

Charter School Review Board (“CSRB”)
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
Sent via email

August 27, 2025

SUBJECT: Request for Transition Ascent Classical Academy of Moore County Application from Accelerated to Standard Timeline for Opening in the Fall 2027

Dear Members of the Charter School Review Board,

North Carolina Classical Charters Schools (“NCCCS”) submitted an application for Ascent Classical Academy of Moore County (“ACAMC”) on an accelerated timeline. This letter is a request to accept this application moving from the accelerated to the standard timeline due to unexpected facility issues, to allow the campus to open in the fall of 2027.

Background

The founding team submitted the application for ACAMC on April 24, 2025, as an accelerated application to open in the fall of 2026. This is the second submission for a classical charter school in Moore County, that was previously submitted as Highlands Charter Academy. At the time of application, the school included a letter of intent to purchase real estate, to develop in partnership with a church, that would be able to bring funding to the table. In good faith, the founding team requested the school be allowed to open on the accelerated timeline since it has previously submitted a charter application, has partnered with a management partner that has established classical charter schools, and had a feasible facility option available.

Since that time, the church’s timeline has changed and ACAMC is unable to present a plan to have temporary structures available to serve children on the intended site by August of 2026. The application team has been working to identify alternate locations that may be reasonably updated to meet code requirements, allowing the school to open close to the proposed permanent location without success.

Request of the Charter School Review Board

The NCCCS governing board requests the CSRB accept the application for ACAMC and allow it to proceed under the standard startup timeline to open in the fall of 2027. Moving forward with consideration of this application in the current cycle will be in the best interests of the citizens and families of Moore County and North Carolina. The application team is willing to adjust hearing dates to accommodate this transition, though the application has been reviewed and members of the governing board, local steering committee, and operating partner, are prepared to travel to Raleigh for the hearing currently scheduled on September 9, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. Receiving a charter approval this cycle will significantly improve the school’s ability to negotiate and commit to real estate opportunities for the 2027-2028 school year.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and support to improve education choices for the families of Moore County.

Sincerely,

//SIGNED//

Chris Owens
Chairman
North Carolina Classical Charter Schools