

Name of School:
Reviewer:

APPLICATION SUMMARY

Strengths								
Weaknesses								
Compliance/Legal Issues								
Concerns/Questions								
OVERALL RECOMMENDATION Approve/Not Approve with narrative explanation for recommendation								
	INSERT YOUR RATING FOR EACH SECTION							
	<i>For example, if you rate "Need" as deficient, place a check in the "Deficient" column of the "Need" row</i>							
	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
SCHOOL FOUNDATION								
Need and Demand								
Management Org								
Virtual School								
Vision & Mission								
Purpose								
Learning Program								
School Founders								
PRE-OPERATIONAL PLANNING								
Governance								
Marketing Outreach								
Enrollment / Admission								

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant’s understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

Approaches: Meets most but not all minimum requirements. Addresses some, but not all, of the criteria, or lacks meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be reasonably comprehensive.

Meets: Addresses the minimum requirements in all areas, indicates solid grasp of key issues, and is reasonably comprehensive.

Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

Facility				
Calendar & Transportation				
Food Services				
Management Goals & Challenges				
FISCAL SOUNDNESS				
Board Processes				
Budget				
Cash Flow				
OTHER				
Other Authorizers				
Prior Applications				
Early Learning/Pre-K				
Optional				

I. Executive Summary

Overall Rating: ____

Strengths								
Weaknesses								
<i>Provide a one-to-three page overview of the proposed charter school and include the following elements:</i>	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
A. A brief explanation of why founding group seeks to open a public charter school, including why the charter school is								

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necessary at this time and in the proposed location;				
B. Mission, vision, purpose(s); C. Grade levels to be served and total student population;				
D. Intended location;				
E. Educational philosophy and instructional approach;				
F. How the school will improve student learning and achievement in the intended community, the key design elements of the school’s program, and the capacity of those implementing the program that would make it succeed where others have failed; and				
G. How success of the school will be determined.				

II. School Foundation

Overall Rating _____

A. Need and Demand

Strengths	
Weaknesses	

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A. Need and Demand. Present a compelling reason for establishing the new charter school.	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
(1) Clearly articulates and provides evidence of the need and demand for a school in the location identified. Provides and analyzes a market need and demand study which includes, for each proposed location, at a minimum:								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and projected demographic information; 								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student enrollment patterns; 								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on existing schools [traditional district, charter, and private], and types of educational programs currently available; 								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics of proposed students and families; 								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of properly zoned and classified facilities; 								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantification of existing demand for the school 								
(2) Describe the community support for an additional school in the proposed location(s).								
B. Management Organizations and/or Virtual Schools	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4

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<p>Management Organization: If the charter school would be established in conjunction with an educational service provider or management company, provide the name of such entity and specify in detail the extent of the entity’s participation in the management and operation of the school. Include:</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic, financial, and operational results of all current schools operated by the organization demonstrating success of the management organization; 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of all schools (with locations) operated by the organization within the most recent five years; 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of all schools (with locations) operated by the organization within the most recent ten years that have closed; 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A term sheet indicating, at a minimum, the fees to be paid by the proposed school to the management company; the length of the proposed contract; the terms for the contract’s renewal; all provisions for renewal and termination; 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of the last two contracts that the entity has executed with operating charter schools and, if applicable, the status of those charter schools’ applications for tax-exempt status under section 504(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; 				

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of the proposed management contract that sets forth proposed terms, including roles and responsibilities of the school governing board, the school staff, and the service provider; the services and resources to be provided; performance-evaluation measures and mechanisms; financial controls and oversight; investment disclosure; 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the school will provide oversight of the management organization; 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe and explain existing or potential conflicts of interest between the school’s governing board and management organization or affiliated business entities; and 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain in detail how and why the management organization or educational service provider was selected. 				
<p>Virtual/Online Schools. If the school will provide virtual or online programming, describe how its program will be delivered in compliance with applicable law.</p>				
<p>The application to the MDE for virtual/online instruction is included.</p>				

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C. Vision and Mission

Overall Rating _____

Strengths	
Weaknesses	

<i>Vision & Mission. Provide vision and mission statements that reflect the school's goals and purpose(s).</i>	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
(1) Provide a clear and compelling Mission Statement for the school that includes the following components: a. What the school seeks to accomplish; b. Who the school seeks to serve; c. To what degree; and d. How the school will accomplish the goals, if methodology is an important aspect.								
(2) Provide a response to the following question: How will the school know if it is achieving its mission as stated above?								
(3) Provide a vision statement that articulates the purposes the school expects to fulfill and measurable criteria by which the school may evaluate its success.								

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D. Purpose

Overall Rating _____

Strengths	
Weaknesses	

<i>Purpose. Present how the new charter school supports one or more statutory purposes for charter schools.</i>	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
(1) Identify how the school will improve the learning, achievement, and success of all students; identify how the school report implementation of this purpose to the authorizer; and provide a comprehensive description of how the school’s vision and mission are connected to, and how the school will achieve this purpose.								
(2) Identify other statutory purposes for charter schools (see Minn. Stat. 124E.01) the school intends to meet; identify how the school will report implementation of the additional purpose(s) to the authorizer; and provide a comprehensive description of how the school’s vision and mission are connected to, and how the school will achieve, the identified purpose(s).								
(3) Based on the identified need above, describe the new and unique characteristics this school would provide to students that								

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distinguish it relative to other education options available to students				
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E. Learning Program

Overall Rating _____

Strengths	
Weaknesses	

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Learning Program, Student Achievement & Accountability. Present a high-quality educational program and goals for student achievement and accountability.	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
(1) Educational Philosophy: Describe the guiding educational philosophy of this school which reflects the school’s mission, vision, and value, and how the program will improve student learning, achievement, and success.								
(a) If the proposed charter school includes particular methods, strategies or programs for meeting the needs of students at risk of academic failure, include a description of the challenges faced in educating the targeted population and describe such methods, strategies and/or programs.								
Include in the description any diagnostic methods or instruments that will be used to identify and assess those students who are performing below grade-level as well as the processes / programs / tools to be used in providing them with remedial instruction.								
(b) If the proposed charter school would include any methods and strategies for accommodating other targeted student populations, attach a description of the targeted student population(s), how they would be identified (academic or other criteria) and describe such methods and strategies.								

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(c) Describe the culture the school will develop and how it will measure success / attainment in this regard.				
(2) Curricula, Tools, Methods, and Instructional Techniques. Describe the proposed curricula, tools, methods and instructional techniques to be used that support the educational philosophy and that directly correlates to the school’s mission and vision and how the curricula, tools, methods, and instructional techniques will improve student learning, achievement, and success. Also includes:				
Describe the process the school will use to ensure the curricula will align with Minnesota State Academic Standards.				
Cite and explain evidence demonstrating these curricula, tools, techniques and methods increase student achievement relevant to the target population.				
Describe strategies and techniques responsive to cultural diversity.				
(3) Social and Emotional Needs, Special Services. Describe how the school will address the social and emotional learning needs of students and provide student support services.				

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<p>(4) Traditionally Underserved Students. Identify how the school’s learning program will assist traditionally underserved students, including low-income students, students of color, and students at risk of academic failure to succeed academically and cite evidence demonstrating same.</p>				
<p>Describe the services the school will provide for special populations in addition to those described in (5) and (6) below.</p>				

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<p>(5) Special Education: Describe how this school will provide access to students with disabilities to a free appropriate education in the least restrictive environment in compliance with all laws.</p> <p>(a) Provide a comprehensive description of the proposed Child Find process that will be used.</p> <p>(b) Provide the proposed school’s methods and strategies for serving students with disabilities in compliance with all federal laws and regulations. Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the kinds and types of services and related services the school is likely to provide directly and distinguished from third-party contracts; ii. the personnel the school will devote to serving students with disabilities and the administrative responsibilities associated with special education; iii. explain how the school will assess / review / revise and implement the IEP; and iv. describe how the school will provide accommodations for students who require extended services; and v. describe the professional development plan for special education and general education teachers and support staff, as well as other staff (as applicable), as it pertains to serving students with disabilities. 				
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<p>(6) English Learners. Provide a description of the program design, methods and strategies for serving students who are English Learners in accordance with all laws. Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the process for the identification and placement of students whose first language is not English and the methods for determining the kinds of assistance that these students may need; (b) the manner in which the applicant will ensure that English Learner students are not misplaced or tracked inappropriately in other classes (including those programs or classes designed to serve student with disabilities); (c) the strategies to ensure academic success; (d) the description of exit criteria and related objective assessment instruments and subjective methods than ensure the appropriate student placement and monitoring of a student's progress over time; (e) describe how the school will staff its program appropriately to support English Learners; and (f) describe the professional development of staff, including English Learner and general education teacher and support staff, as well as other staff (as applicable), as it pertains to serving English Learners. 				
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<p>(7) Gifted and Talented, High Achieving Students: Describe how this school will provide services to gifted and talented and high achieving students.</p>				
<p>(8) Assessment Data: Provide a description of how student learning will be assessed, evaluated, and monitored, including assessments for special populations. Provide a description of the of the assessments that will be used to determine how all student populations are meeting state performance standards. Indicate how the assessments will be aligned with state standards and how they will reliably and verifiably measure students’ performance goals.</p>				
<p>(9) Accountability Goals – Academic & Nonacademic Outcomes. Identify specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound, growth-oriented and other accountability goals for students and the school upon which the initial charter will be based. For each goal, provide a rationale for the goal and the expected level of performance, including projected baseline data, and how these goals are designed to promote high expectations for all students. Also describe how the school will use assessment data to support the educational program described above.</p>				
<p>(10) Program Meeting / Exceeding Commissioner’s Expectations for Public Schools. Describe how the educational</p>				

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program and accountability outcomes are designed to meet or exceed the outcomes established by the Minnesota Commissioner of Education.				
(11) Discipline/Intervention. Describe the school’s discipline and behavior intervention philosophy and plans. Indicate whether the school has identified a specific approach, how its philosophy contributes to an equitable learning environment; how the school will communicate its plan to the school community; and how the school will ensure consistent implementation.				
E. School Founders		Overall Rating _____		
Strengths				
Weaknesses				
<i>School Founders. Describe the school founders and how they are well-positioned to develop and plan a new high-quality charter school.</i>	Deficient 1	Approaches 2	Meets 3	Exceeds 4
Present evidence of the founders’ capacity to execute its plan successfully.				
(1) For each person identified on the Founder Contact List:				

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<p>(a) describe their experience/involvement with K-12 education, including Minnesota Teacher License number, if any; (b) describe their experience with the design and operation of a charter school; (c) describe their expected role and responsibilities during pre-operational planning period; (d) describe their experience and capabilities; (e) indicate whether they want to become a member of the interim board of directors; (f) indicate they intend to apply for employment at the new school; (g) describe their affiliations with other founders and current/potential consultants and vendor organizations. (h) identify the dates of the most recent criminal and bankruptcy background checks obtained and whether adverse information was identified for each.</p>				
<p>(2) List the proposed members of the initial board of directors for the charter school, including the information in (1)(a)-(g) for each person not otherwise provided in 1, indicating any ex-officio members and if any seat is proposed to be non-voting. Also indicate any vacant positions expected to be filled.</p>				
<p>III. Pre-Operational Planning</p>				<p>Overall Rating _____</p>

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A. Governance				
Strengths				
Weaknesses				
<i>Governance. Describe a plan to ensure effective, accountable, and representative governance over the school's operations.</i>	Deficient 1	Approaches 2	Meets 3	Exceeds 4
(1) Responsibilities. Describe the responsibilities and obligations of the charter school board. Describe the board's role in academic success, operations, and financial matters, and how the board will strategically engage in planning and oversight in each of these areas. Describe, with specificity, the plan to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Describe how the board will ensure its policies and procedures promote academic success, accountability, and compliance.				
(2) Board Recruitment: Describe specific expertise/characteristics sought in yet-to-be recruited board members and explain the added value of those characteristics.				
(3) Board Training: Describe the plan for initial training of the board during the school's pre-operational planning period and for ongoing board training and development once the school opens.				

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<p>(4) Start-up Activities. Describe the school’s plan to carry out start-up activities leading up to opening. A quality application will address the main topics identified in Student Achievement Minnesota’s Startup Progress Form Task List available on its website.</p>				
<p>(5) Monitoring. Describe how the Board will monitor the school’s academic and other goals.</p>				
<p>(6) Parent Involvement. Please describe how parents will be involved in the charter school including, in particular, the governance and administration of the charter school and note whether a parent organization is anticipated.</p>				
<p>(7) Parent, Family, and Community Involvement: Describe how parents of potential students have been involved to date in the planning and program design of the charter school. Describe the board’s strategy for engaging and involving parents of potential students (including stepparents, guardians, etc) and other members of the community in the planning, program design, and implementation of this charter school.</p>				
<p>(8) Personnel Policies. Describe the proposed school’s personnel policies. The description should include at least the following information: a. The proposed procedures for hiring and dismissing school personnel; and</p>				

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<p>b. The school’s proposed qualifications for hiring teachers, school administrators and other employees.</p>				
<p>(9) Plan for fulfilling Board Obligations: Describe how the interim board will develop policy during the pre-operational planning period to ensure the board governs the charter public school in compliance with federal, state and local requirements.</p>				
<p>(10) Describe the specific plan and timeline for the development of: a. Personnel policies (including the creation of job descriptions, an employee performance management program, etc.); b. Procurement policies and procedures for contracting with vendors and consultants that are fair and open and that avoid apparent and actual conflicts of interest; c. Conflict of interest policies; and d. Travel approval and reimbursement policies e. Other required policies</p>				

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B. Marketing/Outreach

Overall Rating _____

Strengths	
Weaknesses	

<i>Marketing, Outreach, Enrollment & Admissions.</i> Describe a marketing and outreach plan, based on the established compelling need, to ensure open access to all and full enrollment.	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
(1) Identify the number of students expected to attend the school each year of the proposed charter term, by grade level in the provided table. The student enrollment information must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The grades the school would serve (b) The ages of the students served in each grade (c) The number of students to be served in each grade (d) The number of children expected in each class (e) The total number of students each year of the charter term If providing kindergarten, please indicate the minimum age that the school will								

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Marketing, Outreach, Enrollment & Admissions. Describe a marketing and outreach plan, based on the established compelling need, to ensure open access to all and full enrollment.	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
require a child to have attained and by what date to be eligible for enrollment.								
(2) Provide the rationale for the growth plan submitted. In your rationale address the reason(s) for choosing to serve the identified population of students, including the grades specified and the number of students in grade.								
(3) Describe how students in the community will be informed about this charter school and will be given an equal opportunity to attend this charter school.								
(4) If the charter school intends to implement a dress code policy, explain how the cost of any uniform will be accessible for parents unable to afford them.								
(5) Discuss how this school will intentionally and specifically conduct initial and ongoing outreach to traditionally underserved and hard-to-reach-populations, including information about the school’s offerings and enrollment procedures.								

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Marketing, Outreach, Enrollment & Admissions. Describe a marketing and outreach plan, based on the established compelling need, to ensure open access to all and full enrollment.	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
(a) Describe the specific efforts to attract and retain a comparable or greater enrollment of English Learners when compared to the enrollment figures for such students in the traditional district in which the charter school will be located. Include a description of the planned outreach, including strategies for communicating with parents who are not English proficient.								
(b) Describe the specific efforts to attract and retain a comparable or greater enrollment of students who are traditionally underserved, including low-income, student of color, and students at risk of academic failure, when compared to the traditional district in which the charter is to be located.								
(c) Describe the specific efforts to attract and retain a comparable or greater enrollment of students with disabilities when compared to the enrollment figures for such students in the traditional district								

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant’s understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

Approaches: Meets most but not all minimum requirements. Addresses some, but not all, of the criteria, or lacks meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be reasonably comprehensive.

Meets: Addresses the minimum requirements in all areas, indicates solid grasp of key issues, and is reasonably comprehensive.

Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

Marketing, Outreach, Enrollment & Admissions. Describe a marketing and outreach plan, based on the established compelling need, to ensure open access to all and full enrollment.	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
in which the charter school will be located.								
(d) Describe the specific strategies and resources the school will engage if the school’s efforts in a-c are unsuccessful.								
(6) Describe how the school will conduct an open admission process including the use of a lottery to provide equal access to all students who apply.								
(7) Provide evidence of significant community support for, and interest in, the proposed charter school sufficient to allow the school to reach its anticipated enrollment. Include any methods or strategies that have been used to gauge community support for the charter school. <i>Note: While general community support is desirable, significant demonstrated interest in enrolling in the school is essential: while the community at large may enthusiastically support the idea of a school, the school is not viable if the community is not actually interested in enrolling children in the school sufficient to support school operations.</i>								
(8) Describe the deliberate and intentional strategies the school will utilize to								

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant’s understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

Approaches: Meets most but not all minimum requirements. Addresses some, but not all, of the criteria, or lacks meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be reasonably comprehensive.

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Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

Marketing, Outreach, Enrollment & Admissions. Describe a marketing and outreach plan, based on the established compelling need, to ensure open access to all and full enrollment.	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
ensure equal access and equivalent opportunities for all students once enrolled in the school.								

C. Facility

Overall Rating _____

Strengths	
Weaknesses	

Facility Plan. Describes a plan to secure a suitable facility that meets the unique needs of the school and complies with a health and safety and building code requirements.	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
(1) Facility needs Planning Process: (a) Describe the school’s plan, including the timeline and process for determining space needs appropriate to the program and enrollment. (b) Describe results of a preliminary facility needs assessment.								
(2) Facility Selection Process:								

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant’s understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

Approaches: Meets most but not all minimum requirements. Addresses some, but not all, of the criteria, or lacks meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be reasonably comprehensive.

Meets: Addresses the minimum requirements in all areas, indicates solid grasp of key issues, and is reasonably comprehensive.

Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

Facility Plan. <i>Describes a plan to secure a suitable facility that meets the unique needs of the school and complies with a health and safety and building code requirements.</i>	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
a. Describe the school’s plan, including the timeline, process, and milestones to be met in locating and evaluating potential facilities and selecting a building for lease that is affordable, provides adequate space and meets all health and safety and public building code requirements. b. Provide a description of any potential facility or facilities that have been identified and which satisfy the preliminary facility needs assessment results.								
(3) If the charter school founders, applicants, partners, intended board members, or related parties, intend to own or lease its facility to the charter school, provide a description of the ownership or lease arrangement of the facility, including indicating specifically any potential conflicts-of-interest and arrangements by which such conflicts will be managed or avoided.								

D. Calendar & Transportation

Overall Rating _____

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant’s understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

Approaches: Meets most but not all minimum requirements. Addresses some, but not all, of the criteria, or lacks meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be reasonably comprehensive.

Meets: Addresses the minimum requirements in all areas, indicates solid grasp of key issues, and is reasonably comprehensive.

Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

Strengths	
Weaknesses	

<i>Calendar & Transportation. Describe a calendar that reflects the school’s goals, purposes and proposed learning program. Describe transportation arrangements consistent with calendar and learning program.</i>	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
<p>(1) Describe the calendar the school plans to use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Identify the unique characteristics of the school’s proposed calendar. (b) Describe how this proposed calendar lends itself to the school’s mission and vision. (c) Provide total number of teacher contract days; (d) Indicate the total number of student instructional days and total instructional hours, identifying any differences by grade;. (e) The first and last day of classes; (f) Planned holidays and other days off, as well as planned half days. 								

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant’s understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

Approaches: Meets most but not all minimum requirements. Addresses some, but not all, of the criteria, or lacks meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be reasonably comprehensive.

Meets: Addresses the minimum requirements in all areas, indicates solid grasp of key issues, and is reasonably comprehensive.

Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

Calendar & Transportation. Describe a calendar that reflects the school’s goals, purposes and proposed learning program. Describe transportation arrangements consistent with calendar and learning program.	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
(g) Provide the planned length of the student instructional day (excluding meals). (h) Provide a description or outline of a “typical day” at the new school. [A typical day for elementary grade will be as follows...]								
(2) Provide a copy of the proposed weekly schedule, including: (a) The total number of hours/minutes of instruction per week; (b) The minimum number of hours the school will devote to core academic subjects in each grade, e.g. English language arts, mathematics, and science; (c) The length of the school day (including the approximate start and dismissal times of the school day); and, (d) A sample schedule.								
(3) Provide a description of the planned transportation arrangements and how the planned arrangement will meet the needs of all students including the traditionally-disadvantaged.								

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant’s understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

Approaches: Meets most but not all minimum requirements. Addresses some, but not all, of the criteria, or lacks meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be reasonably comprehensive.

Meets: Addresses the minimum requirements in all areas, indicates solid grasp of key issues, and is reasonably comprehensive.

Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

E. Food Services

Overall Rating _____

Strengths								
Weaknesses								
<i>Food Services</i>	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
Describe the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • school’s planned food service program • anticipated space requirements How the program will promote healthy eating and decision-making								

F. Management Goals & Challenges

Overall Rating _____

Strengths								
Weaknesses								

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant’s understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.
Approaches: Meets most but not all minimum requirements. Addresses some, but not all, of the criteria, or lacks meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be reasonably comprehensive.
Meets: Addresses the minimum requirements in all areas, indicates solid grasp of key issues, and is reasonably comprehensive.
Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

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Management Goals & Challenges. <i>Describe a plan to ensure effective and transparent management of the school's operations.</i>	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
(1) Organizational Chart. Provide an organizational chart for the school and narrative description of the chart. The chart should clearly indicate the reporting structures of staff to the board of trustees, and staff to the school leader(s). The narrative should describe how the school will operate, including administration, management, and governance, the relationship and separation of duties between the Board and administration, and the role and responsibilities of school leadership, governing board, instructional leaders, and their relationship to each other. If the charter school intends to contract with an entity for management services, the organizational chart should also reflect that relationship and the narrative should include a discussion of the role of the management company or organization.								
(2) Staff. Provide a plan for staffing the school with appropriately qualified and licensed personnel. Include a list of instructional staff for the first school year. The list should indicate and identify classroom teachers, and any teaching aides or assistants, as well as any specialty								

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant's understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

Approaches: Meets most but not all minimum requirements. Addresses some, but not all, of the criteria, or lacks meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be reasonably comprehensive.

Meets: Addresses the minimum requirements in all areas, indicates solid grasp of key issues, and is reasonably comprehensive.

Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

Management Goals & Challenges. <i>Describe a plan to ensure effective and transparent management of the school's operations.</i>	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
teachers. The list should also identify the number of instructional personnel in each classroom, e.g. one teacher, one teaching assistant, one paraprofessional for each class. In addition, describe the professional development plans for teachers and support staff, as well as other staff as it pertains to general education services.								
(3) Organizational Structure. Explain how this organizational structure is consistent with the mission and vision of the proposed charter school.								
(4) Leader Attributes. Provide a description of the specific attributes you will look for in a school leader or leaders, depending on your organizational model. Additionally, discuss the model ultimately proposed for the use in the school.								
(5) Hiring Process. Describe the fair and open process the interim board will use for recruiting and hiring the school leader, finance manager, auditor, and school personnel including: (a) The timeline for developing a job description for the school leader and then recruiting and hiring the school leader; (b) How the board will recruit potential candidates who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented								

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant's understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

Approaches: Meets most but not all minimum requirements. Addresses some, but not all, of the criteria, or lacks meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be reasonably comprehensive.

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Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

Management Goals & Challenges. <i>Describe a plan to ensure effective and transparent management of the school's operations.</i>	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
based on race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability; and (c) Whether the board plans to hire a temporary start-up coordinator and, if so, how this person will be identified.								
(6) Recruiting. Describe the school's strategy and process for recruiting and hiring other school employees that are qualified to effectively serve the unique needs of the projected student population.								
(7) Professional Development. Describe how the school's professional development program will assist teachers in meeting student academic needs and school goals by addressing identified shortcomings in student learning and teacher pedagogical skill and content knowledge. In developing the school's professional development program, consideration should be given to: (a) Ensuring that the proposed school will allocate sufficient resources to support a comprehensive professional development program; (b) Ensuring that the content of the program aligns with the school's mission, curriculum, instruction, and assessment strategies; (c) Ensuring that annual plans are derived from a school needs-assessment, based on identified								

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant's understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

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Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

Management Goals & Challenges. <i>Describe a plan to ensure effective and transparent management of the school's operations.</i>	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
instructional weaknesses, teacher interest, and analyses of student outcomes; (d) Ensuring that the school earmarks effective, ongoing support and training to novice teachers and teachers new to the school and/or teaching profession; and ensuring that the professional development program is systematically evaluated to determine its effectiveness.								
(8) Orientation/Development. Describe how the school will provide employees with initial and ongoing orientation and professional development about the mission, vision and outcomes of the school								

IV. Fiscal Soundness

Overall Rating _____

Strengths	
Weaknesses	

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant's understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

Approaches: Meets most but not all minimum requirements. Addresses some, but not all, of the criteria, or lacks meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be reasonably comprehensive.

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Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

<i>Fiscal Soundness: Describe the school's fiscal management plan.</i>	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
A. Board Processes. Describe the process the interim board will use to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and approve the budget; 2. Monitor the financial condition of the school; 3. Select financial manager(s) and auditor; 4. Describe the policies related to financial management the board intends to adopt, if any. 								
B. Budget. Provide a start-up budget plus a 3-year operating budget for the charter school, including: the planned timetable, detailed and reasonable assumptions for all revenue and expenditures for each year, demonstrating operational viability based on such revenue, and include alternative budgets if enrollment does not meet projections. Note: operational viability means that the school operates with annual surpluses. <i>Note: Budget is automatically deficient if it presents deficit-spending.</i>								
C. Cash Flow. Provide a cash flow projection on a monthly basis for the developing year and first operational year; include detailed and reasonable / viable assumptions reflecting an understanding of charter school monetary flow, and describe with specificity viable strategies if confronted with cash flow challenges.								
Notes: For any contributions or grant funds (public or private) in the school budget,								

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant's understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

Approaches: Meets most but not all minimum requirements. Addresses some, but not all, of the criteria, or lacks meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be reasonably comprehensive.

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Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

<i>Fiscal Soundness: Describe the school's fiscal management plan.</i>	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
provide letters of commitment from the funding sources detailing the amounts and any required uses for / limitations on the funding. A school may submit a budget with uncommitted grant funds provided a reasonable and viable budget is also provided without those funds. For assumptions, provide the source for numbers used and calculations. The reader must be able to understand how the numbers in the budget and cash flow were calculated.								

V. Other

Overall Rating _____

Strengths	
Weaknesses	

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant's understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

Approaches: Meets most but not all minimum requirements. Addresses some, but not all, of the criteria, or lacks meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be reasonably comprehensive.

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Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

<i>Other</i>	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
<p>A. Applications to Other Authorizers. Indicate whether a substantially similar application has or will be submitted to another authorizer. If so, provide the name of the authorizer, the date (or intended date) the application was submitted, and the status of the application.</p>								
<p>B. Prior Applications. Indicate whether you have previously applied for a charter from another authorizer. If so, provide the name of the authorizer, the date the application was submitted and the status of the application. If the application was denied, provide a copy of the letter from the charter entity stating reasons for denial. If the application was withdrawn, provide the reason for withdrawal. If the application was approved, but the charter school is no longer in existence, provide an explanation.</p>								
<p>C. Early Learning / Pre-K Programs (if applicable). If not addressed above, provide the following information regarding the school’s proposed early learning program(s):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Description (2) Whether the program will be free to all or fee-based (if fee-based, include the fee structure) and how the program(s) will be funded 								

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Other	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
<p>(3) Evidence of need. e.g. existing early learning programs are insufficient or inadequate.</p> <p>(4) Evidence of demand, e.g. actual family interest in attending</p> <p>(5) Enrollment process description</p> <p>(6) Provide a comprehensive description of the program, including key components; philosophy; minimum staff: child ratios; maximum class sizes; staff licensure; daily or weekly (if the daily program differs) schedule illustrating time dedicated to various activities; instructional methods, learning approaches aligned with Minnesota’s Early Childhood Indicators of Progress; proposed curriculum and instructional practices; how each child will be comprehensively assessed to promote kindergarten readiness; the program’s plan for transition to kindergarten; staffing plans including knowledge/experience in early learning and related professional development; special education services; food services; how/where children will receive health</p>								

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant’s understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

Approaches: Meets most but not all minimum requirements. Addresses some, but not all, of the criteria, or lacks meaningful detail and requires important additional information in order to be reasonably comprehensive.

Meets: Addresses the minimum requirements in all areas, indicates solid grasp of key issues, and is reasonably comprehensive.

Exceeds: Exceeds the minimum requirements in most areas, is comprehensive and indicates a complete understanding of key issues and capacity to successfully open a quality charter school.

<i>Other</i>	Deficient	1	Approaches	2	Meets	3	Exceeds	4
and developmental screening; how the program coordinates with community organizations; how the school will determine whether the program is successful.								
D. Optional: Provide additional information as desired.								

Deficient: Inadequate in most areas. Lacks significant detail; demonstrates lack of preparation, or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the applicant’s understanding of the issues, concepts, and/or ability to meet the requirement in practice.

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