

2025 Charter School Applications

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Office of Charter Schools
September 8-9, 2025**

Overview

- Statutes, Rules & Policies
- 2024 CSRB Application Decisions
- 2025 Application Process
- 2025 Capacity Interviews
- Questions/Closing Remarks

Statutes, Rules and SBE Policies

G.S. 115C-218

- Purpose of charter schools; role of State Board of Education; establishment of North Carolina Charter Schools Review Board and Office of Charter Schools.

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

- To **propose, recommend, and approve** rules and **policies** regarding all aspects of charter school operation, including timelines, **processes**, standards, and criteria for acceptance and approval of applications, monitoring of charter schools, and grounds for revocation of charters.

G.S. 115C-218.5(a)

- 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."

Statutes, Rules and SBE Policies

G.S. 115C-218.2

- **§ 115C-218.2. Opportunity to correct applications; opportunity to address Review Board.**
- (a) The 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.

• G.S. 115C-218.9

- **§ 115C-218.9. Appeals to the State Board of Education.**
- (a) An applicant or charter school may appeal a final decision of the Review Board to grant, renew, revoke, or amend a charter by submitting notice to the Chair of the State Board of Education within 10 days of the Review Board's decision. Copies of the notice shall be sent to the Executive Director of the Office of Charter Schools, State Superintendent, the Chair of the Review Board, and the applicant or charter school affected.

Statutes, Rules & SBE Policies

16 NCAC 06G .0508

CHARTER SCHOOLS APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

16 NCAC 06G .0509

PLANNING YEAR ACCELERATION

16 NCAC 06G .0512

FAST TRACK REPLICATION– PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

16 NCAC 06G .0513

FAST TRACK REPLICATION – ELIGIBILITY

16 NCAC 06G .0514

FAST TRACK REPLICATION – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

16 NCAC 06G .0515

FAST TRACK REPLICATION – ACCOUNTABILITY

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.

Fast-Track Replication

Key Characteristic

"Fast-Track Replication" allows approved applicants to skip the planning year for new charter schools. Instead, they must attend a one-day training workshop by the Department of Public Instruction. The Authorizer will decide on applications within 120 days of submission.

For Non-Profit Corporations Currently Operating Charter Schools in NC

A non-profit corporation board operating a charter school in North Carolina can apply to replicate its model if its current school or schools show consistent academic, financial, and operational success. Each school must meet this standard, and the board must fulfill specific conditions while the application is pending:

Academic Performance Requirements

- **Academic Outcomes:** Each school has academic outcomes comparable to or better than students in the local LEAs where charter schools are located
 - OR
- **Growth Measures:** Each school meets or exceeds growth for the three years preceding the application (per G.S. 115C-83.15)

Financial Requirements

- **Clean Audits:** Each school has unqualified audits for the three years preceding the application

Operational/Compliance Requirements

- **Compliance Resolution:** Each school has resolved any failures to comply with obligations in statute, rules, or charter agreement cited by DPI during the three years preceding the application

Board Composition Requirements

- **Board Member Residency:** A majority of non-profit corporation board members are North Carolina residents

2024 CSRB Decisions

School Name	Timeline	County	CSRB Committee	CSRB Final Decision	Decision Date
2 Hr Learning Online Academy	Accelerated	Remote-Statewide	Performance	Denied	9/9/24
Trinitas Classical	Accelerated	Iredell	Performance	Denied	9/9/24
Somerset Preparatory Academy	Standard	Union	Policy	Denied	9/10/24
Centerpoint Classical Academy (ATA)	Standard	Guilford	Policy	Approved	9/10/24
Focus Charter Academy	Standard	Wake	Policy	Denied	10/14/24
Bettis Academy (DELAY 1)	Standard	Wake	Policy	Approved	12/10/24
Bright Scholars, Inc.	Standard	Mecklenburg	Policy	Denied	11/12/24
Granite Charter (DELAY 1)	Standard	Chatham	Performance	Approved	11/12/24
Legacy Traditional Schools (Vertex) (DELAY 1)	Standard	Forsyth	Performance	Approved	1/13/25
NC Connections Academy (Pearson)	Standard	Remote-Statewide	Performance	Approved	12/10/24
Warren Young Explorers School	Standard	Warren	Performance	Approved	12/9/24
Virtual Horizons CHarter Schools NC	Standard	Remote-Statewide	Policy	Denied	12/9/24

Upcoming RTO Cohort

App Cycle	Timeline	County	School Name	Delay Status	Delay Year	Year 1 Grade Span	Year 1 Student Count
2021	Standard	Orange	West Triangle High School	Delayed	3	9-12	150
2023	Standard	Hoke	HYPE Leadership	Delayed	1	K-5	310
2024	Standard	Guilford	Centerpoint Classical Academy	Not Delayed		K-5	316
2024	Standard	Warren	Warren Young Explorers School	Not Delayed		K-6	204
2024	Standard	Statewide Rem	NC Connections Academy	Not Delayed		K-12	750

Y1 Total Students =1,730 9

2025 CSRB

Committee Assignments

Performance	Policy
Rita Haire (Committee Chair)	John Eldridge (Committee Chair)
Todd Godbey	Stephen Gay
Eric Sanchez	Hilda Parlér
Jeremy Wall	Lindalyn Kakadelis
Shelly Shope	Bruce Friend
Eric Guckian	Gerald McNair

Application Summary Feedback

- OCS assigned 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 CSRB Discussion/Questions	25 <i>or</i> *55 minutes
Applicant Closing Statement	10 minutes
Full CSRB deliberates, motions and vote	10 minutes

Total Time = 60 or 90 mins
reserved for CMO/EMO applicants only

Round Two Interviews

- If second round is granted, applicants may only submit items specifically requested by a CSRB member.
- Committee Lead is responsible for generating and/or collecting 2nd 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.

Round Two Interviews

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

Total Time = 50 mins

Duties of OCS and CSRB

Office of Charter Schools Responsibilities

- Collect Application & Fees
- Notify Applicants of Status Updates
- Provide evaluators training on review specifics
- Provide CSRB an application review schedule
- Release evaluated applications to CSRB committee members prior to Round #1 interviews
- Provide a general overview of each application prior to interview
- 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)
- Make 1 of 3 Votes
 - Review Board Approval
 - Review Board Denial
 - CSRB Round #2 interview



2025 Charter Applications

2025 Applications

County Distribution

1. Edgecombe – 1 2. Forsyth – 1 3. Franklin – 1 4. Gaston – 1 5. Mecklenburg – 3	6. Moore – 1 7. Pender – 1 8. Union – 1 9. Wake – 3
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2025 Applicant Cohort

School Name	Year 1 Grade Span	Year 5 Grade Span	Year 1 Student Enroll	Year 5 Student Enroll
IDYL - Wake	K-6	K-8	350	450
Ascent Classical of Moore County	K-8	K-12	512	768
Focus Academy Charter	K-4	K-8	200	390
Ryze Academy	K-4	K-8	250	450
BH2 Stream School	K-6	K-8	280	360
Carolina Scholars Academy	K-5	K-8	520	772
Encompass Montessori	K-1	K-5	144	528
Preparatory Leadership Academy	K-5	K-5	250	350
Little Rock Prep for Young Men	Grade 9	9-12	125	500
Celeste Beauty Academy	9-11	9-12	100	230
Myrtis Simpson Walker Academy	K-5	K-8	270	472
Somerset Preparatory Academy	K-2	K-5	300	600
Cape View Leadership Academy	6-10	6-12	298	414
		TOTAL	3,301	6,284

Proposed School Name and County (Q1, Q3)	Institute for the Development of Young Leaders - Wake
Proposed Timeline (Q10)	Accelerated - August 2026
Mission (Q112)	<i>Our mission is to provide a relevant child-centered education for historically underserved children by empowering students to take ownership of their learning and developing their skills to lead while supporting their wellness and community.</i>
Proposed Grade Levels/Enrollment (Q12-13)	Year 1 K-6 350 Year 2 K-7 400 Year 3 K-8 450 Year 4 K-8 450 Year 5 K-8 450 At Capacity: Year 3
Food Service (Q217)	Will not participate in NSLP; will provide no-cost meals to all students.
Transportation (Q216)	Bus service to enrolled students; bus purchase; hiring part-time bus drivers (<20 hours/week)
Weighted Lottery (Q209)	No
Facility (Q5; Q223-228)	Yes; proposed offer on property located at 3211 Bramer Dr. Raleigh, NC 27604
Repeat Applicant	No
Assistance Provided/Partnering with EMO or CMO? (Q7; Q70)	Application assistance provided via consultancy of Goodall Consulting/No CMO or EMO.

IDYL Wake

LEA Demographic Comparison

Comparison County

County Name (Public School)
Wake County

Application Projections
Enter as percentage (0.##)

ETHNICITY/RACE

American Ind or AK Native
0%

Asian
5%

Black or African American
34%

Hispanic
24%

Native HI or Pacific Islander
0%

Two or More Races
17%

White
20%

EDS SUBGROUPS

Economically Disadvantaged
62%

Students with Disabilities
12%

English Learners
24%

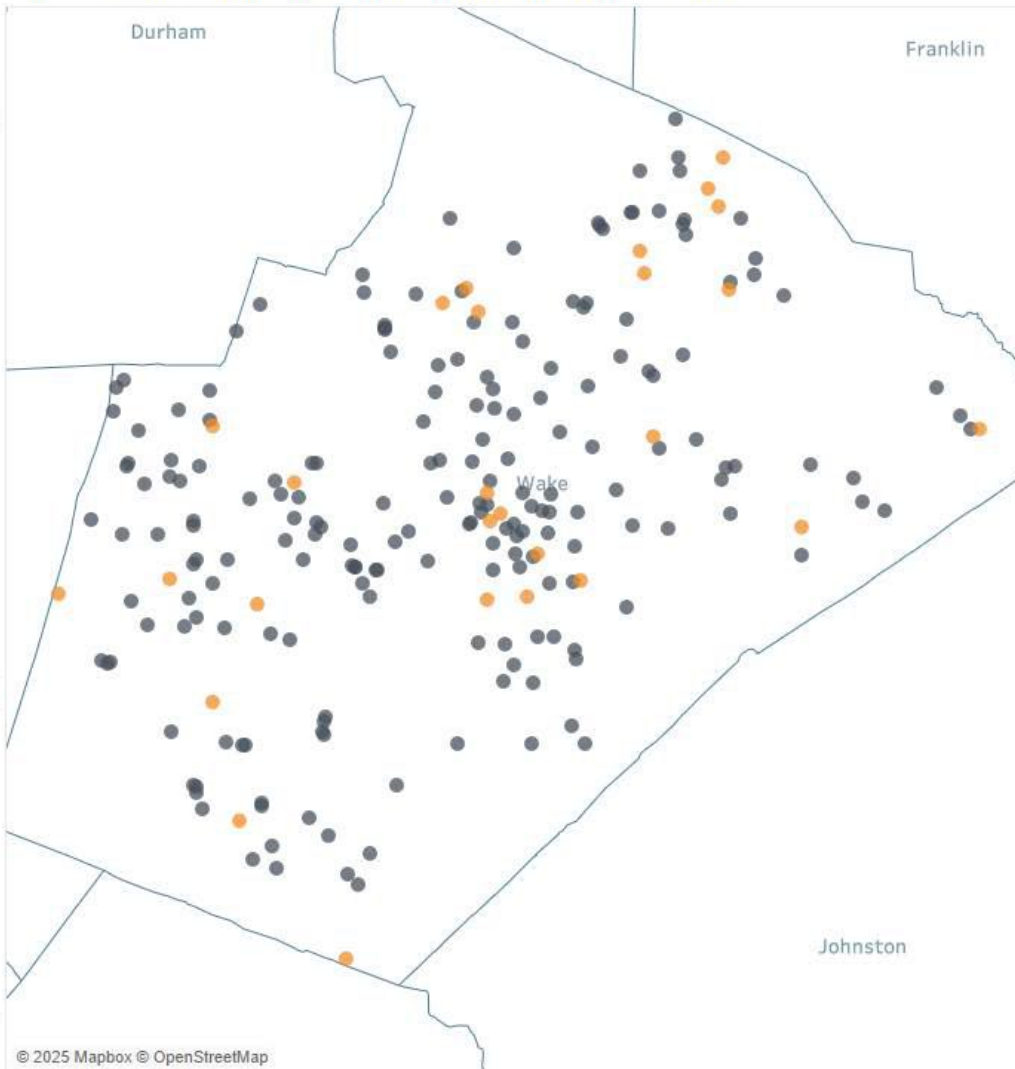
Homeless
1%

School Type Legend

Charter

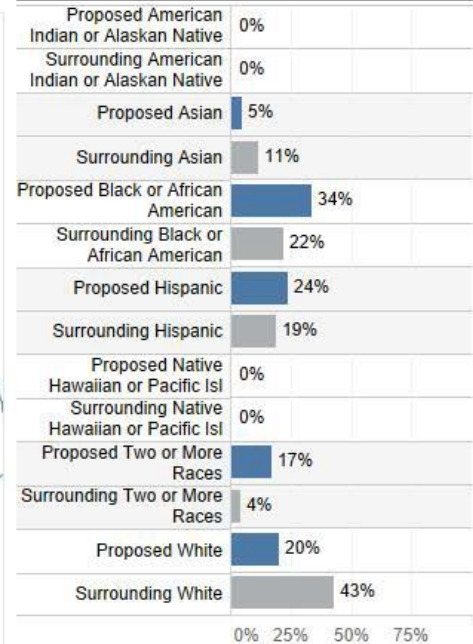
Traditional

Charter and Traditional Public Schools in Wake County

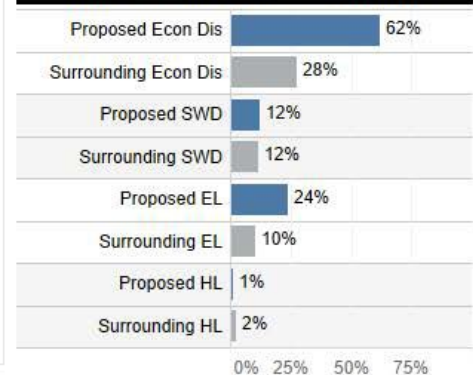


*Schools are plotted using 2020-21 data from the National Center for Education Statistics. Schools that opened after the 2020-21 school year are not included in the map.

Projected Racial Comparisons



Projected Subgroup Comparisons



IDYL- Durham (32P)

<u>Academic Performance</u>			
School Year	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
GLP	41.9%	44.4%	48.4%
Growth	Exceeded	Exceeded	Exceeded
SPG	D	D	C
LEA Performance	Durham	Durham	Durham
Comparability	-6	-2.6	0

Fast - Track Replication

Section 5 of [NC Charter Application](#)

- School being replicated is [Institute For The Development Of Young Leaders \(Durham\)](#)
- See replication evidence located at (Q#57-67)
 - Academic and Financial Replication Evidences

Proposed School Name and County (Q1, Q3)	Focus Academy Charter School (Wake)
Proposed Timeline (Q10)	Accelerated - August 2026
Mission (Q112)	<i>Focus Academy empowers students through equal opportunity, quality instruction, and the integration of the arts, inspiring lifelong learning, academic excellence, and strong character to help them positively contribute to society.</i>
Proposed Grade Levels/Enrollment (Q12-13)	Year 1 K-4 200 Year 2 K-5 240 Year 3 K-6 290 Year 4 K-7 340 Year 5 K-8 390 At Capacity: Year 5
Food Service (Q217)	NSLP; will pursue CEP
Transportation (Q216)	Contracted transportation to service ~60-80 students
Weighted Lottery (Q209)	Yes
Facility (Q5; Q223-228)	5-year temporary facility lease; permanent to be developed by July 2031
Repeat Applicant	Yes
Assistance Provided/Partnering with EMO or CMO? (Q7; Q70)	Application assistance provided by American Traditional Academies (ATA); will not utilize CMO/EMO services. ATA will provide operational support services post-opening.

Focus Academy Charter

LEA Demographic Comparison

Comparison County

County Name (Public School)
Wake County

Application Projections

Enter as percentage (0-100)

ETHNICITY/RACE

American Ind or AK Native
1%

Asian
2%

Black or African American
40%

Hispanic
12%

Native HI or Pacific Islander
0%

Two or More Races
8%

White
50%

EDS SUBGROUPS

Economically Disadvantaged
35%

Students with Disabilities
12%

English Learners
2%

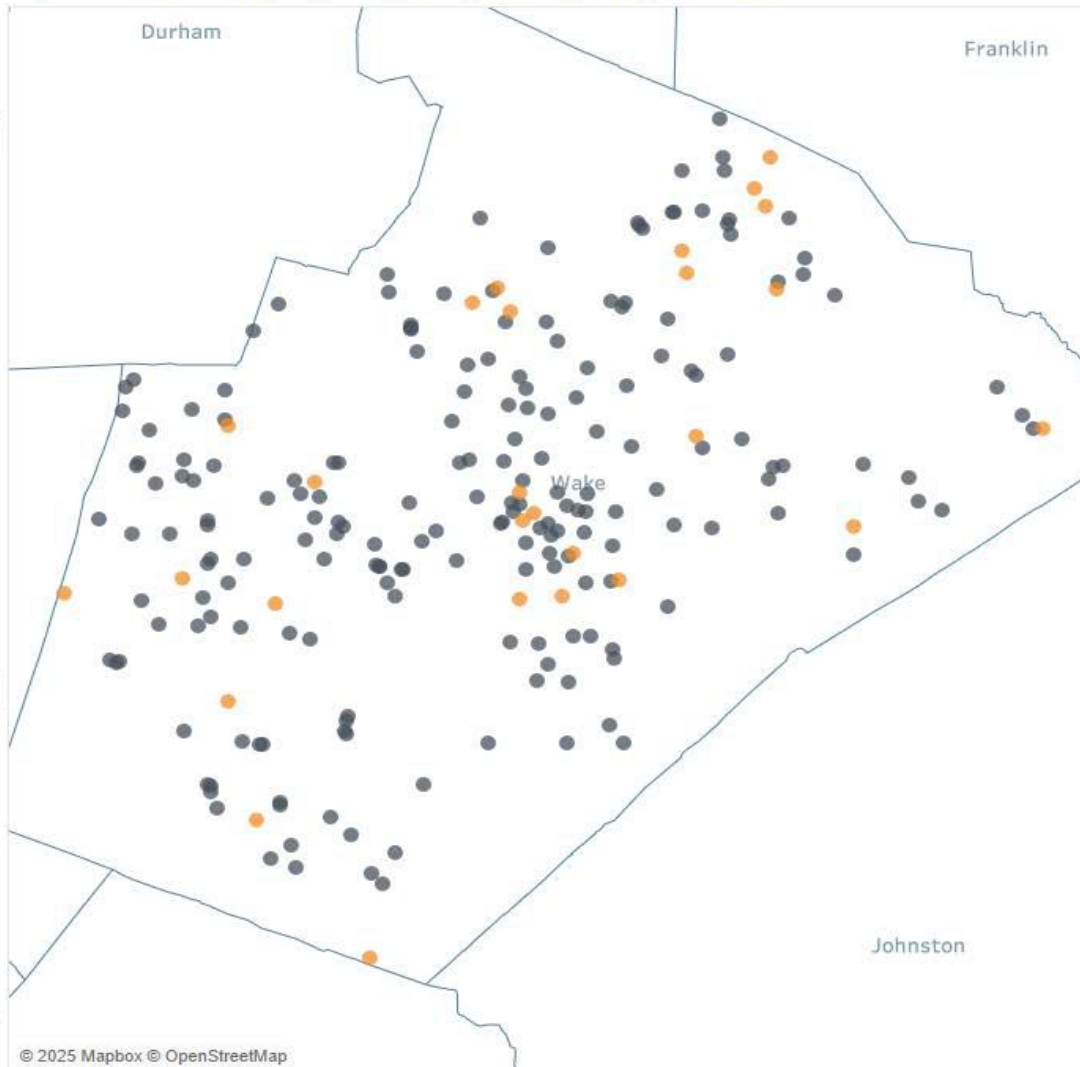
Homeless
1%

School Type Legend

Charter

Traditional

Charter and Traditional Public Schools in Wake 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

Proposed American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%			
Surrounding American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%			
Proposed Asian	2%			
Surrounding Asian	11%			
Proposed Black or African American	40%			
Surrounding Black or African American	22%			
Proposed Hispanic	12%			
Surrounding Hispanic	19%			
Proposed Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%			
Surrounding Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%			
Proposed Two or More Races	8%			
Surrounding Two or More Races	4%			
Proposed White	50%			
Surrounding White	43%			

0% 25% 50% 75%

Projected Subgroup Comparisons

Proposed Econ Dis	35%			
Surrounding Econ Dis	28%			
Proposed SWD	12%			
Surrounding SWD	12%			
Proposed EL	2%			
Surrounding EL	10%			
Proposed HL	1%			
Surrounding HL	2%			

0% 25% 50% 75%

Accelerated Replication

Section 5 of [NC Charter Application](#)

- School being replicated is [Ascent Classical Northern Colorado](#)
- See replication evidence located at (Q#57-62)
 - Academic and Financial Replication Evidences

Ascent Classical Academy of Moore County

Proposed School Name and County (Q1, Q3)	Ascent Classical Academy of Moore County
Proposed Timeline (Q10)	Accelerated - August 2026
Mission (Q112)	<i>Ascent Classical Academies train the minds and improve the hearts of children through a classical content-rich education in the liberal arts and sciences, with instruction in moral character and civic virtue in an orderly environment.</i>
Proposed Grade Levels/Enrollment (Q12-13)	Year 1 K-8 512 Year 2 K-9 576 Year 3 K-10 640 Year 4 K-11 704 Year 5 K-12 768 At Capacity: 832 students
Food Service (Q217)	Private caterers; will not participate NSLP
Transportation (Q216)	Carpools; walk groups; no bus service in start-up years
Weighted Lottery (Q209)	Yes
Facility (Q5; Q223-228)	LCK as owner's representation firm. Signed letter of intent for land parcel in Moore County. Installation of modular units proposed in start-up years.
Repeat Applicant	No
Assistance Provided/Partnering with EMO or CMO? (Q7; Q70)	Application assistance provided by management organization: Ascent Classical Academies (ACA) PO Box 1490 Golden, CO 80402

Ascent Classical Academy of Moore County

LEA Demographic Comparison

Comparison County

County Name (Public School)
Moore County

Application Projections

Enter as percentage (0.##)

ETHNICITY/RACE

American Ind or AK Native
1%

Asian
1%

Black or African American
15%

Hispanic
15%

Native HI or Pacific Islander
0%

Two or More Races
6%

White
62%

EDS SUBGROUPS

Economically Disadvantaged
30%

Students with Disabilities
2%

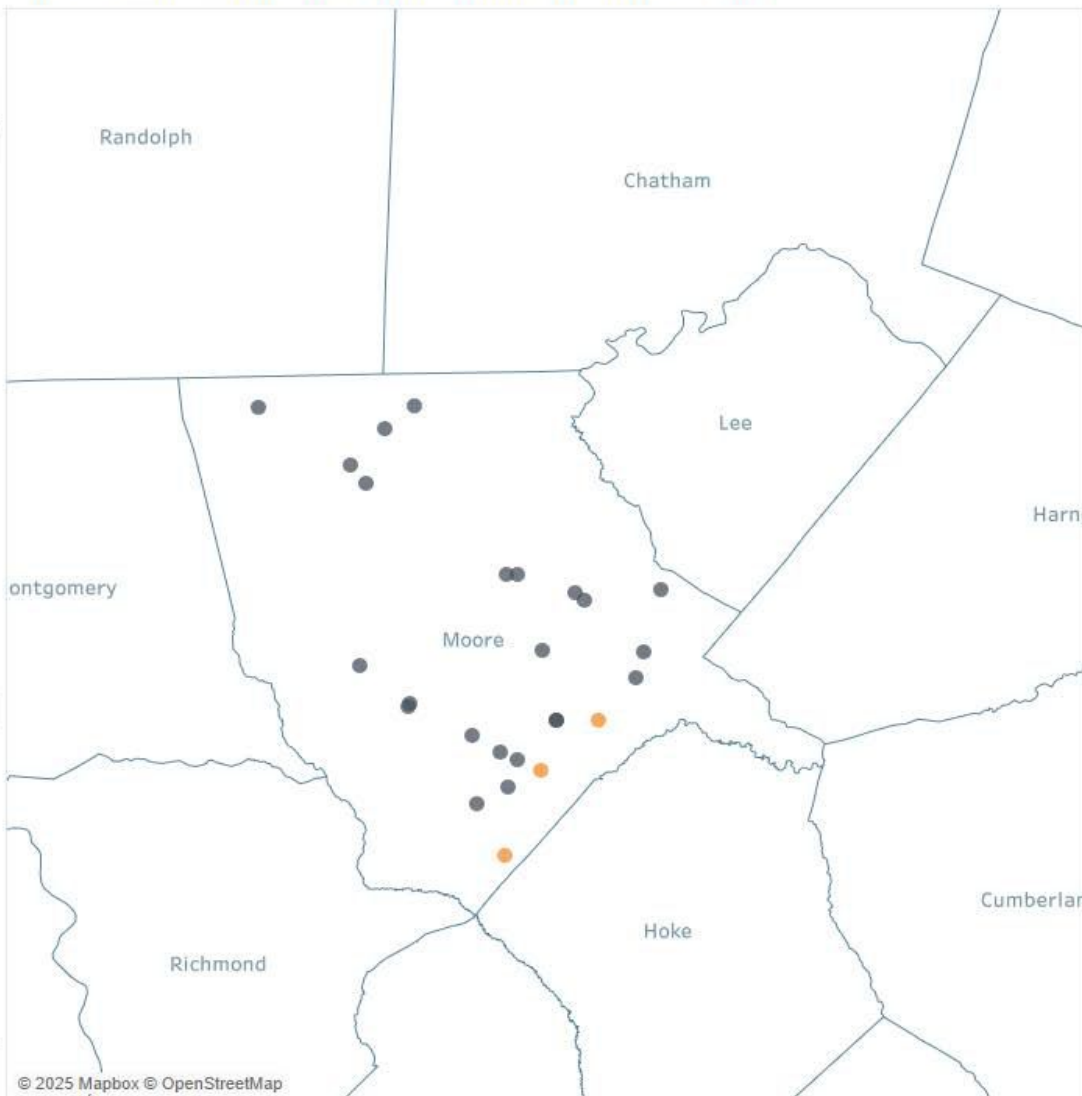
English Learners
4%

Homeless
2%

School Type Legend

Charter
Traditional

Charter and Traditional Public Schools in Moore County



© 2025 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

*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

Proposed American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%			
Surrounding American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%			
Proposed Asian	1%			
Surrounding Asian	1%			
Proposed Black or African American	15%			
Surrounding Black or African American	13%			
Proposed Hispanic	15%			
Surrounding Hispanic	15%			
Proposed Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%			
Surrounding Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%			
Proposed Two or More Races	6%			
Surrounding Two or More Races	7%			
Proposed White	62%			
Surrounding White	62%			

0% 25% 50% 75%

Projected Subgroup Comparisons

Proposed Econ Dis	30%			
Surrounding Econ Dis	32%			
Proposed SWD	2%			
Surrounding SWD	13%			
Proposed EL	4%			
Surrounding EL	4%			
Proposed HL	2%			
Surrounding HL	2%			

0% 25% 50% 75%

Proposed School Name and County (Q1, Q3)	BH2 Stream School (Edgecombe)
Proposed Timeline (Q10)	Accelerated - August 2026
Mission (Q112)	<i>We are committed to cultivating future-proof scholars through critical thinking, discovery, and integrity.</i>
Proposed Grade Levels/Enrollment (Q12-13)	Year 1: K-6; 280 students Year 2: K-7; 320 students Year 3: K-8; 360 students Year 4: K-8; 360 students Year 5: K-8; 360 students At Capacity: Year 3
Food Service (Q217)	NSLP; will pursue CEP
Transportation (Q216)	Leasing of 3 school buses; hiring of 3 bus drivers at \$18/hr for 36 weeks
Weighted Lottery (Q209)	Yes
Facility (Q5; Q223-228)	Lease agreement w/ Deliverance Church located at 1308 West Wilson St. Tarboro, NC; modular unit rental; will pursue traditional building space after Year 5
Repeat Applicant	No
Assistance Provided/Partnering with EMO or CMO? (Q7; Q70)	No/No

BH2 Stream School

LEA Demographic Comparison

Comparison County

County Name (Public School)
Edgecombe County

Application Projections

Enter as percentage (0.##)

ETHNICITY/RACE

American Ind or AK Native
0%

Asian
0%

Black or African American
54%

Hispanic
7%

Native HI or Pacific Islander
0%

Two or More Races
3%

White
35%

EDS SUBGROUPS

Economically Disadvantaged
69%

Students with Disabilities
10%

English Learners
10%

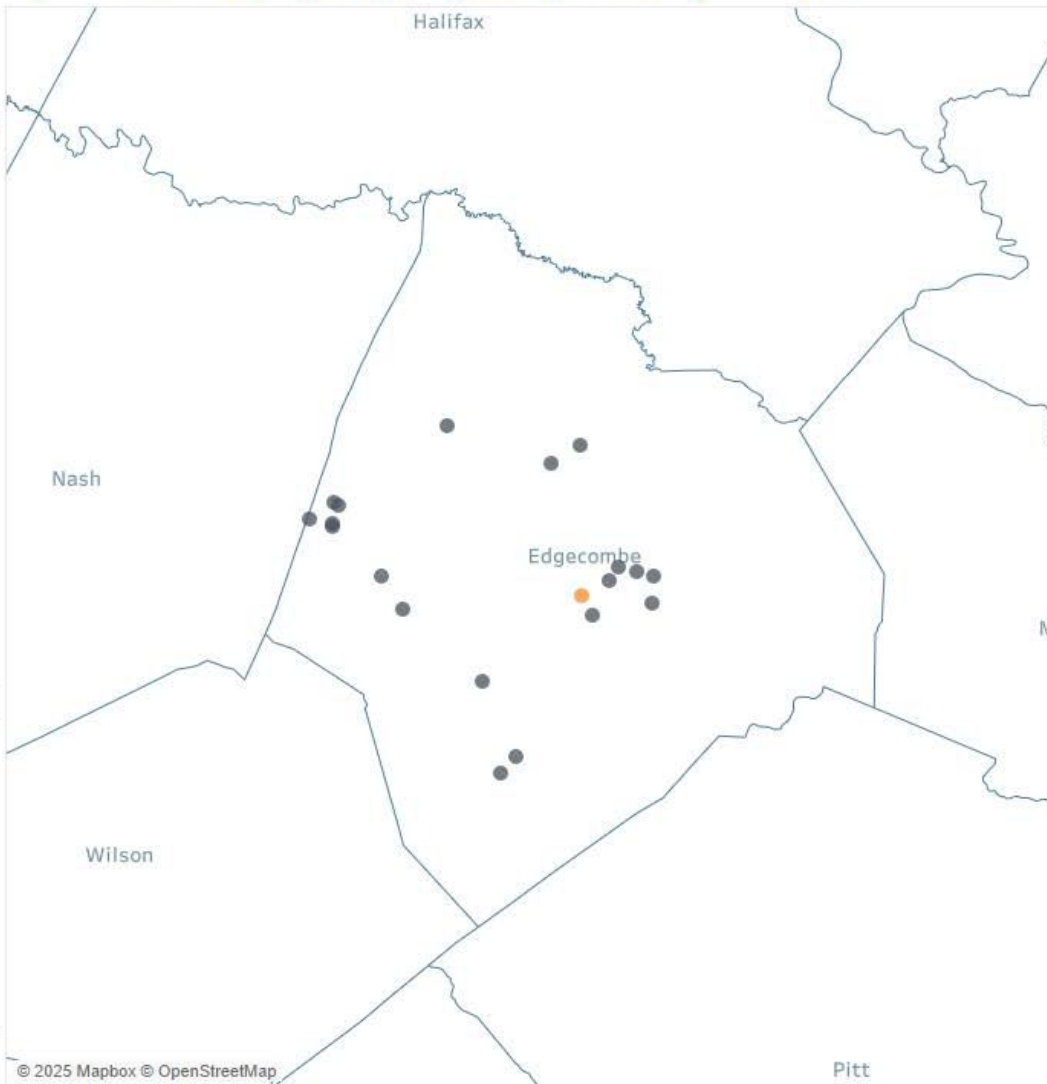
Homeless
1%

School Type Legend

Charter

Traditional

Charter and Traditional Public Schools in Edgecombe 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

Proposed American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%			
Surrounding American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%			
Proposed Asian	0%			
Surrounding Asian	0%			
Proposed Black or African American	54%			
Surrounding Black or African American	60%			
Proposed Hispanic	7%			
Surrounding Hispanic	11%			
Proposed Native Hawaiian or Pacific Isl	0%			
Surrounding Native Hawaiian or Pacific Isl	0%			
Proposed Two or More Races	3%			
Surrounding Two or More Races	4%			
Proposed White	35%			
Surrounding White	24%			

Projected Subgroup Comparisons

Proposed Econ Dis	69%			
Surrounding Econ Dis	58%			
Proposed SWD	10%			
Surrounding SWD	14%			
Proposed EL	10%			
Surrounding EL	5%			
Proposed HL	1%			
Surrounding HL	2%			

Proposed School Name and County (Q1, Q3)	Ryze Academy (Forsyth)
Proposed Timeline (Q10)	Accelerated - August 2026
Mission (Q112)	<i>Our mission is to empower the next generation of students through rigorous hands-on learning that fosters an entrepreneurial mindset and conscious leadership to make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.</i>
Proposed Grade Levels/Enrollment (Q12-13)	Year 1: K-4; 250 students Year 2: K-5; 300 students Year 3: K-6; 350 students Year 4: K-7; 400 students Year 5: K-8; 450 students At Capacity: Year 5
Food Service (Q217)	Outside vendor purchase; school will provide meals for students who qualify for FRL based on USDA Income Eligibility.
Transportation (Q216)	Purchase of three buses in Year 1; community stops; hiring of two part-time bus drivers
Weighted Lottery (Q209)	Yes
Facility (Q5; Q223-228)	Manna Church located at 121 Skeet Club Road High Point, NC 27265; two modular quotes included w/ application submission
Repeat Applicant	No
Assistance Provided/Partnering with EMO or CMO? (Q7; Q70)	Application assistance provided via consultancy of Goodall Consulting. Applicant will not partner with CMO/EMO.

RYZE Academy

LEA Demographic Comparison

Comparison County

County Name (Public School)
Forsyth County

Application Projections

Enter as percentage (0.##)

ETHNICITY/RACE

American Ind or AK Native
1%

Asian
2%

Black or African American
48%

Hispanic
20%

Native HI or Pacific Islander
1%

Two or More Races
9%

White
20%

EDS SUBGROUPS

Economically Disadvantaged
79%

Students with Disabilities
13%

English Learners
6%

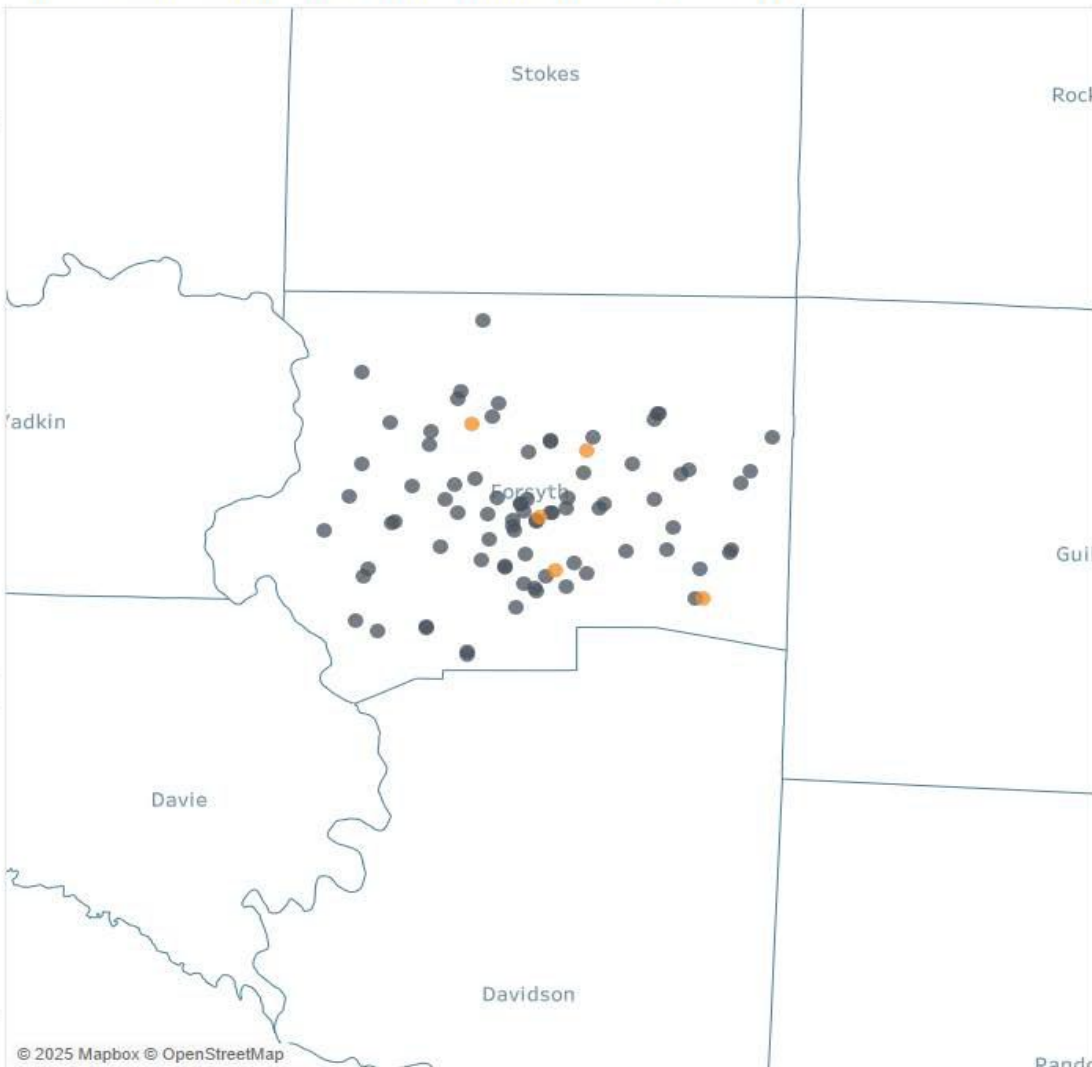
Homeless
2%

School Type Legend

Charter

Traditional

Charter and Traditional Public Schools in Forsyth 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

Proposed American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%		
Surrounding American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%		
Proposed Asian	2%		
Surrounding Asian	2%		
Proposed Black or African American	48%		
Surrounding Black or African American	30%		
Proposed Hispanic	20%		
Surrounding Hispanic	29%		
Proposed Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1%		
Surrounding Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%		
Proposed Two or More Races	9%		
Surrounding Two or More Races	5%		
Proposed White	20%		
Surrounding White	33%		

0% 25% 50% 75%

Projected Subgroup Comparisons

Proposed Econ Dis	79%		
Surrounding Econ Dis	44%		
Proposed SWD	13%		
Surrounding SWD	14%		
Proposed EL	6%		
Surrounding EL	14%		
Proposed HL	2%		
Surrounding HL	1%		

0% 25% 50% 75%

October 2025: Round One Interviews

Performance Committee

- Carolina Scholars Academy (EMO)
- Preparatory Leadership Academy

Policy Committee

- Encompass Montessori (EMO)
- TBD – 2nd round accelerated applicants, if applicable

Questions/Closing Remarks

Melanie Rackley, Applications Lead
Office of Charter Schools

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[Phone - \(984\)236-2712](tel:(984)236-2712)