



**MONTGOMERY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Request for Proposals (RFP)

November 1, 2018

Montgomery County Board of Education

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www.preparingstudentsforlife.com

Introduction

With the passage of the *Alabama School Choice and Opportunity Act*, Act 2015-3, on March 19, 2015, public charter schools may be established in Alabama in accordance with the Act. Under this law, a charter school is a public school that operates according to the terms of a charter, or contract, that has been approved by a local board of education and the State Board of Education or the Alabama Charter Schools Commission. Locally approved charter schools operate under the control and management of the local board of education. The Montgomery Public Schools (MPS), as an approved charter schools authorizer, is pleased to seek proposals for a high quality start-up public charter school or high quality conversion charter school in the Montgomery Public Schools district.

All new start-up and/or conversion public charter schools approved in Montgomery County through this process will be subject to the legal requirements set forth in the Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act, Ala. Code §16-6-6F-1, et seq, Act 2015-3.

Characteristics of the Schools the District is Most Interested in Authorizing

MPS is committed to receiving applications for charter schools for any and all ideas. We encourage new and innovative approaches to help us reach our mission and strategic goals. In order to assist you in your application, we are providing you with specific information about the types of charter applications we are most interested in receiving. This information was gathered through gap-analysis and research. We hope this information helps to guide and assist you in your application process.

Through our research of the needs of the district, there are a couple of categories of charter schools that we are most interested in authorizing. MPS is seeking proposals for charter schools that will significantly improve student performance outcomes, particularly in the areas of foundational principals of reading and mathematics; specifically for at-risk students.

An “at-risk” student is defined as a student who has an economic or academic disadvantage that requires special services and assistance to succeed in educational programs. The term includes, but is not limited to, students who are members of economically disadvantaged families, students who are identified as having special education needs, students who are limited in English proficiency, students who are at risk of dropping out of high school, and students who do not meet minimum standards of academic proficiency.

We are seeking a charter school that will, first, decrease the identified achievement gaps on both proficiency and growth between major student subgroups. Secondly, we anticipate a measurable and substantial increase in the satisfaction level of parents and guardians whose at-risk students are served by the charter school. Thirdly, we anticipate that the charter school will demonstrate that the expectations set forth can be met in a financially sound and responsible manner, within the financial resources allocated to the charter school under Act No. 2015-3.

Evaluation Process

Complete petitions for charter schools proposing to open for 2020-2021 must be submitted online through <https://charter.tools/> no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, November 30, 2018. All requested content must be included and all formatting guidelines must be followed in order for an application to be considered complete. The evaluation process will include four steps of review and are summarized as follows:

1. Initial Review of Charter Application

The Superintendent and/or Superintendent's designee will complete the initial review of the charter application to determine if the applicant has met all the requirements to be considered for full review. Incomplete petitions will not be considered for 2020-2021 and must be resubmitted in a subsequent annual application round. If the application is determined to be complete, the charter application will move on to **Step 2**. If the application is not complete, the review process will terminate, and the applicant will be issued a denial letter with the reason and area of incompleteness noted.

2. Academic Review of Charter Application and Operational Review of Charter Application

This review will be completed by review team members specific to each area of the application using the charter.tool program. The applications will be reviewed for program innovation, a demonstrably effective curriculum and academic plan, solid financial planning, depth and breadth of community support, evidence of strong academic leadership and an effective board, and carefully designed accountability measures.

3. Full Team Review

Once each area has been reviewed by team members specific to each area, the full review team will meet to discuss and review the application(s). Once the full review team has discussed the completed application(s), applicants who have submitted a complete petition will be scheduled for an applicant interview. The team will then submit the application(s) and details of the discussions from the full review to the MPS Superintendent for final review. The Superintendent will then present the application to the Montgomery Public Schools Board of Education for final review and approval or denial.

4. Board Review as Authorizer

The board may, pursuant to Alabama Act 2015-03, approve or deny the application within 60 days of the submission of a complete application, by a resolution adopted at a public meeting of the Board. If the Board approves the application, it may include reasonable and appropriate conditions that the applicant must satisfy prior to the execution of a charter contract. If the Board denies the application, it will provide an explanation for the reasons for the denial.

2018 Request for Proposals Timeline for 2020 Opening

Milestone	Date
Release of RFP	November 1, 2018
Applicant Workshop This session will provide those interested in applying for a charter in this cycle with an overview of the process; walkthrough of the application; and a walkthrough of the timeline	Please call Kristy Hatch 223-6840 for appointment
Application Due	November 30, 2018
Evaluation Teams will Review Proposals	November 30 – December 31, 2018
Applicant Interview	Week of January 7, 2019
MPS Application Decision	January 31, 2019