

2026 Charter School Applications

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Office of Charter Schools
October 5-6, 2026**

Overview

- Statutes, Rules & Policies
- 2026 Application Protocol
- 2026 Capacity Interviews
- Questions/Announcements

Charter School Definition

Public Schools of Choice

Operated by independent non-profit boards of directors under a state-authorized charter.

Operational Flexibility

Greater flexibility in curriculum, programming, and staffing than traditional district schools.

Funding & Eligibility

Primary funding from state and local tax dollars. Open to all eligible NC students.

Non-Discriminatory

Cannot discriminate or have religious affiliation. Must use lotteries when demand exceeds capacity.

While charter schools operate with additional flexibility, they are accountable through the state assessment and accountability system.

Source: [NCDPI Office of Charter Schools Website](#)

Statutes, Rules and SBE Policies

CSRB Powers & Duties

G.S. 115C-218(b)(10)

1. Charter Decisions

Approve or deny charter applications, renewals and revocations.

2. Rule Recommendations

The Review Board *shall* make recommendations to the State Board of Education on the adoption of rules.

Statutes, Rules and SBE Policies

Opportunity to Correct & Address Review Board

G.S. 115C-218.2

1. Correct Applications

Applicants must be promptly notified of formatting problems or missing information and given at least **five business days** to correct them.

2. Address the Board

Before acting on charter applications, renewals, nonrenewals, or revocations, the Review Board or its committee must allow an applicant or charter board member an **opportunity to speak**.

Statutes, Rules and SBE Policies

Appeals to the State Board of Education

G.S. 115C-218.9

1. Appeal Timeline

An applicant or charter school may appeal the Review Board's final charter decision within **10 days**.

2. Notice Recipients

Copies of the notice shall be sent to:

- Executive Director of the Office of Charter Schools
- State Superintendent
- Chair of the Review Board
- Applicant or charter school affected

Remote Charter Academies

G.S. 115C-218.122

General & Attendance

(a) General Standards

Must meet all statutory requirements applicable to other charter schools established under this Article.

(c) In-Person Attendance

- May require in-person attendance for State-mandated assessments.
- Optional in-person meetings between instructors, students, or parents permitted at a charter facility.

(b) Student Provisions

Must provide all enrolled students with:

- **Hardware & Software:** Necessary equipment provided fee-free (damage fees allowed for abuse/loss).
- **LMS Platform:** Monitors performance & devices; includes video conferencing & chat.
- **Internet Access:** Available during instructional hours, evenings, and weekends.
- **Technical Support:** Available throughout instructional hours.
- **IEP / 504 Accommodations:** Adaptive devices, transportation & in-person services as required.

(d) Required Staffing

Licensure Standards

Must meet licensure & evaluation requirements of G.S. 115C-218.90.

Digital Support Roles

1. Instructional Technology Facilitator
2. School Library Media Coordinator
3. Data Manager
4. Sufficient Remote Technicians for daily support

2026 Special Requests - Key Considerations

Acceleration

Requests must demonstrate compliance with [NC Administrative Rule](#).

- Focus on demonstrated interest: Can the applicant meet enrollment numbers on an accelerated schedule?
- Is there an identified facility that is feasible for educational use?

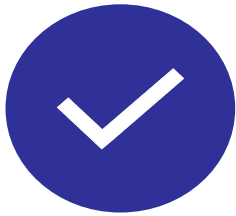
Management Company Partnership (EMO/CMO)

- Applicants must demonstrate that the [EMO/CMO](#) has the capacity to provide academic, financial, and operational support.
- Terms of the management agreement should be transparent and do the provisions allow the applicant to maintain autonomy and oversight of the proposed school?
- Academic and Financial performance of the management organization should include a minimum of three prior years. (FY 2022-23 2023-24; 2024-25)

Remote Academy: Key Personnel Look Fors in School Budget

- Instructional Technology Facilitator
- School Library Media Coordinator
- Data manager(s)
- Remote technician(s)

Quality Application Indicators



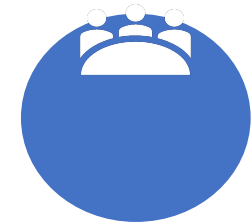
SUFFICIENT
DETAIL IN *ALL*
SECTIONS



COHESION
ACROSS ALL
ELEMENTS OF
THE APPLICATION
AND ALIGNMENT
OF MISSION,
VISION AND
GOALS WITH THE
PROVIDED
EDUCATION,
OPERATIONAL
AND FINANCIAL
PLANS



EVIDENCE-BASED
WITH SIGNIFICANT
DETAIL



INDIVIDUALS ON
GOVERNING
BOARD HAVE
CAPACITY AND
DIVERSITY OF
SKILL SET TO
IMPLEMENT
PROPOSED PLANS

CSRB Duties



1. Opportunity

Provide an interview opportunity for each applicant with a complete application & submitted application fee.



2. Interview

Conduct Round #1 Interview with qualified applicants.



3. Cast Vote

Make 1 of 3 potential votes:

✓ **Approval**

✗ **Denial**

↺ **Round #2 Interview**

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 = approx. 60-90 mins

reserved for CMO/EMO applicants

**Interview time is approximate. CSRB reserves the right to adjust interview segments as needed.*

Round Two Interviews



1. Submission

If second round is granted, applicants may only submit items specifically requested by a CSRB member.



2. Questions

Committee Lead is responsible for generating and/or collecting 2nd round questions from fellow committee members.



3. Delivery

OCS will provide the line of questioning to the respective applicant boards.



4. Timeline

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 = approx. 50 mins

**Interview time is approximate. CSRB reserves the right to adjust interview segments as needed.*

2026 CSRB

Committee Assignments

Policy	Performance
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



North Carolina Department of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 2026 Charter Applications

Proposed, New and RTO Schools (Cumberland)

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT	ALA Capeton *	HYPE Leadership RTO
Year 1	180	100
Year 5	180	180

Statewide Virtual Considerations

(NCCA) Y1 Projected	(Dogwood) Actual 25-26 Best 1 of 2 ADM	(*VALA NC)
1,250 Statewide	3,912 Statewide	330 Statewide

American Leadership Academy - Capeton

Proposed Charter School Overview • Proposed Timeline: Standard (August 2028)

Mission & Details

"In support of the family, provide the best educational experience to as many students as possible in a moral and wholesome environment."

Facility: 27546 - Lillington, NC or 27506- Buies Creek, NC; leased with Charter One Development

Transportation: YR 1 bus purchase; cluster stops; carpool coordination tools

Food Service: NSLP; full-service kitchen; contract with Aramark/Sodexo

Weighted Lottery: No

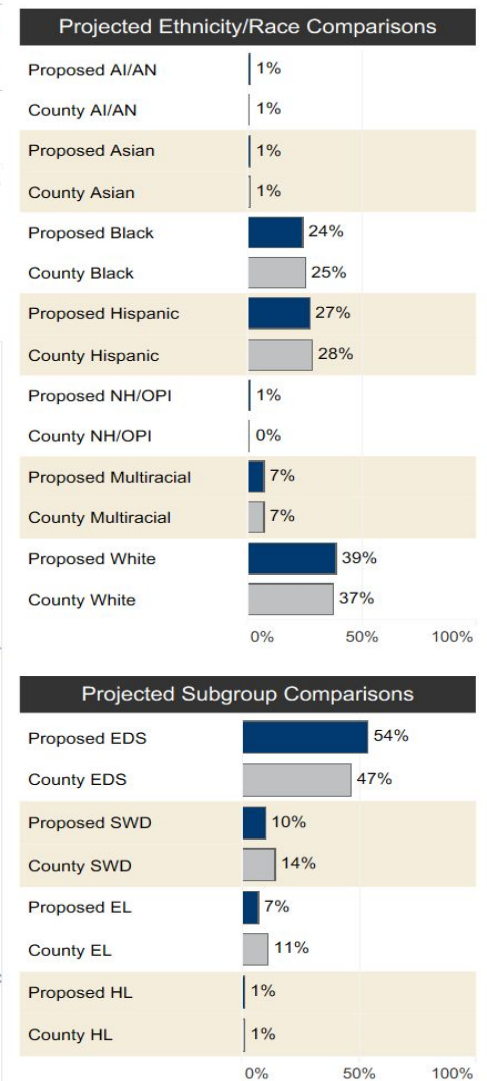
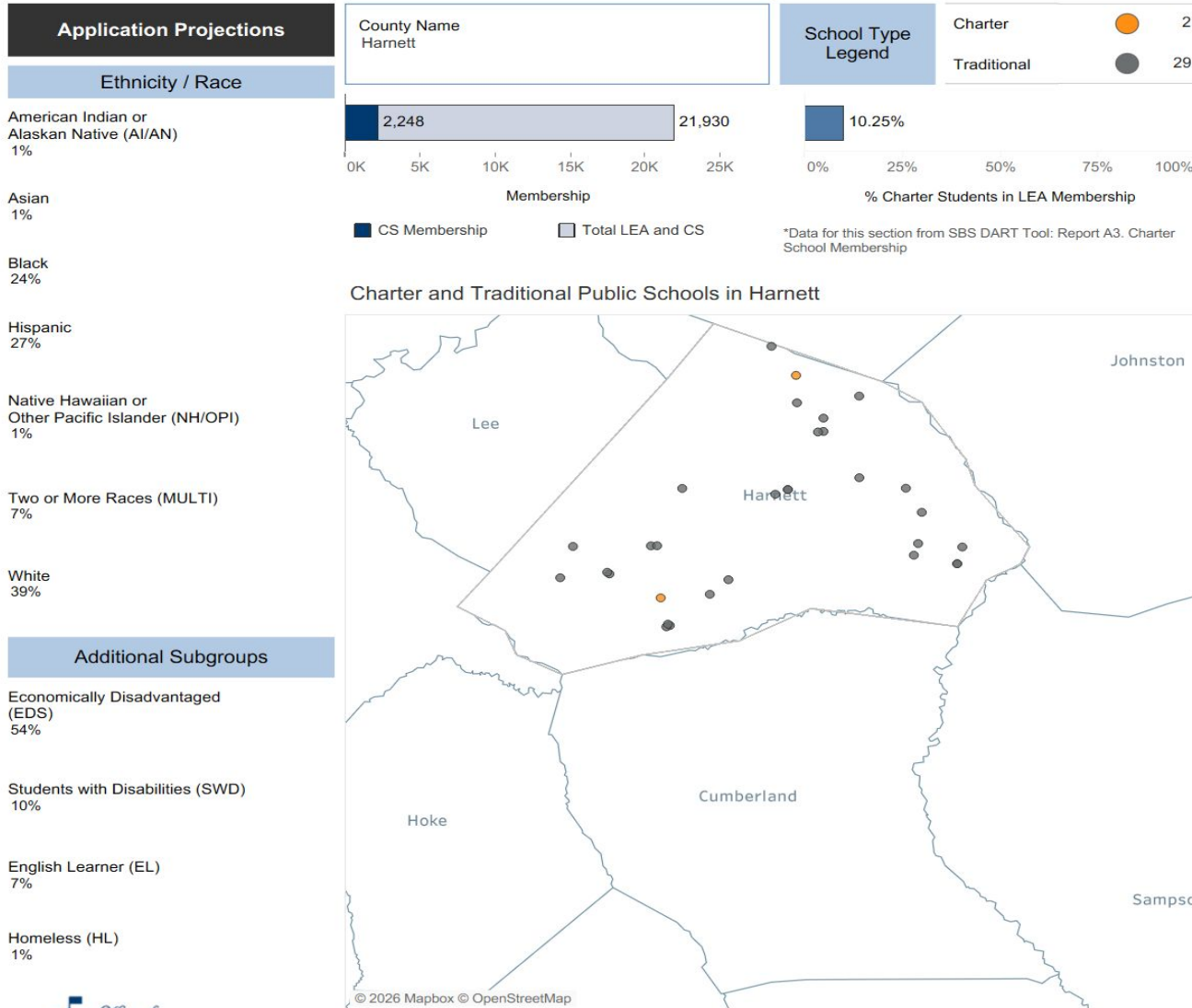
Repeat Applicant: No

EMO/CMO Partnering: Yes; Charter One LLC management organization

Year	Grade Levels	Enrollment
Year 1	K-8	900 students
Year 2	K-8	900 students
Year 3	K-8	900 students
Year 4	K-8	900 students
Year 5	K-8	900 students

ALA Capeton

LEA Demographic Comparison



Data Source(s): NCES ELSI, EDDIE, CEDARS, SBS DART Tool (A3)

Last Update: 8/26/2026

Proposed, New and RTO Schools

Statewide Virtual Considerations

(NCCA) Y1 Projected	(Dogwood) Actual 25-26 Best 1 of 2 ADM	(*VALA NC)
1,250 Statewide	3,913 Statewide	330 Statewide

Virtual Active Learning Academy (VALA) NC

Proposed Charter School Overview • Proposed Timeline: Standard (August 2028)

Mission & Details

The mission of VALA NC is to empower students across North Carolina through engaging AI-enhanced virtual learning, STEAM education, real-world experiences, strong character development, and family partnership for success in school, work, and life.

Facility: Fully virtual; headquarter proposed for Wake Co. (Apex, NC)

Transportation: Hybrid transportation model for in-person events; provision for students w/ special needs

Food Service: Fully Virtual; strategic partnerships for supplemental food assistance; collection of FRL lunch eligibility information.

Weighted Lottery: Yes

Repeat Applicant: No

EMO/CMO Partnering: No

Year	Grade Levels	Enrollment
Year 1	K-5	330 students
Year 2	K-7	505 students
Year 3	K-9	630 students
Year 4	K-11	780 students
Year 5	K-12	905 students

VALA NC

LEA Demographic Comparison

Comparison County

County Name (Public School)
All

Application Projections

Enter as percentage (0-100)

ETHNICITY/RACE

American Ind or AK Native
1%

Asian
5%

Black or African American
23%

Hispanic
24%

Native HI or Pacific Islander
0%

Two or More Races
6%

White
42%

EDS SUBGROUPS

Economically Disadvantaged
55%

Students with Disabilities
18%

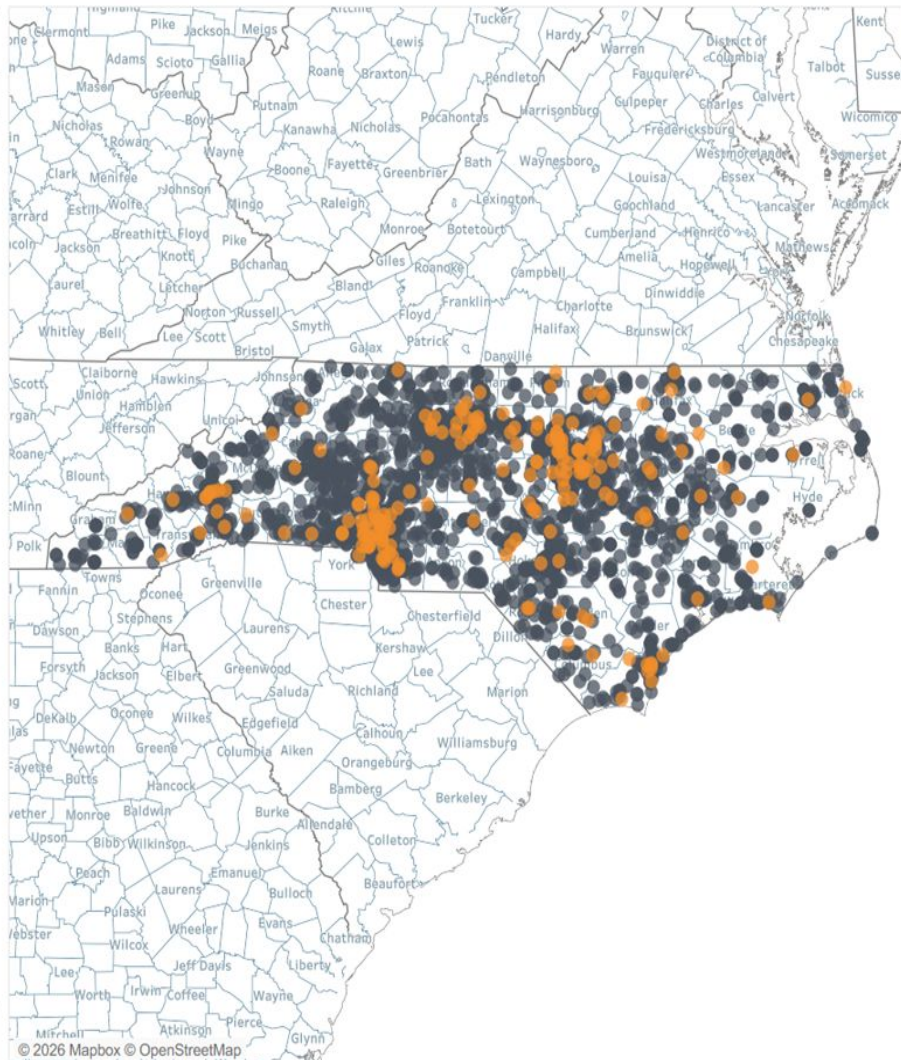
English Learners
8%

Homeless
2%

School Type Legend

Charter
Traditional

Charter and Traditional Public Schools in All



© 2026 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	5%		
Surrounding Asian	4%		
Proposed Black or African American	23%		
Surrounding Black or African American	25%		
Proposed Hispanic	24%		
Surrounding Hispanic	21%		
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	6%		
Proposed White	42%		
Surrounding White	44%		

0% 25% 50% 75%

Projected Subgroup Comparisons

Proposed Econ Dis	55%		
Surrounding Econ Dis	39%		
Proposed SWD	18%		
Surrounding SWD	13%		
Proposed EL	8%		
Surrounding EL	9%		
Proposed HL	2%		
Surrounding HL	2%		

0% 25% 50% 75%

Proposed, New and RTO Schools (Serving New Hanover)

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT	Darden Perry*	New H.O.P.E. Tech*
Year 1	200	95
Year 5	500	380

Statewide Virtual Considerations

(NCCA) Y1 Projected	(Dogwood) Actual 25-26 Best 1 of 2 ADM	(*VALA NC)
1,250 Statewide	3,913 Statewide	330 Statewide

New H.O.P.E. Technology Preparatory Academy

Proposed Charter School Overview • Proposed Timeline: Standard (August 2028)

Mission & Details

To prepare young men for college and high-demand careers through a culture-driven, all-boys learning environment that integrates rigorous academics, STEM education, career pathways and sustained adult support.

Facility: 920 N. Sixth Street/ 920 South Street
Wilmington, NC (19,670 sq ft)

Transportation: No direct student transportation in start-up phase; carpool coordination w/ families

Food Service: NSLP; SBP; third-party food service provider

Weighted Lottery: No

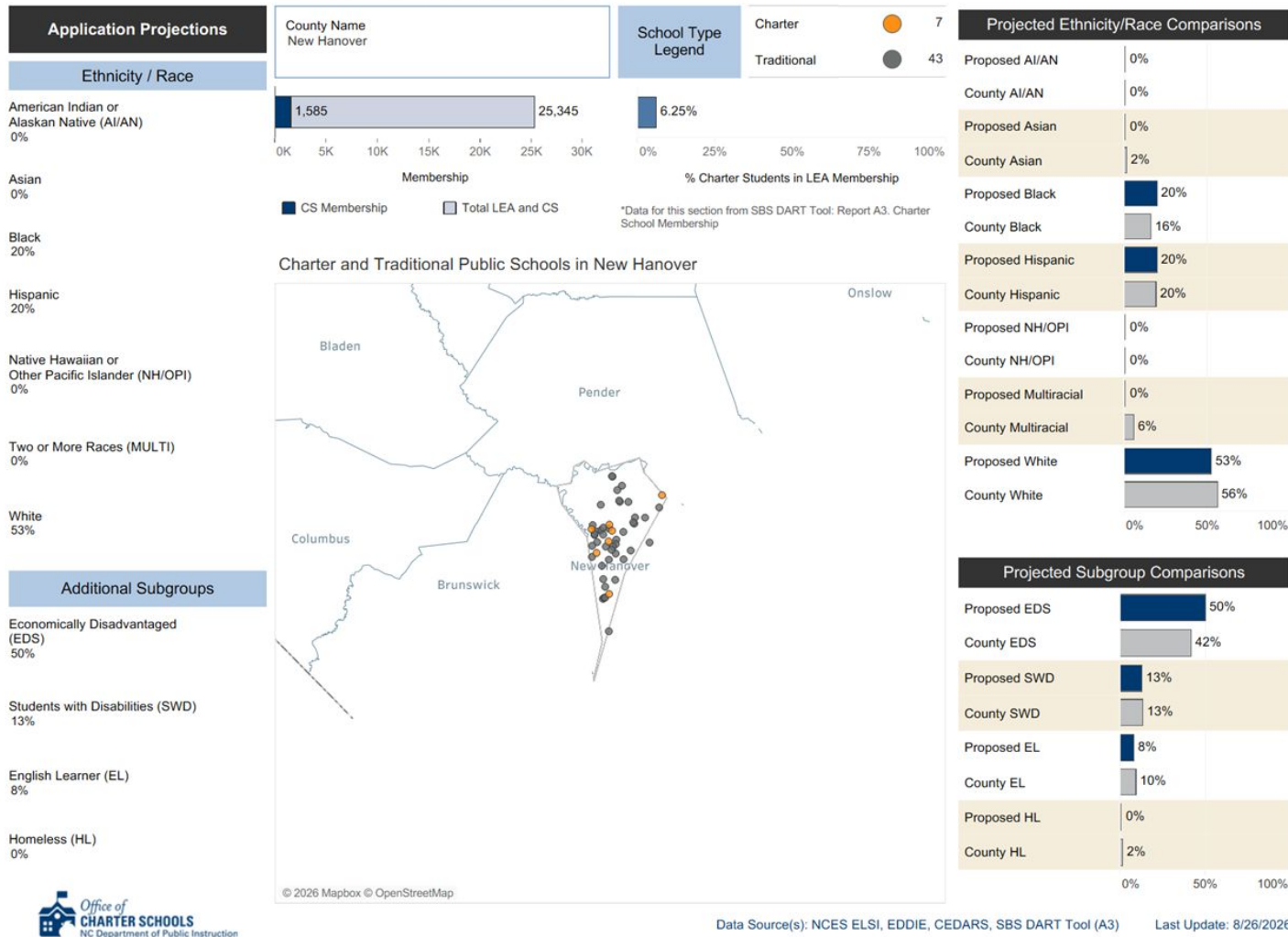
Repeat Applicant: No

EMO/CMO Partnering: No

Year	Grade Levels	Enrollment
Year 1	9	95 students
Year 2	9-10	190 students
Year 3	9-11	285 students
Year 4	9-12	380 students
Year 5	9-12	380 students

New H.O.P.E. Technology Preparatory Academy

LEA Demographic Comparison



November 2026: Round One Interviews

Performance Committee

- Preparatory Leadership Academy (Gaston)
- Hawkins Charter (Guilford)

Policy Committee

- Lovira Academy (Stokes)

Office of Charter Schools Contact Info



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North Carolina Department of
Public Instruction
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