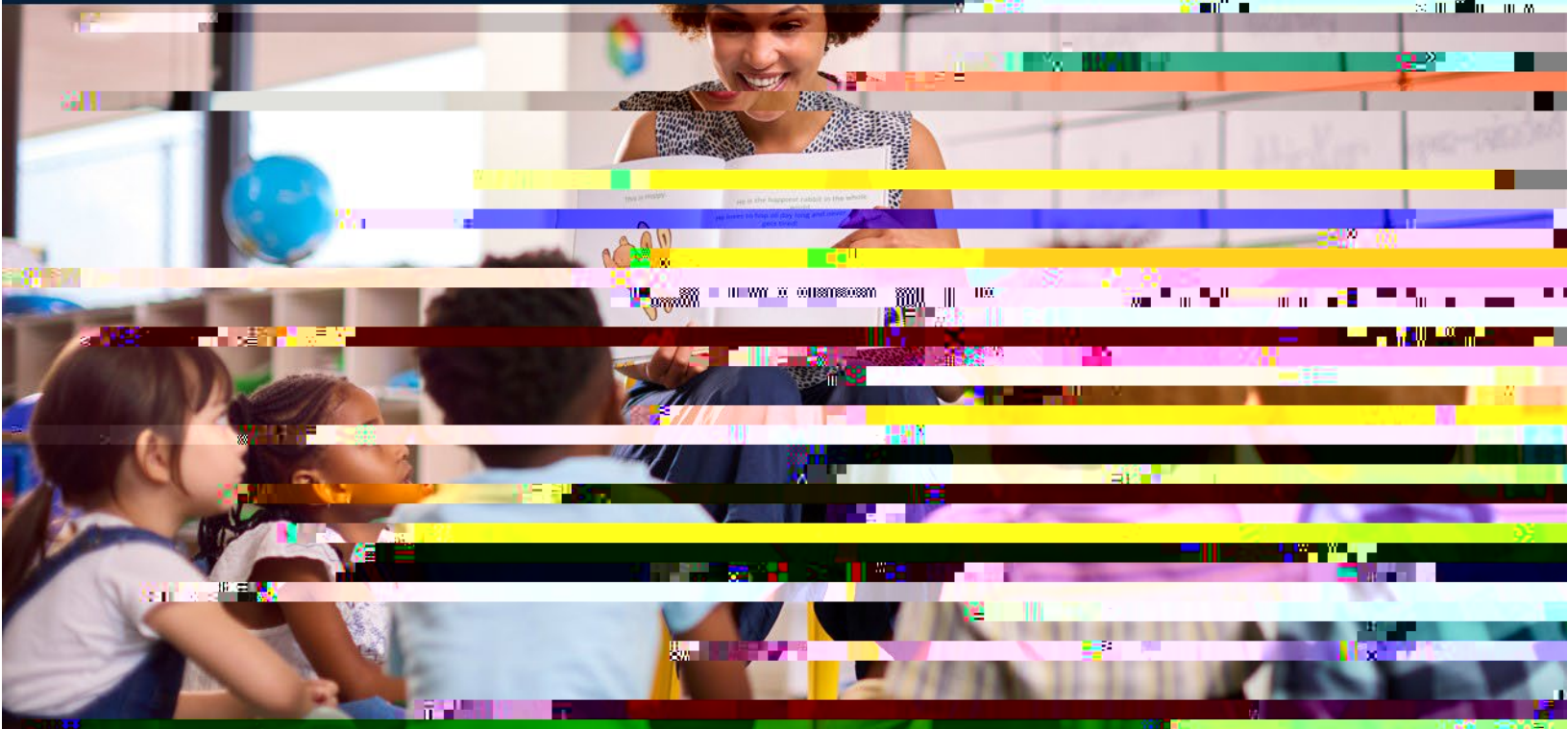


Generations

Subchapter D Open



HIGH PERFORMING ENTITY

LOCAL

SUBCHAPTER

INSTRUCTION AND GOVERNANCE

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INTRODUCTION

Note: The commissioner rules in effect during the time of the charter school application process will apply.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) welcomes applications for high-quality charter schools seeking to open in SY 2025 and beyond. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read this entire document and the corresponding Charter Request for Application RFA 701-25-105 before developing any application content.

The Commissioner of Education (the commissioner) is actively committed to attracting charter applicants who are capable of operating high-quality charter schools. The information requested through the application will inform the commissioner's decision to propose Generation 30 charter awards.

On May 30, 1995, the Texas Legislature created the Public Charter School Program to maintain a portfolio of secular, tuition-free, public charter schools that:

- x Improve student learning;
- x Increase the choice of learning opportunities within the public-school system;
- x Create professional opportunities that attract new teachers to the public-school system;
- x Establish a new form of accountability for public schools; and
- x Encourage different and innovative learning methods.

The commissioner has vested authority to award Subchapter D Open-Enrollment charters and Subchapter E College/University charters (Texas Education Code §§12.101 and 12.1011 and 12.152, respectively). Pursuant to statute, the commissioner must adopt an open-enrollment charter application form, procedures, and evaluation criteria to be used in determining whether to award a charter. Collectively, the (1) Instructions and Guidance; (2) Application; and (3) Evaluation Criteria fulfill this requirement.

SPONSORING ENTITY AND CHARTER HOLDER

During the application process, the eligible entity applying for a charter shall be referred to as the "sponsoring entity" or "applicant" or "charter applicant." The term "charter holder" is exclusively reserved for applicants who are awarded a charter after the application process. The charter holder is the entity to which public education funds are paid if the application is approved by the commissioner and a contract is signed.

Prior to the submission of an application, TEA staff members are limited to fielding general inquiries that are associated with timelines and the overall application process. TEA staff members may not speak to application content.

GENERATION 30 HIGH-PERFORMING ENTITY TIMELINE

Key dates from the Generation 30 High-Performing Entity Out-of-State Application timeline are listed in the table below. More detail about the application process is provided in the sections that follow the table.

HPE Timeline with January Approval er4G1a528.2c.48 501.66 233.28 1 226

Activity	Dates
Request for Application Published	September 10, 2024
Information Sessions	September 20, 2024 (Optional)
Application Submission	October 11, 2024
Completion Check	October 14–18, 2024
Remedy Period	October 21–25, 2024
Data Analysis and Eligibility Review	October 28–November 6, 2024

KEY DATES FOR APPLICANTS

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA) PUBLISHED. September 10, 2024

Notification of the RFA publication is posted in the Texas Register, on the Division of Charter School Authorizing website, and subscribers are notified via the TEA GovDelivery System.

APPLICANT INFORMATION SESSION... September 20, 2024

One optional information session will be held via Zoom, an online platform for video conferences and webinars. This session is held to provide additional information to applicants about procedures and general considerations for the application process.

Applicants may register online for the information sessions which will be posted on TEA's website at <https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/texas-schools-charter-schools/charter-school-applicants>.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE... October 11, 2024 or December 2, 2024

DUE DILIGENCE PERIOD.. November 11 –22, 2024 or January 15 –31, 2025
During these time frames these items may be reviewed for readiness:

OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT

A contract for an open-enrollment charter school between the charter holder and the commissioner of education must incorporate the following:

- 9 All applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations;
- 9 The charter holder's completed application response to RFA 701-25-105;
- 9 Any condition, amendment, modification, revision, or other change to the charter adopted or ratified by the commissioner; and
- 9 All statements, assurances, commitments, and representations (written or oral) made by the charter holder during the application process --- e

plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or by appropriate indentation and must be cited properly. Acknowledgement is also required when material from any source is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part.

Style Guidance

Narrative responses should be brief and specific whenever possible. It is most helpful if descriptions of vision, processes, and design are clear and concise rather than abstract or general. Do not repeat content discussed in other sections of the application. If needed, applicants may refer to or cite other responses in the narrative or attachment sections.

SUBMISSION

Applicants are requested to submit the charter application via ShareFile. This service is a web-based interface that allows for the sharing of large files in a secure environment.

- x Click <https://tea.sharefile.com/r-r2d3a65115a43492d940d43d118765448>
- x The first screen will require the following:
 - o Email: use the email that was provided for the applicant's main contact;
 - o First/Last Name: use the main contact that was listed in the applicant's proposal;
 - o Company: use the name of the sponsoring entity
- x The submission should include four files. The first file will be the completed Narrative Document. The second file will be the Attachments Submission Document. The third file will be the completed Excel version of the Financial Plan Workbook. The fourth file will be the Excel version of the Portfolio Overview Workbook.
- x Ensure the Narrative Word Document is converted to a PDF before submitting it on ShareFile.
- x Click the upload button in the lower left corner.
- x Once the submission has been made, the application is considered electronically delivered and final. Applicants will not be able to make additional submissions or revisions to the original.

All submissions have timestamps and will constitute the official date and time of submission. File size and transmission issues could cause severe delays between submission and receipt of the application package. For this reason, the time stamp included in the submission email (received by the Division of Charter School Authorizing) will be considered the official date and time of submission.

Agency staff will be standing by to provide technical assistance for submission deadlines. Any technical issues should be communicated to staff prior to the deadline for either the initial submission or the submission of cure documents. Technical issues communicated after the fact will not be considered in determining the completeness or timeliness of any submission.

Planning for Texas

This section will allow applicant to explain their decision to apply for the high -performing entity application.

Strong Responses:

- x Presents a thorough reflection of the entity's overall student performance and accountability for the last three years.
- x Clearly identifies any special programs, interventions, or initiatives implemented by the charter to support student performance, with data showing their effectiveness.
- x Provides compelling evidence to show the organization's decision to pursue a Subchapter D: Open-Enrollment Charter School aligns to the mission and vision.
- x Identifies specific research or analysis conducted that supports the need and feasibility of replicating the charter school model.
- x Presents a sound plan describing how the organization has prepared and assigned
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TERMINOLOGY, RESOURCES, AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

materials are compliant with all state law. Applicants should familiarize themselves with the state standards, also known as the [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills](#) (TEKS), and the [English Language Proficiency Standards](#) (ELPS).

[High-Quality Instructional Materials](#) are materials that: (1) are aligned with the Texas Essential

TERMINOLOGY, RESOURCES, AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP, AND TALENT:

CHARTERSCHOOL PORTFOLIO

Evaluation Criteria

Portfolio Overview

For all experienced operators, strong responses:

- x Presents thoughtful reflection on both student performance and accountability

TERMINOLOGY, RESOURCES, AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Additional Resources

Applicants should disclose any vendors they plan to hire in the financial plan workbook.

Statutory Requirements

Charter schools must ensure that they follow all statutory requirements. Applicants are encouraged to review the following requirements before submitting an application.

Texas Education Code

- x §12.111(a)(10-11): Requirements to adopt an annual budget and conduct an annual audit
- x §39.083: Reporting (related to Annual Financial Compliance Reports)
- x §44.008: Fiscal Management (related to Annual Financial Compliance Reports)

Texas Administrative Code

- x 19 §109.23: Independent Audits and Agreed-Upon Procedures (related to Annual Financial Compliance Reports)

Evaluation Criteria

Financial Plan