

Valtena G. Brown, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Operating Officer
 School Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF FOUR CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

APPLICATIONS

Section 1002.33, F.S., authorizes the establishment of charter schools in Florida. As provided in Section 1002.33(6), F.S., and School Board Policy 9800, *Charter Schools (School Board Policy)*, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) receives and reviews charter school applications from individuals and/or organizations. Pursuant to Section 1002.33(6)(b)(3), F.S., a sponsor must approve or deny an application no later than 60 calendar days after the application is received unless the applicants have agreed in writing to extend the statutory timeline. Twenty-four (24) charter applications were received for the 2015 cycle. To date, twelve (12) applicants have withdrawn their applications from consideration by the Sponsor.

EVALUATION

Pursuant to School Board Policy, the District reviews all applications using an evaluation instrument developed by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) and may include additional information or documents requested by the District. The Standard Model Application includes standards of evaluation, certification and assurance declarations and an Applicant History Addendum. The Sponsor shall deny any application that does not comply with the State's statutory requirements and rules and/or Sponsor's instructions for charter school applications.

The Superintendent has appointed the Application Review Committee (ARC) with the responsibility to review and evaluate charter school applications after an initial technical review is conducted by staff. The ARC is comprised of representatives from various District departments and is charged with identifying strengths and deficiencies in the written application and/or areas that require clarification to fully evaluate the quality of the application or the capacity of the applicant to properly implement the proposed plan.

Pursuant to School Board Policy, four (4) charter school applications are being presented for final consideration by the School Board. Detailed in the chart below is a summary of the charter school applications. Additional details on the applications can be found in Attachment A, which is provided under separate cover but is included and incorporated by reference in this Board item.

Table 1: Applications Recommended for Approval					
	<i>Type of Application</i>	<i>Proposed Name of School</i>	<i>Legal Entity</i>	<i>Committee Recommendation</i>	<i>Supporting Documentation</i>
1.	High Performing Replication	AcadeMir Charter School Preparatory	AcadeMir Charter School, Inc.	Approval	Attachment A
2.	Standard	Florida High School Accelerated Learning – Miami-Dade County, School II	Florida High School for Accelerated Learning – Miami-Dade Campus, Inc.	Approval	
3.	Standard	Florida High School Accelerated Learning – Miami-Dade County, School III		Approval	
4.	Standard	The Arts Academy of Excellence	Arts Academy of Excellence, Inc.	Approval	

DUE PROCESS

To ensure proper notice and due process, each applicant was noticed of the Superintendent's intent to recommend approval to the School Board and provided a copy of the final evaluation prior to this School Board Meeting. The applicants were also informed of the School Board's Personnel Services and Student and School Support Committee Meeting and procedures for requesting to appear before the School Board at meetings and public hearings. Additionally, prior to submission, a courtesy orientation for charter school applicants was noticed on the Charter School Support department's website and facilitated by multiple district departments on May 7, 2015. Individual appointments regarding application preparation were also held throughout the year by Charter School Support staff, upon request.

Copies of the applications and evaluations have been transmitted to the School Board Members under separate cover and will be available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. Approve four (4) charter school applications and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate contracts reflecting the contents of the applications as approved by the School Board, for:
 - a. AcadeMir Charter School, Inc., on behalf of AcadeMir Charter School Preparatory;
 - b. Florida High School for Accelerated Learning – Miami-Dade Campus, Inc., on behalf of:
 - i. Florida High School Accelerated Learning – Miami-Dade Campus, School II;
 - ii. Florida High School Accelerated Learning – Miami-Dade Campus, School III; and
 - c. Arts Academy of Excellence, Inc., on behalf of The Arts Academy of Excellence.

VGB:elg
Attachments

**School Board Agenda Item D-65
ATTACHMENT A**

APPLICATIONS:

1. AcadeMir Charter School Preparatory
2. Florida High School Accelerated Learning – Miami-Dade County, School II
3. Florida High School Accelerated Learning – Miami-Dade County, School III
4. The Arts Academy of Excellence

The M-DCPS' Charter School Application Review Committee (ARC) reviewed the four (4) charter school applications listed below and recommended approval to the Superintendent.

(1)/(2)(3)	(4)(5)	(6)	(7)		(8)
Name of School	Legal Entity	Term	Grade Levels	Enrollment	Focus/ Theme
		Initial/ Exp.	Initial Year	Maximum Capacity	
APPLICATIONS					
AcadeMir Charter School Preparatory ESP: Superior Charter Schools Services, Inc. *High Performing Replication ARC recommended approval on October 26, 2015.	AcadeMir Charter School, Inc.	5 years	K-5	600	Math and Science
		2016/ 2021	K-5	600	
Florida High School Accelerated Learning – Miami-Dade County, School II ESP: Accelerated Learning Solutions, Inc. ARC recommended approval on October 28, 2015.	Florida High School for Accelerated Learning – Miami-Dade Campus, Inc.	5 years	9-12	350	Alternative/ At-Risk / Drop-out Recovery
		2016/ 2021	9-12	500	
Florida High School Accelerated Learning – Miami-Dade County, School III ESP: Accelerated Learning Solutions, Inc. ARC recommended approval on October 28, 2015.		5 years	9-12	350	Alternative/ At-Risk / Drop-out Recovery
		2016/ 2021	9-12	500	
The Arts Academy of Excellence ESP: N/A ARC recommended approval on September 28, 2015.	Arts Academy of Excellence, Inc.	5 years	6-8	198	Performing Arts and Architecture
		2016/ 2021	6-12	498	

* Pursuant to 1002.331(3)(a) a high performing charter school may submit an application in any school district in the state to establish and operate a new charter school that will substantially replicate its educational program.

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