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## High Quality Charter School Replication Application

**Due Date / Timeline:** The due date (and resulting timeline) for High Quality Charter School Replication Applications is the same as New Charter School Applications. Refer to the website for due dates and timeline/process: [www.samnllc.org](http://www.samnllc.org)

### High Quality Performance

Generally, a high quality school will exceed resident district and state proficiency and growth rates on state assessments, improving all pupil learning and all student achievement.

### Eligibility:

Applicants seeking to submit a school replication application must demonstrate an outstanding academic, fiscal, and legal performance with its current school or schools, and have a consistent track record of high achievement and success. Applicants who do not satisfy this criterion must apply using the New School charter school application found on the SAM website, [www.samnllc.org](http://www.samnllc.org).

### Requirements

The application to Student Achievement Minnesota must contain:

#### I. School Description and Target Population

Provide a description of the proposed charter school including targeted population.

#### II. Academic Performance

Provide a comprehensive evaluation of school performance. A quality application will provide evidence of improving all pupil learning and all student achievement when compared with resident district and state average achievement, including a summary of the three most recent years of the school's proficiency and growth data both consolidated and by subgroup.

#### III. Fiscal Performance

A charter school requesting replication must provide evidence of being financially sound and having the financial capacity to implement the replication.

**A. External Audits:** Provide copies of the three most recent external audits. A quality application will provide evidence that any findings in the past audits have been corrected and that the three most recent audits reflect no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies.

**B. Fund Balance:** A quality application will provide evidence that the school has a fund/reserve balance exceeding 20% or consistently increasing fund balance. Note: fund balance is the accumulated difference between annual revenue and annual expenditures (excess dollars).

#### **IV. Legal**

A charter school requesting replication must provide evidence of being consistently and substantially compliant and has the operational capacity to implement the replication.

##### **A. Authorizer Reporting:**

Provide the most recent “formal” school evaluation and any notices of deficiency, concern(s) or required corrective action(s) within the last 12 months by the school authorizer; and provide an explanation for deficiencies or concerns cited. A quality application generally has no significant issues.

##### **B. Department of Education Corrective Action**

Disclose and explain any corrected actions cited by the Department of Education within the last 12 months and provide evidence the school has satisfactorily resolved the matter. A quality application generally has no history of significant corrective action.

**Need & Demand for Students:** Once Student Achievement Minnesota approves the application, Student Achievement Minnesota will work in collaboration with the applicant to identify geographic areas where the school replication will serve unmet needs. This identification must be completed before Student Achievement Minnesota submits the affidavit to the Minnesota Department of Education.

#### **Notes:**

If Student Achievement Minnesota approves the application, Student Achievement Minnesota is required by law to submit an affidavit to the Minnesota Department of Education for approval. The then current affidavit may require additional information not addressed herein and, in completing its review, the Minnesota Department of Education may similarly request additional information.

An applicant’s eligibility criteria must be maintained continuously throughout the application period and process. If the applicant’s academic or finance performance falls below eligibility requirements, the application will be rejected.



## High Quality Charter School Replication Rubric

Student Achievement Minnesota analyzes the academic, fiscal and legal performance evidence when considering a charter school's application for school replication.

<b>I. School Description and Target Population</b>		
<b>II. Academic Performance</b>		
<i>A historical record clearly demonstrating consistently strong student achievement or consistently increasing student achievement.</i>		
	Meets Expectation	Does Not Meet Expectation
<b>A. State Assessments / Proficiency</b> Provides evidence the school is increasing all pupil learning and all student achievement when compared with resident district and state average subgroups.		
<i>Qualitative: Describe the degree to which the school's state proficiency data persuasively demonstrates that the school is improving all pupil learning and all student achievement.</i>		
<b>B. State Assessments / Growth</b> Provides evidence the school is closing the achievement gap when compared with resident district and state average		
<i>Qualitative: Describe the degree to which the school's state growth data persuasively demonstrates that the school is improving all pupil learning and all student achievement.</i>		
<b>III. Fiscal Performance</b>		
	Meets Expectation	Does Not Meet Expectation
<b>A. External Audits</b> No deficiencies or evidence that deficiencies are recognized and addressed through reduction and / or elimination.		
<b>B. Fund Balance*</b> 1. Multiple external audits with no material or significant deficiencies, or attention to deficiencies		

<p>2. Consistently solid fund balance or a consistently increasing fund balance. Fund balance percentages: Excellent: 20%+; Good: 15-20%; Generally Satisfactory: 10-14%; Less than 10%: inadequate fiscal soundness. Years of school operation are considered</p>		
<p><b>IV. Legal</b>  <i>A historical record clearly demonstrating compliance with reporting and state and federal requirements.</i></p>		
	<p>Meets Expectation</p>	<p>Does Not Meet Expectation</p>
<p><b>A. Authorizer Reporting</b>  Most recent formal school evaluation and any notices of deficiency, concern(s) or required corrective action(s) within the last 12 months by the school authorizer.</p>		
<p><b>B. Department of Education Corrective Action</b>  Any corrected actions cited by the Department of Education within the last 12 months.</p>		

**ADDITIONAL REVIEWER COMMENTS:**

\* Fund Balance is the accumulated difference between annual revenue and annual expenditure.