



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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TO: North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Board
FROM: Dave Machado, Director, Office of Charter Schools
DATE: January 27, 2020
RE: NC ACCESS Program Prospective Applicant Eligibility

The NC ACCESS Program seeks to award subgrants to support the development, expansion, and replication of high-quality charter schools in North Carolina that demonstrate a commitment to increase access for educationally disadvantaged students. Subgrants are awarded in four (4) categories: Planning and Implementation, Implementation Only, Expansion, and Replication. Eligible applicants are invited to submit a full subgrant application to the NC ACCESS Program by March 1, 2020. In order to submit a subgrant application, prospective applicants must first submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the NC ACCESS Program and be deemed eligible to apply. To be designated as eligible, applicants must meet the federal definition of a “charter school” as outlined in ESEA, P.L. 114–95, section 4310(2) or “developer” as outlined in ESEA, P.L. 114–95, section 4310(5) as well as meet the following criteria for the subgrant category for which the school applies:

Planning and Implementation: Available to approved charter schools entering the planning year for the 2020-2021 school year that demonstrate a strong commitment to and comprehensive plan for recruiting and effectively serving educationally disadvantaged students.

Implementation Only: Available to approved charter schools entering years one (1) to three (3) of operation during the 2020-2021 school year. If state accountability data is available, applicants must have maintained at least a “B” School Performance Grade (SPG), as determined by the NCDPI, in each year; met or exceeded academic growth, as determined by EVAAS, in each year; and, when applicable, have a graduation rate higher than the state average.

Expansion: Available to high quality charter schools operating for at least three (3) years interested in expanding access for educationally disadvantaged students through the addition of grade levels and/or a substantial increase in student enrollment. Applicants must meet one (1) of the following criteria:

1. **“A/B” school and “Met/Exceed” growth for two (2) of the past three (3) years.** Eligible schools must:
 - a. have maintained at least a “B” SPG, as determined by the NCDPI, for at least two (2) out of the three (3) years prior to their application cycle;
 - b. have met or exceeded academic growth, as determined by EVAAS, for at least two (2) out of the three (3) years prior to their application cycle; and
 - c. when applicable, have a graduation rate higher than the state average.
2. **“A/B” school for the past three (3) consecutive years.** Eligible schools must:
 - a. have maintained at least a “B” SPG, as determined by the NCDPI, for all three (3) years prior to their application cycle; and
 - b. when applicable, have a graduation rate higher than the state average.
3. **“C” school and “Met/Exceed” growth for the past three (3) consecutive years.** Eligible schools must:
 - a. have maintained at least a “C” SPG, as determined by the NCDPI, for all three (3) years prior to their application cycle;

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- b. have met or exceeded academic growth, as determined by EVAAS, for all three (3) years prior to their application cycle; and
- c. when applicable, have a graduation rate higher than the state average.

Replication: Available to high quality charter schools operating for at least three (3) years that exhibit academic, financial, and operational success and a desire to replicate their successful school model to serve a greater number of educationally disadvantaged students. Applicants must meet one (1) of the following criteria:

1. “A/B” school and “Met/Exceed” growth for two (2) of the past three (3) years. Eligible schools must:
 - a. have maintained at least a “B” SPG, as determined by the NCDPI, for at least two (2) out of the three (3) years prior to their application cycle;
 - b. have met or exceeded academic growth, as determined by EVAAS, for at least two (2) out of the three (3) years prior to their application cycle; and
 - c. when applicable, have a graduation rate higher than the state average.
2. “A/B” school for the past three (3) consecutive years. Eligible schools must:
 - a. have maintained at least a “B” SPG, as determined by the NCDPI, for all three (3) years prior to their application cycle; and
 - b. when applicable, have a graduation rate higher than the state average.
3. “C” school and “Met/Exceed” growth for the past three (3) consecutive years. Eligible schools must:
 - a. have maintained at least a “C” SPG, as determined by the NCDPI, for all three (3) years prior to their application cycle;
 - b. have met or exceeded academic growth, as determined by EVAAS, for all three (3) years prior to their application cycle; and
 - c. when applicable, have a graduation rate higher than the state average.

The deadline to submit LOIs for the 2020 subgrant application cycle was 5:00 PM (EST) on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. A total of fifty (50) LOIs were submitted across four (4) subgrant categories:

Planning and Implementation: 7 Implementation Only: 15 Expansion: 26 Replication: 2

Of the fifty (50) total charter schools that submitted a LOI, forty-nine (49) have been designed as eligible to move forward and submit a full subgrant application by March 1, 2020. Please review the enclosed Eligibility Designation Report for a detailed list of eligibility designations.

Please contact the Office of Charter Schools with any questions you may have.

DM/JW

Enclosure: Eligibility Designation Report



NC ACCESS Program Subgrant Eligibility Designation Report

Below are the eligibility designations for each charter school that submitted a Letter of Intent for the NC ACCESS Program's 2020 subgrant application cycle. Schools designated as eligible may move forward and submit a full subgrant application in Epicenter by 5:00 PM (EST) on March 1, 2020.

Planning and Implementation	
Eligible:	Asheville PEAK Academy City Charter Academy Clara Science Academy Huntersville Charter School Oak Charter Academy Telra Institute Wake Preparatory Academy
Not Eligible:	

Implementation Only	
Eligible:	Achievement Charter Academy Alamance Community School Apprentice Academy High School of North Carolina B.L.U.E.-G.R.E.E.N. Academy (34K) Carolina Charter Academy (93Q) CE Academy Davis Academy Chadbourn Elaine Riddick Charter School (72A) Hobgood Charter School (42B) Monroe Charter Academy (90D) Next Generation Academy (41M) Pocosin Innovative Charter (94A) Ridgeview Charter School (36F) Wendell Falls Charter Academy
Not Eligible:	Raleigh Oak Charter School (93A)

Expansion

Eligible:

- Alpha Academy (26B)
- American Renaissance School (49B)
- The Arts Based School (34G)
- ArtSpace Charter School (11B)
- Bradford Prep School (60S)
- Brevard Academy (88A)
- Central Park School for Children (32K)
- Columbus Charter School (24N)
- Community School of Davidson (60I)
- Endeavor Charter School (92S)
- Guilford Preparatory Academy (41C)
- Island Montessori Charter School (65D)
- Lake Lure Classical Academy (81B)
- Lakeside Charter Academy (61J)
- Lincoln Charter School (55A)
- Quality Education Academy (34B)
- Queen City STEM School (61N)
- Sallie B. Howard School (98A)
- Socrates Academy (60J)
- South Brunswick Charter School (10B)
- Sugar Creek Charter School (60B)
- Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy (81A)
- Torchlight Academy (92L)
- Triad Math and Science Academy (41F)
- Two Rivers Community School (95A)
- Wilson Preparatory Academy (98B)

Not Eligible:

Replication

Eligible:

- Charter Day School (10A)¹
- Triangle Math and Science Academy (92T)¹

Not Eligible:

¹ This school has been officially designated as “conditionally eligible”. To meet the federal definition of a “developer” as outlined in ESEA, P.L. 114–95, section 4310(5), an eligible applicant must have applied to an authorizer for approval to operate a charter school. This school meets all eligibility criteria outlined by the NC ACCESS Program, but may only submit a full subgrant application after officially applying to the Office of Charter Schools and Charter Schools Advisory Board for the replication of an existing charter school during the summer of 2020.