



BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

Charter School Renewal Process February 24, 2022

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Division of Choice, Tennessee Department of Education



BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

ACADEMICS

ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION, NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE

STUDENT READINESS

TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS IN THEIR CAREER PATHWAYS

EDUCATORS

TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH FOR THE EDUCATION PROFESSION AND BE THE TOP STATE IN WHICH TO BECOME AND REMAIN A TEACHER AND LEADER FOR ALL



Agenda

- I. Overview of Charter Renewal Process
- II. Application Review Process
- III. Appeals Process
- IV. Questions



Ice Breaker

- In the chat box please enter the following:
Rate from 1-5 your knowledge/comfort with the charter renewal process in Tennessee:
1=No knowledge/comfort →
5=Very knowledgeable/comfortable



What is the Charter School Renewal Process?

- Found in State statute (T.C.A. § 49-13-121)
- Process for charter governing board to renew its charter agreement with the authorizer for another 10-year period



Renewal Timeline

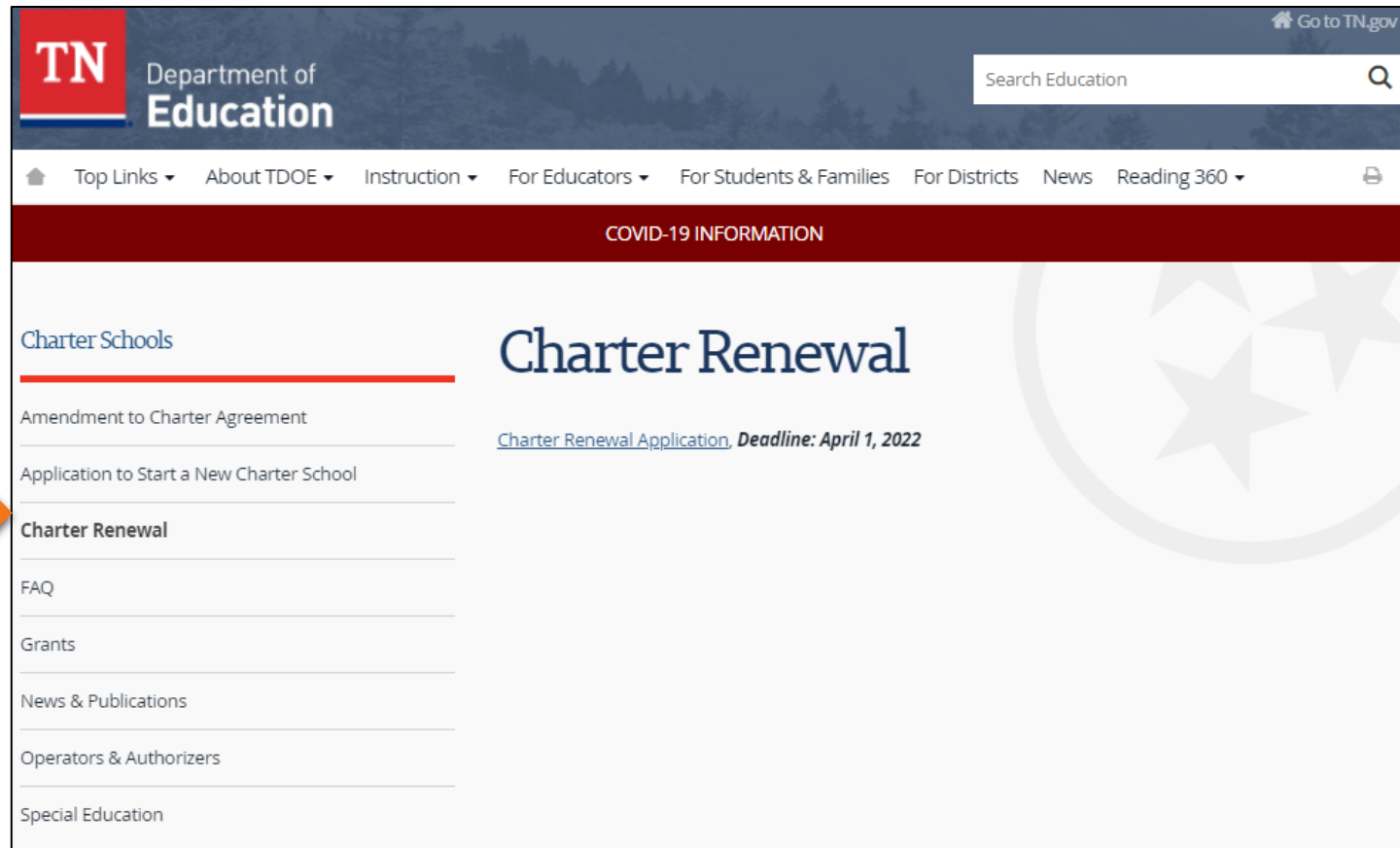


Renewal Timeline for Charter Ending in SY2022-23

January 1, 2022	Authorizer submits performance report
April 1, 2022	Charter school submits renewal application
February 1, 2023	Authorizer makes renewal decision
Within 10 days of date of decision to deny	Charter school may appeal denial to Commission

Where to Access Application?

- Go to website: [Charter Schools \(tn.gov\)](https://charter.schools.tn.gov)
- Click on 'Charter Renewal' from the menu



The screenshot shows the TN Department of Education website. The header includes the TN logo, the text 'Department of Education', a search bar labeled 'Search Education', and a 'Go to TN.gov' link. A navigation menu contains links for 'Top Links', 'About TDOE', 'Instruction', 'For Educators', 'For Students & Families', 'For Districts', 'News', and 'Reading 360'. A red banner below the menu reads 'COVID-19 INFORMATION'. The main content area is split into two columns. The left column has a 'Charter Schools' section with a red underline, followed by links for 'Amendment to Charter Agreement', 'Application to Start a New Charter School', 'Charter Renewal', 'FAQ', 'Grants', 'News & Publications', 'Operators & Authorizers', and 'Special Education'. A large orange arrow points from the left towards the 'Charter Renewal' link. The right column features a 'Charter Renewal' section with a link to 'Charter Renewal Application' and a note that the 'Deadline: April 1, 2022'.



Updates and Changes in FY22

- Changes made to the **application**:
 - General updates for clarity and alignment
 - Revised cover page
 - Increased the overall page limit to 50
 - Inclusion of more guidance on scoring and a model scoring rubric



Application Contents

1. Cover Page;
2. Signed Assurances
3. Application Narrative
4. Appendices



Application Format

- 50-page limit (this includes everything)
- Standard one-inch margins
- Font size no smaller than 11 points
- Sequential numbering of all pages
- Clearly label the appendices



Filing Instructions

- Application due by the close of business on **April 1**
- Submit electronic copy of completed application to authorizer and department
- Email single PDF file to Charter.Schools@tn.gov
- Check with your authorizer to determine if any additional information is required for renewal



Application Sections

1. Cover Page

- School information
- Primary contact person
- Charter agreement information
- Current year student enrollment/demographic data
- Grade level/student enrollment for next 10-year term



Application Sections

2. Assurances

- Carefully review all assurances
- Sign the assurances



Application Sections



3. Application Narrative

- The bulk of the application, which includes:
 - Section I - Academic Success
 - Section II – Operational Stability
 - Section III – Financial Health
 - Section IV – Future Plans/Projections

Application Sections

4. Appendices

- Renewal applicants may append documents supporting the renewal application
- Any appendices should be clearly labeled and referenced in the narrative of the application



Questions?



Ratings and Criteria

- Authorizer evaluators may consider other materials in their review, including:
 - Charter school's annual reports;
 - Local school board's performance reports for the charter school;
 - Local school board's annual reports;
 - Local school board's site visit report; and
 - Correspondence from the LEA to the governing body regarding the status of the school during the term of the charter and any required plans of correction.



Ratings and Criteria



- Quality Charter Authorizing Standards
 - Clearly communicates criteria for charter renewal and non-renewal decisions consistent with the charter agreement
 - Bases process and decisions on objective evidence defined by the performance framework
 - Grants renewal only to schools that have “achieved the standards and targets stated in the charter agreement, are organizationally and fiscally viable, and have been faithful to the terms of the contract and applicable law.”

Ratings and Criteria



- Evaluators may use the model scoring rubric but are not required to do so.
- If authorizers develop their own scoring rubric, they should share the rubric along with the charter school's performance report on January 1.
- In general, a charter school should be renewed if it:
 - Did not commit a material violation of its charter agreement;
 - Met or made sufficient progress toward the performance expectations in its charter agreement; and
 - Generally met the accepted standards of fiscal management.

Questions?



Application Review Timeline

Jan. 1, 2022:
Authorizer
provides
charter
performance
report

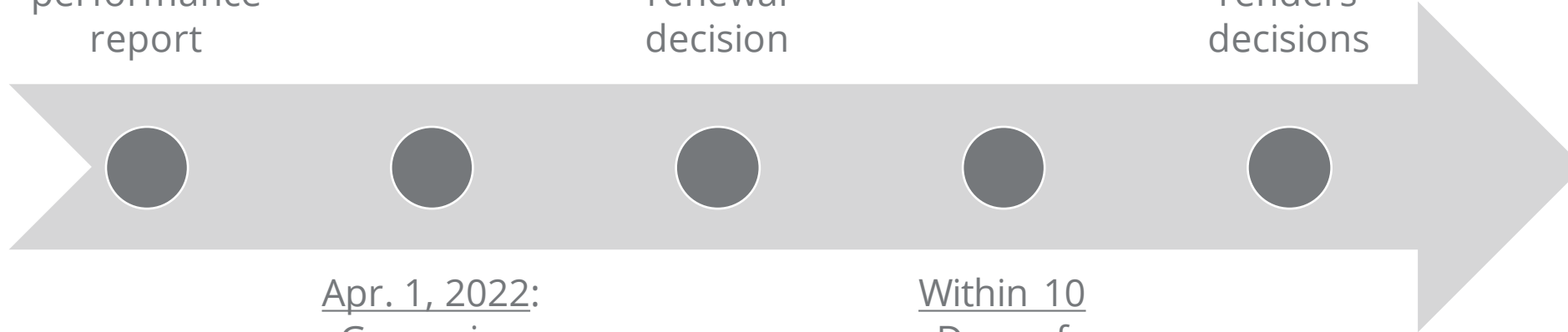
Feb. 1, 2023:
Local board
rules on
renewal
decision

Within 60
days of
Appeal:
Commission
renders
decisions

Apr. 1, 2022:
Governing
board
submits
renewal
application

Within 10
Days of
Denial:
Governing
board may
appeal

**Jul. 1, 2023:
Charter
agreement
renewed**



Appeals Process



- Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-121(f), the governing body may appeal a local board of education's denial of a renewal application to the Commission
- The Commission must receive notice of appeal from the school's governing board no later than ten (10) calendar days after the date of the local board of education's decision to deny the renewal application
- Commission resources:
 - [1185-01-01-.02 Charter School Renewal Application Appeals](#)
 - [Charter School Renewal Appeal Process – Guidance Document](#)

Questions?



Closing



- In the chat box please enter one of the following:
 1. What is one piece of information or insight you learned today that will help you in completing your renewal application?
 2. What is one action item you have added to your to-do list or re-prioritized after attending this webinar?
 3. If you are part of an organization that has gone through renewal before, what advice can you share with first-time renewal applicants?

Survey



Survey Link: [Charter Renewal Application Webinar Feedback](#)



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