OPSB December Board Business Meeting – Presentation of Superintendent’s Recommendation ¹	Tentative: December 14, 2017

OPSB Fall 2017 Charter RFA Key Dates for Applicants (Tentative)



- ▶ **August 7th, 12:00 p.m., CT** – Part 1 – Eligibility & Prospectus due

- ▶ **August 31st, 12:00 p.m., CT** – Part 2 – Full Application due

- ▶ **Monday, October 2nd** – Initial Evaluator Ratings and/or Requests for Clarification presented to applicants
 - ▶ Applicants are provided an opportunity to respond to evaluator questions regarding application submissions

- ▶ **November 6th – 10th, 2017**– Capacity Interviews
 - ▶ Interview times will be assigned after the close of the application period

- ▶ **November 10th, 2017**– Independent Evaluation Results presented to applicants
 - ▶ Applicants are provided an opportunity to respond to the independent evaluation report

- ▶ **November 16th, 2017 (tentative)** –Public Hearing

- ▶ **December 14, 2017 (tentative)** – OPSB Board Business Meeting – Presentation of Superintendent’s Recommendations



What Happens After Approval?

- ▶ Statutory standard for approval (R.S. 17:3983(A)(4)(a))
“A local school board may enter into any charter it finds valid, complete, financially well-structured, and educationally sound...”
- ▶ Approved applicants enter the OPSB Pre-Opening Process, in preparation for final administrative approval of the execution of a charter contract, which constitutes the formal legal authority to operate a public school under OPSB’s jurisdiction
- ▶ During the Pre-Opening Process, all applicants are required to complete certain actions, including but not limited to
 - ▶ Recruitment of remaining charter governing board members, in accordance with OPSB Policy HA requirements
 - ▶ Securing of a facility suitable for use as a public school, either through the OPSB Facility Assignment process for district buildings, or by securing a private facility
- ▶ Additional Statutory Provisions (R.S. 17:3983)
 - ▶ Approved charters may not open until 8 months after approval, without the permission of the chartering authority for a lesser time period
 - ▶ Approved charters are automatically revoked if not used within 24 months of initial decision, unless an extension of this deadline is granted by the chartering authority

Submitting Application Materials



- ▶ FluidReview Portal:
<http://opsb-charter-rfa.fluidreview.com/>
 - ▶ See Fluid Review Tutorial here: <http://opsb.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Fluid-Review-Tutorial-170724.pdf>
- ▶ All deadlines and length/formatting requirements will be strictly enforced – where provided, use the template documents
- ▶ Contact Forrest Collins (forrest_collins@opsb.us) with any questions regarding submission of materials



Fall 2017 Charter RFA Key Changes



Key Changes to the Fall 2017 Charter RFA

▶ **School Prospectus**

- ▶ The School Prospectus is an optional, additional support OPSB is piloting for New and Existing School Operator applicants
- ▶ The Prospectus provides New and Existing School Operator applicants with an opportunity to receive an early qualitative review and feedback on their plan's fundamental characteristics prior to submitting a full charter application.
- ▶ OPSB has partnered with independent consultants to provide the non-binding feedback
- ▶ Participating in the Prospectus does not represent a formal endorsement or promise of action from OPSB

▶ **Differentiated Evaluation Pathways**

- ▶ OPSB is committed to creating a more rigorous and responsive charter evaluation process that provides:
 - ▷ Experienced Charter Operators with streamlined process focused on their past results
 - ▷ Existing School Operators with an opportunity to demonstrate their readiness for growth
 - ▷ New Operators with valuable feedback
- ▶ The Fall 2017 Charter RFA features differentiated evaluation pathways based on operator type and whether or not an applicant is seeking to be included as a transformation



Section I: Applicant and School Background

Section I Forms



- ▶ Proposal Overview Form
 - ▶ The Proposal Overview Form gives OPSB and independent reviewers an overview of your charter school proposal and provides the context by which your proposal will be evaluated.

- ▶ Enrollment Projection Form
 - ▶ The Enrollment Projection Form gives OPSB and independent reviewers an overview of the anticipated grade levels and number of students the school intends to educate for each year of the initial charter term.

- ▶ School Management Form
 - ▶ The School Management Form gives OPSB and independent reviewers an understanding of the organizations that will be involved in management of the school and their current responsibilities for school management in Louisiana or elsewhere.



Section II: Eligibility Information

Eligibility determinations



- ▶ Eligibility Information Forms
 - ▶ Teacher Eligibility Form & Teacher Certification documentation
 - ▶ Board Eligibility form
 - ▶ Assurances

- ▶ Eligibility determinations are conducted following the close of the Part 1 submission period – 12:00pm (Central Time), Monday, August 7, 2017.
 - ▶ Initial eligibility findings will be provided within 2 business days.

- ▶ Applicants are encouraged to address any missing information or deficiencies following the initial eligibility check. Complete applications with eligibility deficiencies will not be reviewed.

- ▶ Early eligibility screens are not final determinations and, while optional, are highly recommended.

Section III: School Prospectus

William Haft

Morgan Ripski

- The School Prospectus is a brief (8 page) document intended for you to develop foundational information about your school. It has three sections:
 - Founder(s) Background and Experience (3 pages)
 - Tell us about the school founders
 - What are your strengths?
 - What gaps do you still need to fill?
 - Vision (3 pages)
 - What does the school look and feel like?
 - What is the educational philosophy and program?
 - How does your school fit in the District and the community?
 - Management and Finances (2 pages)
 - How will the school be managed?
 - What are your financial planning pressure points?

- It's a relatively light lift.
 - We recommend eight pages maximum.
 - Most of the information needs to go into the full application anyway.
- You get feedback for free.
- You have two weeks to incorporate feedback.
- It can't hurt your chances.
- You will be helping OPSB build a better application process.

Why Complete the School Prospectus?

- **Monday, August 7** (before noon): submit completed School Prospectus form on Fluid Review as part of the Application: Part I.
- **Tuesday, August 15**: receive written feedback from the independent reviewers.
- **Wednesday, August 16**: Feedback session with independent reviewers
 - 60-90 minutes per applicant group
 - To be scheduled one week in advance

Questions

Contact Information



Topic	Name	Email
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part I: Eligibility Review• Application Process• Fluid Review• General Inquiries	Forrest Collins Director of New School Development	Forrest_Collins@opsb.us
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prospectus	Morgan Ripski Independent Consultant	morganripski@gmail.com