

2025 Charter School Applications

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Office of Charter Schools
October 6-7, 2025**

Overview

- Statutes, Rules & Policies
- 2025 Application Process
- 2025 October Interviews
- Questions/Closing Remarks

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

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.

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



October 2025 - Charter Applications

2025 Applicant Cohort

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

2025 Applications

County Distribution

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

Proposed School Name and County (Q1, Q3)	Preparatory Leadership Academy (Gaston)
Proposed Timeline (Q10)	Standard - August 2027
Mission (Q112)	<i>At Preparatory Leadership Academy, our goal is to develop future transformational leaders of academic excellence by providing an innovative and rigorous educational experience. Our mission empowers and encourages academic excellence and develops transformational leadership skills.</i>
Proposed Grade Levels/Enrollment (Q12-13)	Year 1 K-5 250 Year 2 K-5 275 Year 3 K-5 300 Year 4 K-5 325 Year 5 K-5 350 At Capacity: Year 5
Food Service (Q217)	NSLP; contracted food vendor
Transportation (Q216)	Contracted bus transportation w/ cluster drop-off locations; discounted public transit passes for students
Weighted Lottery (Q209)	Yes
Facility (Q5; Q223-228)	Yes; PLA has acquired a leased facility for reconfiguration: 207 W. Bradley Street Gastonia, NC 28052
Repeat Applicant	No
Assistance Provided/Partnering with EMO or CMO? (Q7; Q70)	No/No

Preparatory Leadership Academy

LEA Demographic Comparison

Comparison County

County Name (Public School)
Gaston County

Application Projections

Enter as percentage (0-##)

ETHNICITY/RACE

American Ind or AK Native
1%

Asian
1%

Black or African American
71%

Hispanic
12%

Native HI or Pacific Islander
1%

Two or More Races
2%

White
12%

EDS SUBGROUPS

Economically Disadvantaged
73%

Students with Disabilities
15%

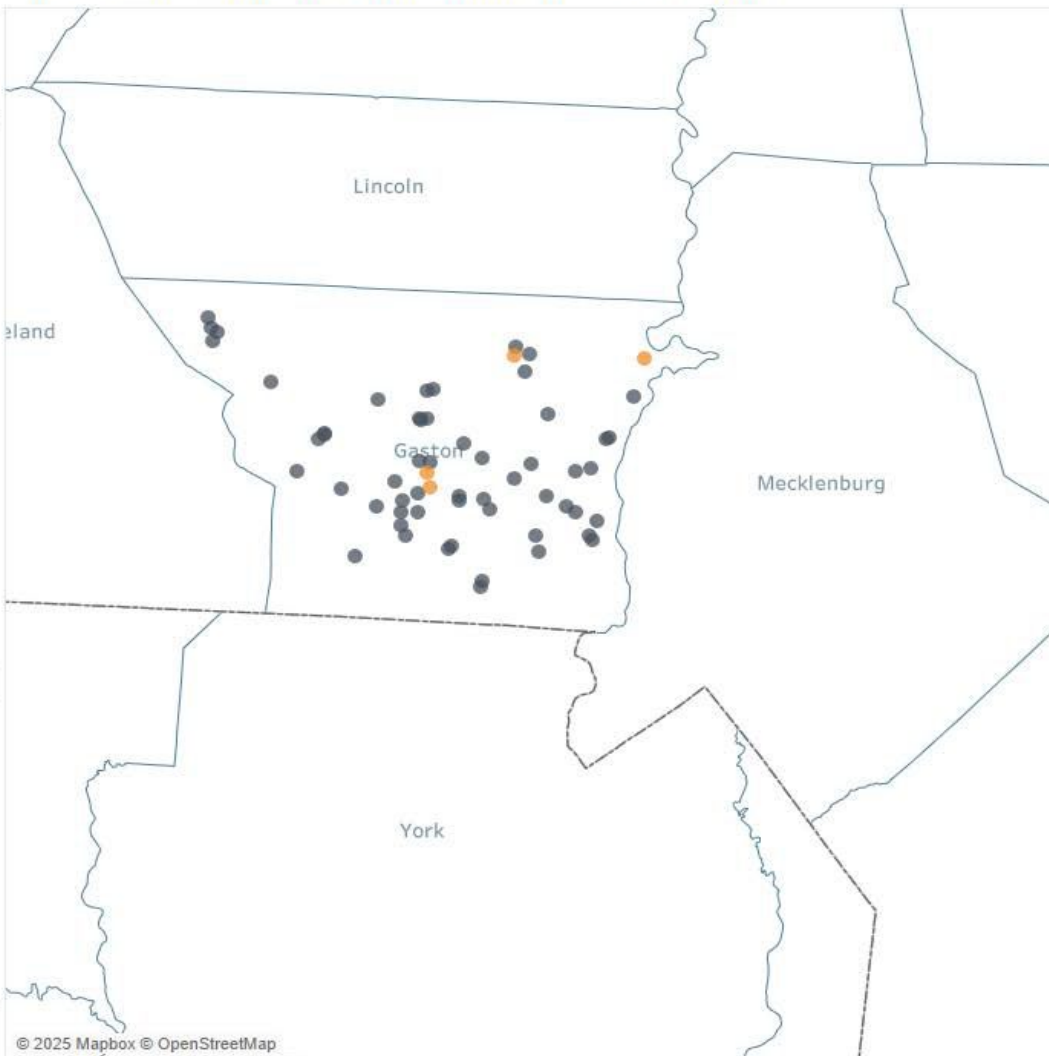
English Learners
8%

Homeless
4%

School Type Legend

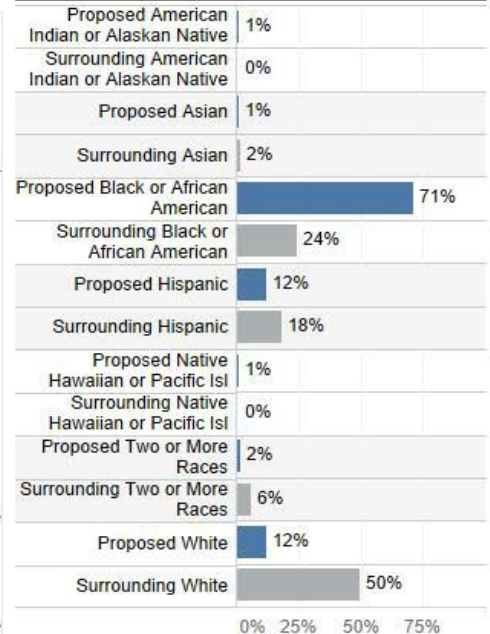
Charter
Traditional

Charter and Traditional Public Schools in Gaston County

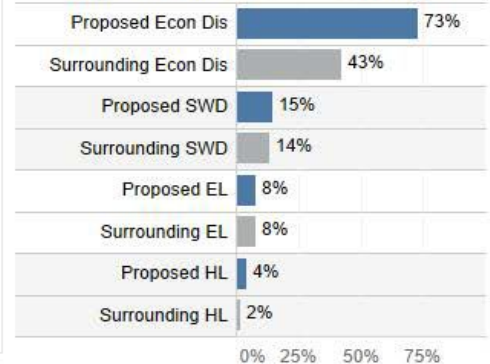


*Schools are plotted using 2020-21 data from the National Center for Education Statistics. Schools that opened after the 2020-21 school year are not included in the map.

Projected Racial Comparisons



Projected Subgroup Comparisons



Proposed School Name and County (Q1, Q3)	Encompass Montessori (Wake)
Proposed Timeline (Q10)	Standard - August 2027
Mission (Q112)	<i>To provide Wake County families with an effective, proven, child-centered K-8 public Montessori program in a safe and supportive environment, so students can flourish and become community-centered leaders.</i>
Proposed Grade Levels/Enrollment (Q12-13)	Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 At Capacity: K-8; 864 students
Food Service (Q217)	NSLP; will explore CEP
Transportation (Q216)	Carpool System in Year 1, expanding to contracted transportation in Years 2-3; will assess need for fleet purchase in later phases
Weighted Lottery (Q209)	Yes
Facility (Q5; Q223-228)	Facility not identified; new build or renovation spaces; estimates \$350 per square foot
Repeat Applicant	No
Assistance Provided/Partnering with EMO or CMO? (Q7; Q70)	Application assistance provided by partnering CMO: Epic Change Education, Inc. 9907 8th Street, Unit 873 Gotha, Florida 34734

Encompass Montessori

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
35%

Hispanic
35%

Native HI or Pacific Islander
0%

Two or More Races
5%

White
20%

EDS SUBGROUPS

Economically Disadvantaged
60%

Students with Disabilities
15%

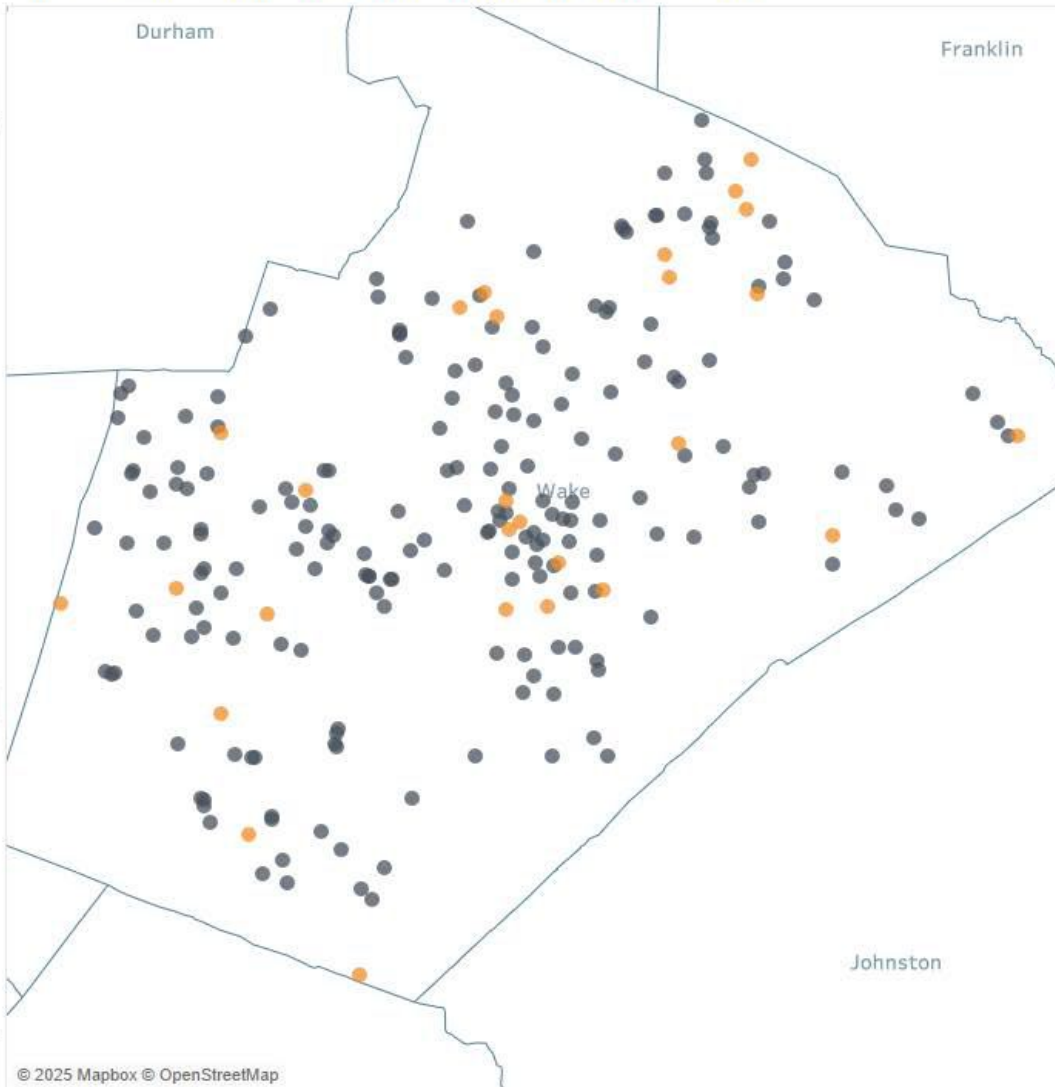
English Learners
17%

Homeless
0%

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	0%		
Surrounding American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%		
Proposed Asian	5%		
Surrounding Asian	11%		
Proposed Black or African American	35%		
Surrounding Black or African American	22%		
Proposed Hispanic	35%		
Surrounding Hispanic	19%		
Proposed Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%		
Surrounding Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0%		
Proposed Two or More Races	5%		
Surrounding Two or More Races	4%		
Proposed White	20%		
Surrounding White	43%		

0% 25% 50% 75%

Projected Subgroup Comparisons

Proposed Econ Dis	60%		
Surrounding Econ Dis	28%		
Proposed SWD	15%		
Surrounding SWD	12%		
Proposed EL	17%		
Surrounding EL	10%		
Proposed HL	0%		
Surrounding HL	2%		

0% 25% 50% 75%

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%

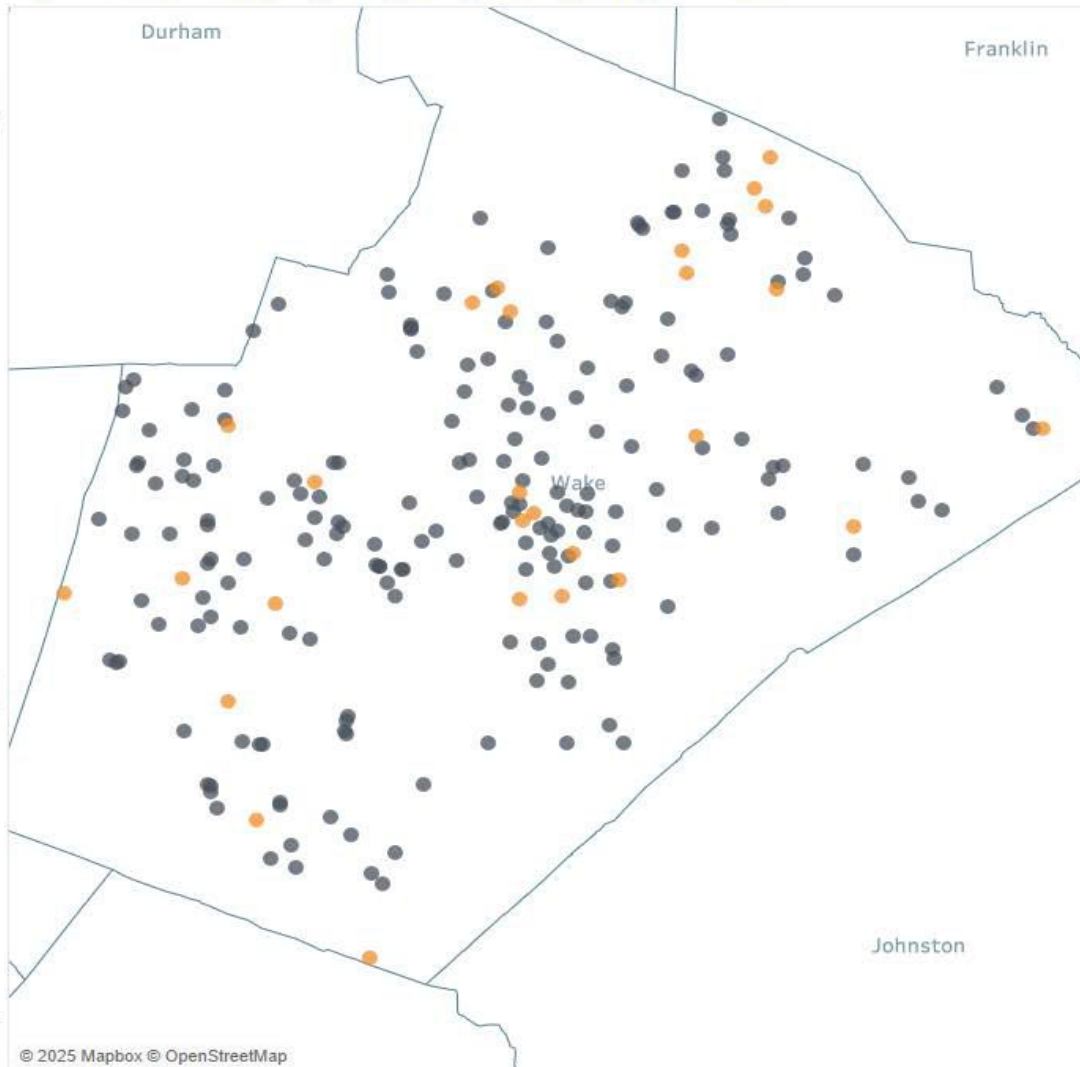
Homeless
1%

School Type Legend

Charter

Traditional

Charter and Traditional Public Schools in Wake County



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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%

November 2025: CSRB Interviews

Standard Timeline Applicants

Performance Committee

- **Little Rock Preparatory Academy for Young Men (EMO)**

Policy Committee

- **TBD**

Questions/Closing Remarks

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