

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Davidson Charter Academy's Request to Enter into an Agreement with an Education Management Organization (EMO)

Davidson Charter Academy ("DCA") is a public charter school in Davidson County that has operated since 2018 and currently serves approximately 700 students in grades K-8. The Board of Directors (BOD) of DCA requests approval to enter into an **Education Management Organization (EMO) agreement** with **Tutelage School Solutions (TSS), LLC**. The BOD is committed to strengthening the school's academic and operational success while maintaining the highest standards of financial stewardship and governance. In 2025, the school was **granted a 10-year charter renewal**, extending its charter term from **2026 through 2036**.

Background and Rationale

DCA's Board voted at its June 2026 meeting to engage TSS. The DCA Board determined that additional organizational capacity and management expertise are necessary to address significant challenges affecting the school's long-term sustainability and performance.

Three areas are of particular concern:

- **Enrollment:** DCA is operating at approximately 70% of its full facility capacity, and enrollment has declined over the past several years.
- **Financial Performance:** Primarily because of under-enrollment, DCA is currently not meeting certain financial covenants associated with its bond financing.
- **Academic Performance:** DCA's school performance grade declined from a C in 2024 to a D in 2025.

As DCA enters its tenth year of operation, the BOD determined that maintaining the current operating model would not sufficiently address these challenges. The BOD therefore sought an experienced management partner capable of providing additional expertise, infrastructure, accountability, and capacity across the school's academic, financial, enrollment, and operational functions.

Selection of Tutelage School Solutions

Following a search and consideration of multiple organizations, the DCA Board selected Tutelage School Solutions, a North Carolina (NC)-based organization with experience supporting and managing public charter schools in South Carolina.

The Board's selection was based on TSS's experience and demonstrated capacity in areas including:

- charter school operations and strategic management;

- academic improvement and accountability;
- enrollment growth and student retention;
- budgeting, financial management, and oversight;
- school leadership and human resources;
- governance and regulatory compliance;
- facilities and safety;
- marketing and community engagement; and
- organizational development and fundraising.

TSS's leadership also brings substantial experience in NC education. Its CEO has more than 20 years of experience working with schools in NC, including school leadership experience at Brevard Academy and Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy. TSS's Director of Academics is a former NC Middle School Principal of the Year.

The BOD has also reviewed examples of TSS's work with charter schools in South Carolina. It has been encouraged by the growth, academic progress, and operational improvements demonstrated by schools receiving TSS support.

Services

TSS will work in partnership with the BOD and School Director to provide management expertise and organizational capacity while operating within the governance framework established by the DCA Board. Under the proposed management arrangement, TSS will provide comprehensive support to DCA in several critical areas, including:

1. Academic Improvement
2. Enrollment and Retention
3. Financial Management and Bond Compliance
4. School Operations
5. Leadership and Personnel
6. Governance and Compliance
7. Parent and Community Engagement
8. Financial Administration
9. Facilities and Safety
10. Fundraising and Organizational Development

Fee Structure

TSS's proposed management fee is 10%. The BOD considered that EMO management fees can often range from approximately 15% to 20%. The DCA Board believes this arrangement provides substantial value given the breadth of services and organizational support to be provided.

School Performance Data

Year	School Performance Grade	Growth	Low-Performing (Y/N)
2026	C	Met	No
2025	D	Not Met	Yes, LP
2024	C	Exceeded	No
2023	C	Exceeded	No

2025-2026: [NC Test Proficiency — State, Region, District & School](#)

State Performance Grade | Davidson Charter Academy

Documents

All required documents have been submitted to the Office of Charter Schools.

Input Process

Davidson Charter Academy Board of Directors