

# The North Carolina Charter School Application Process

Ashley Baquero, Director  
NCDPI Office of Charter Schools



North Carolina Department of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

# Overview

- Governing Law
- Application Process Overview
- 2023 Application Process
- Questions/Closing Remarks

# Governing Law

- **Session Law 2023-110 (HB 618)**

- § 115C-218 as rewritten: Purpose of charter schools; role of State Board of Education; establishment of North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Review Board and North Carolina Office of Charter Schools.

- **115C-218(b)(10) (Powers and Duties)**

- Approve or deny charter applications, renewals and revocations.
- The Review Board shall make recommendations to the State Board of Education on the adoption of rules.

- **Session Law 2023-107 (HB 219)**

- Section 1.(b) The Review Board shall not consider any alleged impact on the local school administrative unit or units in the area served by a charter school when deciding whether to grant, renew, amend, or terminate a charter.

# Governing Law

- **G.S. 115C-218.2**
- **§ 115C-218.2. Opportunity to correct applications; opportunity to address Advisory Review Board.**
- (a) The State Board of Education and the ~~Advisory~~ Review Board shall provide timely notification to an applicant of any format issues or incomplete information in the initial application and provide the applicant at least five business days to correct those issues in the initial application. If the applicant submits the corrections within the five business days, equal consideration shall be given to that application.
- (b) Before taking action regarding a charter school or charter school applicant, including recommendations on preliminary or final approval of charter applications, renewals of charters, nonrenewal of charters, and revocations of charters, the ~~Advisory~~ Review Board or a committee of the Advisory Review Board shall provide an opportunity for the applicant or charter board member to address the Advisory Review Board or its committee, if present, at a meeting."

# Statutes, Rules, and SBE Policies

- "§ 115C-218.3. Fast-track replication of high-quality charter schools."
- 16 NCAC 06G .0508 (Rule)
- Charter Schools Application and Review Process
- 16 NCAC 06G .0509
  - Planning Year for New Preliminary Charter Schools
  - Acceleration Applicants

# Timeline

- Annual cycle opens each January
- Timeline/instructions are posted publicly via the [OCS website](#)
- Deadline last Friday of April 5PM
- \$1000 fee for each application which is used to compensate external evaluators
- Applications are now submitted electronically through the software program Edlusion

# Two Types of Applications

- Accelerated
  - Opens the next fall (for example, a 2023 applicant would open SY2024)
  - Must have a facility that is “feasible for opening on an accelerated schedule”
  - Additional standards to consider
  - Unlikely to be granted a delay
  - Completes Ready to Open training even if not yet approved/denied
- Standard
  - Opens in two years (for example, a 2023 applicant would open SY2025)
  - Completes at least one full year of Ready to Open training
  - Eligible for delays
  - No facility required at the point of application or interview



# Acceleration

## **16 NCAC 06G .0509 PLANNING YEAR FOR NEW PRELIMINARY CHARTER SCHOOLS**

(b) The State Board of Education may accelerate the mandatory planning year for a charter applicant that meets the following requirements:

- (1) agrees to participate in the planning year while the charter application is being reviewed without any guarantee of charter award; and
- (2) demonstrates that there is a facility identified by the applicant that is feasible for opening on an accelerated schedule.

(c) Once evidence for the requirements has been verified, the State Board will also consider the presence or absence of the following factors in making its determination:

1. Unique mission and educational program.
2. Local, state, and national nonprofit partnerships committed to assisting the school.
3. Potential for economic and educational development of the region.
4. Mentoring by a successful organization that has experience in creating public schools.
5. Obstacles to educational reform efforts that leave chartering as an available option.
6. Commitment to work with a successful charter school board as a guiding mentor.
7. The length of time the nonprofit corporation has existed.
8. Whether the proposed board has previously or currently operates a successful public charter school.

(d) An applicant requesting acceleration shall submit the request to the State Board of Education prior to the application due date for consideration.

# Charter School Application

- Basic info/application type/special requests
- EMO/CMO
- Mission, Purpose, Goals
- Ed Plan
- Special Populations
- Exceptional Children
- Student Performance
- School Culture/discipline

# Charter School Application

- Governance – Governing Body
- Enrollment
- Staffing plans, hiring, evaluation
- Parent and community involvement
- Admissions
- Operations – transportation, nutrition, facility, safety
- Budget
- TOTAL OF 230 Questions

# Duties of OCS and CSRFB

## Office of Charter Schools Responsibilities

- Collect Application & Fees
- Notify Applicants of Status & Next Steps
- Provide evaluators training on review specifics
- Begin application evaluation w/ external evaluators
- Provide CSRFB an application review schedule
- Release evaluated applications to CSRFB committee members prior to Round #1 interviews
- Provide a general overview of each application prior to interview
- Document each stage using evaluation rubric
- Notify applicants at each stage of the process

## Charter School Review Board Responsibilities

- Provide an interview opportunity for each applicant with a complete application & submitted application fee
- Conduct Round #1 Interview
  - 60 minutes for non management company applications
  - 90 minutes for management company applications
- Make 1 of 3 Votes
  - Review Board Approval
  - Review Board Denial
  - CSRFB Round #2 interview

# Application Summary Feedback

- OCS assigns each application 3 evaluators
  - 2 external/1 OCS evaluator
- NCDPI Exceptional Children evaluation
- NCDPI Multilingual Learner evaluation

# Application Summary Feedback

- Summary feedback is compiled and distributed to applicant boards ahead of capacity interview.
- Each section is rated, commentary provided with observed strengths/weaknesses.
- Highlight areas that require clarification and any outstanding questions.
- Highlight areas that may have the appearance of conflict of interest.

# Round One Interviews

Procedure	Time
OCS Introduction	5 minutes
Applicant Board Intro/Opening Statement	10 minutes
Full CSRFB Discussion/Questions	25 minutes
Applicant Closing Statement	10 minutes
Full CSRFB deliberates, motions and vote	10 minutes

# Round Two Interviews

- If second round is granted, applicants can only submit items specifically requested by a CSRB member
- Committee Lead is responsible for generating and/or collecting 2<sup>nd</sup> round questions from fellow committee members
- OCS will provide the line of questioning to the respective applicant boards
- Applicants have 10 calendar days to provide requested documentation





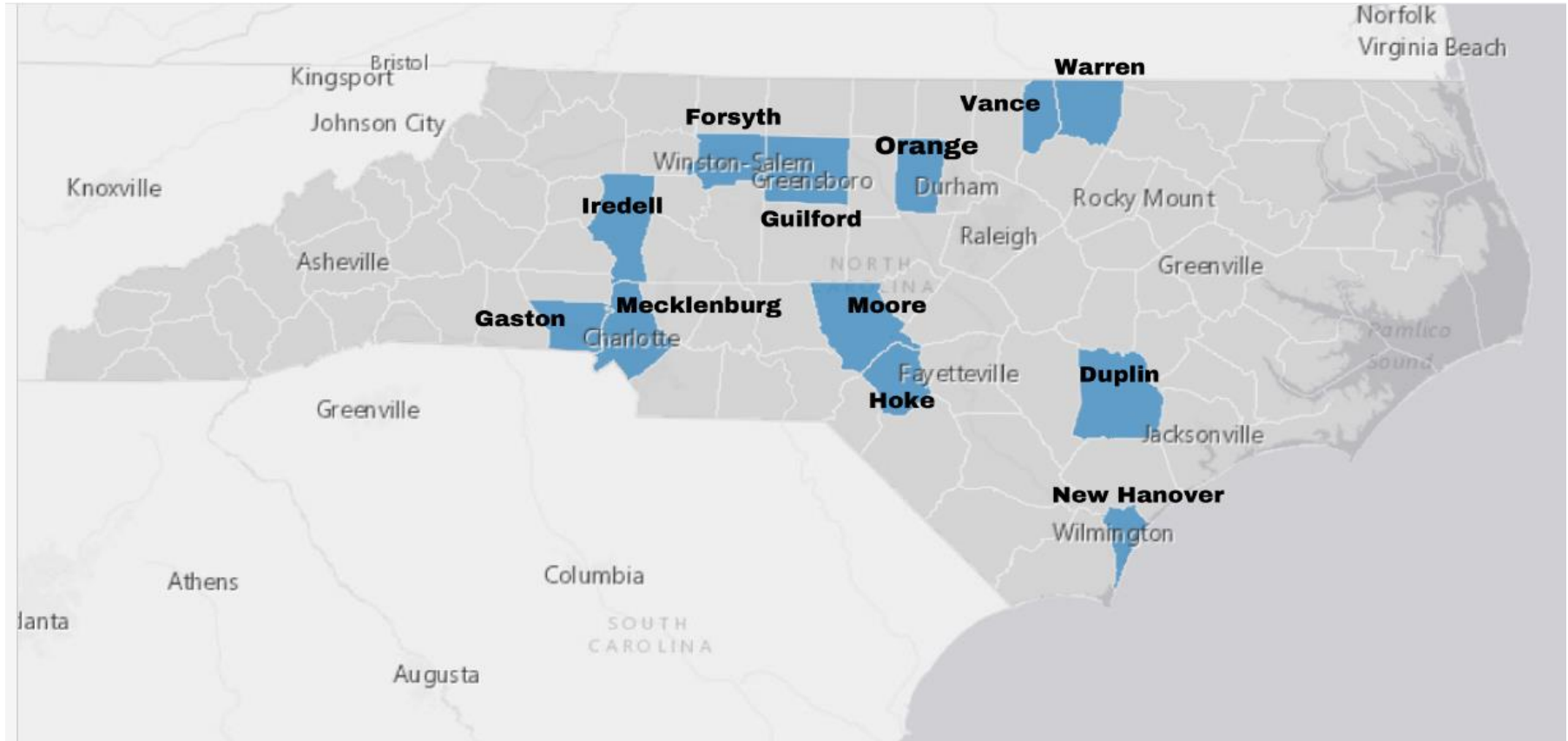
# 2023 Charter Applications

# 2023 Applications

## County Distribution

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Duplin – 1</li><li>2. Forsyth – 1</li><li>3. Gaston – 1</li><li>4. Guilford – 3</li><li>5. Hoke – 1</li><li>6. Iredell/Statesville – 1</li><li>7. Mecklenburg – 2</li><li>8. Moore – 1</li><li>9. New Hanover – 1</li><li>10. Orange – 1</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>11. Vance – 1</li><li>12. Warren – 1</li></ol>
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# 2023 County Distribution



# Sample data from Application Presentations to the Charter Schools Review Board

# Warren Young Explorers School

<b>Proposed School Name</b>	<b>Warren Young Explorers School</b>
<b>Proposed County</b>	Warren
<b>Mission</b>	Warren YES creates a child-focused, place-based learning environment that motivates students to be purposeful, creative, ethical and compassionate leaders, while building a healthy future for themselves, their community, and the planet.
<b>Proposed Grade Levels/Enrollment</b>	Year 1: K-4; 96 students Year 2: K-5; 258 students Year 3: K-6; 340 students Year 4: K-7; 406 students Year 5: K-8; 473 students At Capacity: K-8; 576 students
<b>Food Service</b>	Yes; NSLP; will pursue CEP when eligible
<b>Transportation</b>	Yes; 2 passenger vans and/or used bus
<b>Weighted Lottery</b>	Yes
<b>Facility</b>	Yes; Former HS in Norlina, NC in 27563 zip code
<b>LEA Impact</b>	N/A
<b>Repeat Applicant</b>	No
<b>Assistance Provided/Partnering with EMO or CMO?</b>	Yes; Application assistance by consultancy (Leaders Building Leaders); No EMO/CMO partnership
<b>Completeness</b>	Complete

# Warren Young Explorers School

## LEA Demographic Comparison

### Comparison County

Select County or Counties  
Warren County

### Application Projections

Enter as percentage (0-##)

### ETHNICITY/RACE

American Ind or AK Native  
10%

Asian  
1%

Black or African American  
50%

Hispanic  
7%

Native HI or Pacific Islander  
0%

Two or More Races  
6%

White  
25%

### EDS SUBGROUPS

Economically Disadvantaged  
28%

Students with Disabilities  
18%

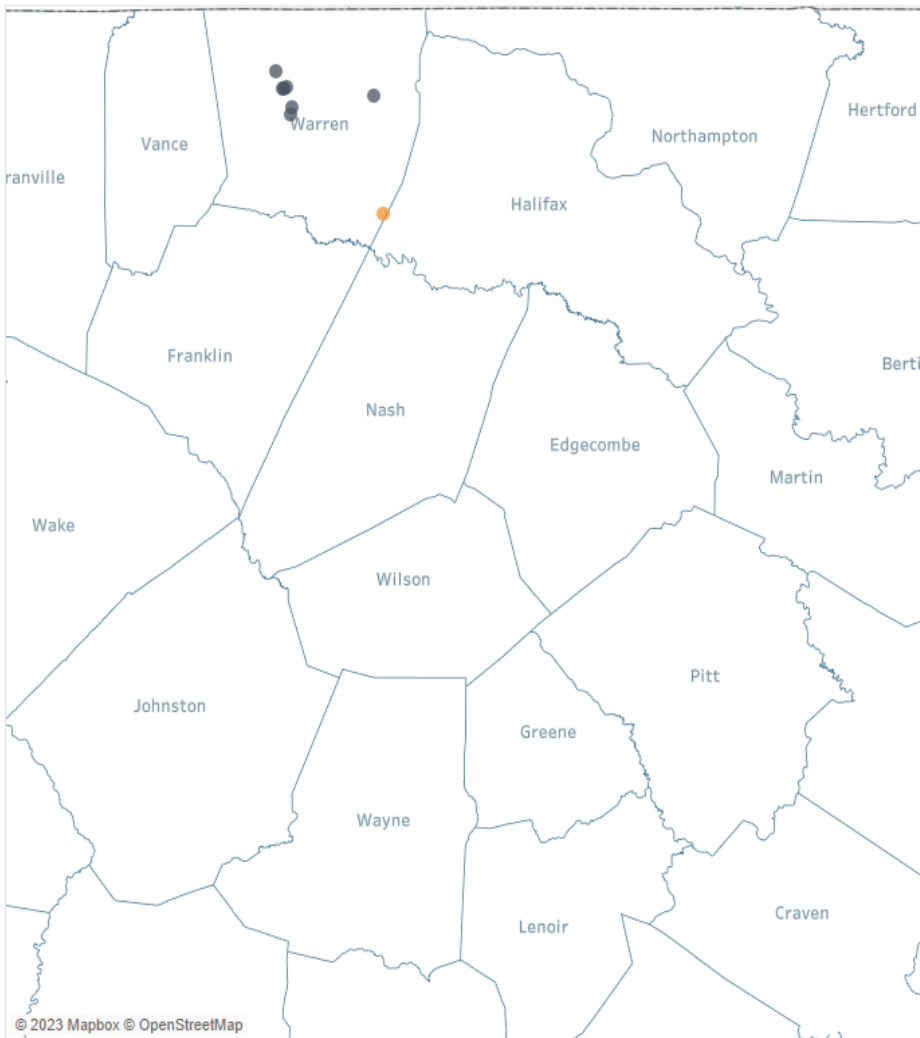
English Learners  
7%

Homeless  
2%

### School Type Legend

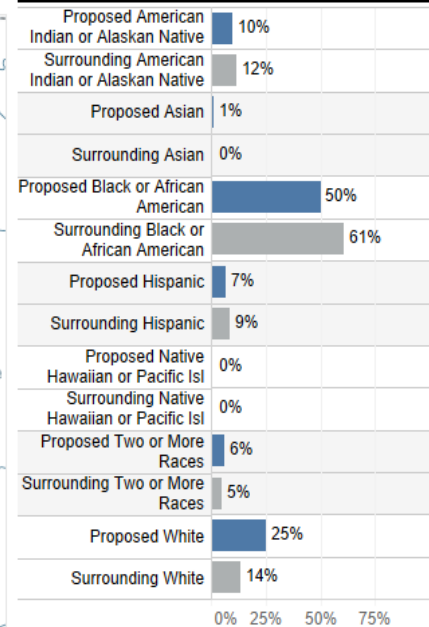
- Charter
- Traditional

### Charter and Traditional Public Schools in Warren County

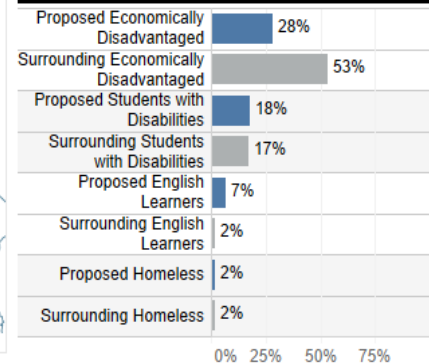


\*Schools are plotted using 2020-21 data from the National Center for Education Statistics. Schools that opened after the 2020-21 school year are not included in the map.

### Projected Racial Comparisons



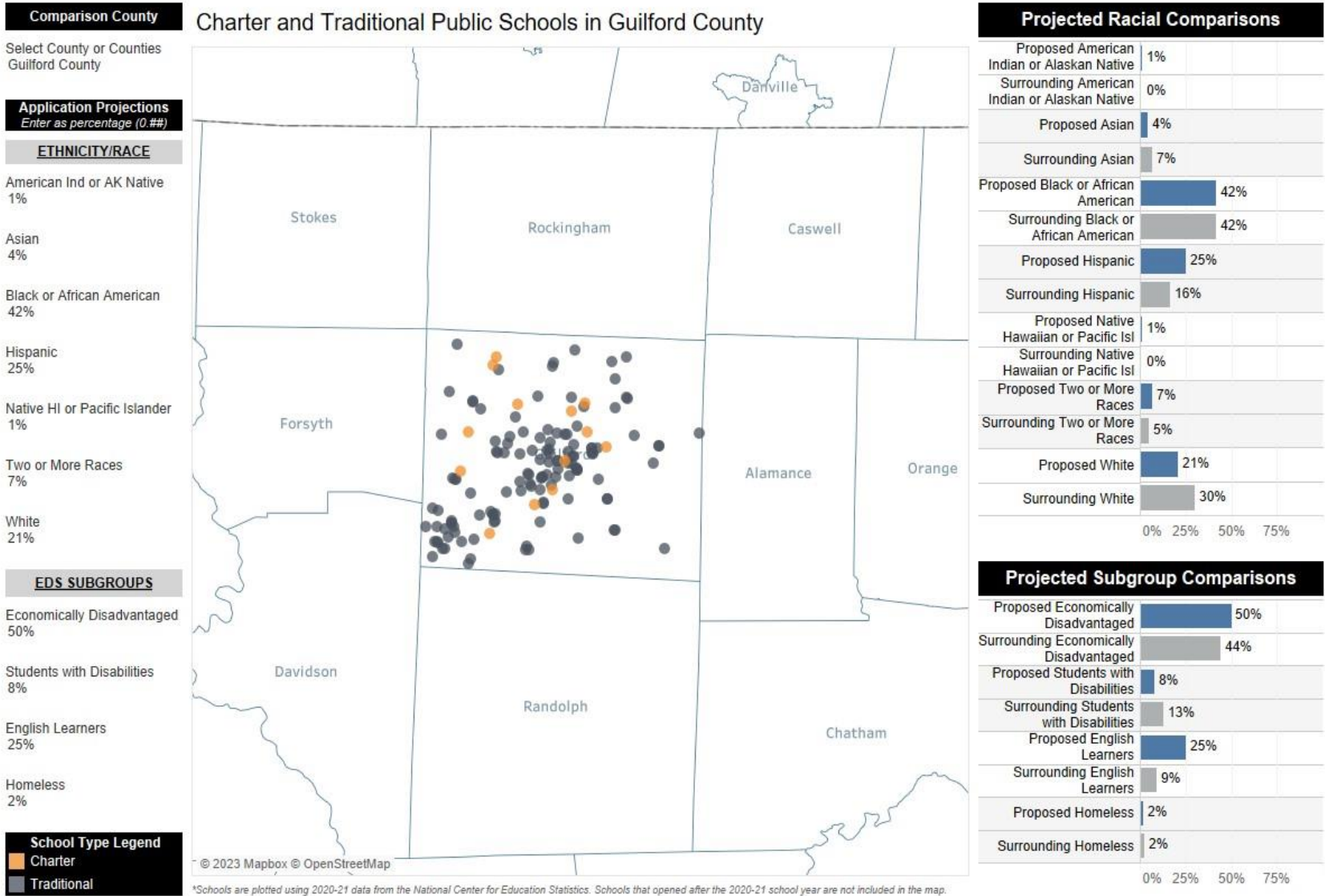
### Projected Subgroup Comparisons



# Triad International Studies Academy

<b>Proposed School Name</b>	<b>Triad International Studies Academy</b>
<b>Proposed County</b>	Guilford
<b>Mission</b>	The mission of Triad International Studies Academy is to educate its students to think and behave as global citizens with multilingual proficiency, intercultural competence, strong academics, and leadership skills.
<b>Proposed Grade Levels/Enrollment</b>	Year 1: K-2; 144 students Year 2: K-3; 192 students Year 3: K-4; 264 students Year 4: K-5; 336 students Year 5: K-6; 432 students At Capacity: 936 students
<b>Food Service</b>	Yes; NSLP
<b>Transportation</b>	Yes; carpool coordination; bus purchase or private transportation contract
<b>Weighted Lottery</b>	No
<b>Facility</b>	No; zip code unknown
<b>LEA Impact</b>	N/A
<b>Repeat Applicant</b>	No
<b>Assistance Provided/Partnering with EMO or CMO?</b>	No/No
<b>Completeness</b>	Complete

# Triad International Studies Academy





# Questions/Closing Remarks

Ashley Baquero

[Ashley.Baquero@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:Ashley.Baquero@dpi.nc.gov)