

Application for Charter School Authorization Pathway II

The authorizer application process is designed to determine an applicant's vision, commitment, and capacity to develop, open and oversee charter schools that offer an excellent public school option, reflecting the needs of the community in which it operates.

In Pathway II, the applicant is seeking to become an authorizer that is functionally assisted by an "exemplary" authorizer.

Pathway II applicants will be evaluated based on their demonstration of agency commitment and capacity, as described by the National Association of Charter School Authorizer's (NACSA) Principles & Standards for Quality Authorizing, and core values for charter education.

Application Timeline and Process

Pathway II applicants complete the attached application. Following submission of the written application, the department will review and score the application within 30 days. Applicants will be notified when scoring of the written application is complete. An applicant will be invited for interviews and may be asked to provide additional information. An approval decision will be made within ten business days of the final interview and communicated to the applicant.

Applicant Interview

Applicants invited for interviews will meet with the interview team. The interview will be conducted at the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), located at 25 South Front Street, Columbus, OH 43215.

Approved Applicants

An applicant approved for Pathway II is expected to proceed to enter into a memorandum of understanding with an authorizer identified by the Ohio Department of Education as "exemplary" before the authorizer agreement between the Pathway II authorizer and ODE is signed. An exemplary authorizer has already demonstrated its capacity to perform in the areas of application process; performance contracting; oversight and evaluation; termination and renewal decision-making; and technical assistance. The memorandum of understanding between the Pathway II authorizer and the partnering organization will clearly and unambiguously reflect the roles and responsibilities of both. The Pathway II authorizer will be responsible for all material decision-making, including applicant approvals, charter decisions and outcomes. The partnering organization will act as the functional agent providing technical assistance, oversight and evaluation after a charter has been approved by the Pathway II authorizer, and will also compile performance and compliance data and other information which will serve as the foundation for renewal decisions. It must be clear that the Pathway II authorizer owns the approval of a charter contract at all stages and is responsible for all charter decisions and outcomes.

Application Submission

Applications and accompanying documentation should be submitted electronically to the Office of Community Schools at community.schools@education.ohio.gov . To be considered for review, an application must provide all requested information and documentation. Please ensure that all documents are clearly labeled and paginated.

Application Scoring

| Score | Item Qualitative Rating | Standard |
|--------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 90% | Exemplary | Exceeds standards and is clearly aligned with NACSA's principles for quality authorizing |
| 80% | Effective | Meets standards and is aligned with NACSA's principles for quality authorizing |
| 70% | Ineffective | Partially meets standards and is aligned, in part with NACSA's principles for quality authorizing |
| 69% or Less | Poor or Undeveloped | Fails to meet standards and NACSA's principles for quality authorizing |

Part I
Application Cover Sheet for Pathway II

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| Name of Organization |
| Contact Information Address: Phone: Email: |
| Primary Contact Name: Phone: Email: |
| Organization Type (check appropriate box) <input type="checkbox"/> State University <input type="checkbox"/> School District, JVSD <input type="checkbox"/> ESC <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Entity as may be permitted under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3314. |

Part II
Sponsor Commitment & Capacity

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| 1. Describe your organization's mission, strategic vision and core values. |
| 2. How is your organization's work driven by your mission, strategic vision and core values? Provide examples from the past five years. |
| 3. How would authorizing support or extend your organization's mission, strategic vision and core values? |
| 4. What are the public and student interests served by charter schools? |
| 5. How does an authorizer promote and protect these interests? |
| 6. What is your organization's vision for opening charter schools? What types of charters are you interested in opening? How many? Where? |
| 7. What direction has your organization's board of directors (or equivalent) given regarding the organization's role as an authorizer? |
| 8. What are your organization's expectations for schools chartered by your organization? |
| 9. What does accountability mean for schools? For authorizers? |
| 10. Describe charter school autonomy. What does that mean on a practical level? Are there different levels of autonomy? |
| 11. How will you ensure autonomy for your schools? |
| 12. Describe the policies and practices that your organization will implement to avoid potential conflicts of interest in working with charter schools. |
| 13. What level of financial resources will you use for authorizing activities? What is the organization's source of funding for authorizing activities? |
| 14. What exemplary authorizer(s) are you considering as a partnering organization? Have you reached an informal agreement with any of them? |
| 15. How do you envision the delegation of roles and responsibilities between your organization and the partnering organization? What will be the roles of staff now employed by your organization? |
| 16. How will application and contract decisions be made? |
| 17. Describe your organization's priorities, goals, and timeframe for authorizing charter schools. |

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| 18. What are the general criteria you are considering for reviewing applications for a new charter school? For a replicating charter? |
| 19. What are the general criteria that you are considering for approving applications for a new charter school? For a replicating charter? |
| 20. What standards are you expecting a charter school to achieve in order for its contract to be renewed? |
| 21. Describe the conditions under which your organization would terminate a school's contract prior to its expiration date. |
| 22. How will you assess your organization's performance as an authorizer? |

Additional attachments:

Please include the following:

1. Board or Council resolution supporting the authorizing application;
2. Current staff resumes/biographies and an organizational chart, indicating those who will manage the work of the partnering organization;
3. Organization's Conflict of Interest Policy (describe training requirements, use of signed disclosure statements, and so on, if available);
4. Vision and mission statements, strategic plan and most recent annual report, if available (or a website link, if the information may be found there);
5. Five year annual budget with projected revenues and expenditures, highlighting those for authorizing;
6. Any other guidance documents, organizational policies or information that the applicant wishes to share in support of the application (or a website link, if the information may be found there).

This concludes the Pathway II authorizer application. Please submit the application and supplementary documents electronically to the Office of Community Schools at community.schools@education.ohio.gov