Review Process

Florida Authorizer Bootcamp
Agenda

• Overview of Review Process

• Review Teams
  • Forming
  • Training
  • Conducting Reviews

• Capacity Interviews
Objectives

• Authorizers will understand the review team process including how to form teams, how to train teams, and how to conduct a review.

• Authorizers will become familiar with the capacity interview process in the review process.

• Authorizers will become familiar with the process of approving or denying a charter school application.
Let’s Discuss: The Review Process

Who is involved in the review process of new charter applications?

What areas of expertise might reviewers need?

Why might it be important to involve external reviewers?
The Review Process – Where to Start

Florida Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing

• “Authorizers should evaluate each application through a review of the written proposal, a substantive interview with the applicant group, and when possible, engage highly competent teams of internal and external reviewers with relevant educational, organization, financial and legal expertise, as well as a thorough understanding of the essential principles of charter school autonomy and accountability.”
Statutory Requirements

Timelines

• 90-day review window

FDOE Evaluation Instrument

• Based on the FDOE model application
• Includes evaluation criteria for each section of application

Denial Process

• Reasons for denial laid out in statute – must have supporting documentation to provide to FDOE and applicant

Appeals Process

• Applicant has right to appeal decision to State Board of Education

*F.S. § 1002.33(6)
Review Teams (1)

Create Teams  
Train Teams  
Team Reviews
Review Teams (2)

What expertise do reviewers need?
Many districts will utilize staff members from a variety of departments to review sections of the application.

What is the ideal balance of internal and external reviewers?
A mix of internal authorizing staff and external experts should be on each team. FACSA can provide external reviewers.

How are applications scored?
Applications are reviewed independently and then the team discusses and norms scoring. Applications are approved if consensus/majority approves.

How much time is needed to review?
There is a 90-day window for the total review process.*

Are external reviewers compensated?
Sometimes external reviewers are compensated directly by the district. FACSA-provided reviewers are compensated by FACSA.

*F.S. § 1002.33(6)
Training Review

Teams

- Familiarity with Application Components
- Familiarity with the FDOE Evaluation Instrument
- Independent Review
- Norming/Calibrating on Scoring
Capacity Interviews (1)

Purpose of Interview

Determine whether the proposal has:

- A sound education program, a cohesive plan, and shows the likelihood that applicant will implement the proposed program with fidelity

Who is at the table?

- District Staff – director of charter office, content area experts, legal counsel, school board members, external reviewers
- Applicant – applicant contact person, board members, principal, members of the leadership team and content areas, finance representative, ESP representative (if applicable)
Capacity
Interviews (2)

How much time is needed for the interview?
• 1–2 hours

What questions should be asked?
• Align questions with application – limit responses that go beyond the scope of the application

What “red flags” should sponsors look for?
• One person dominates conversation
• Applicant team has disagreements during interview
• Potential conflicts of interest are disclosed
• Applicant fails to show a level of understanding related to the needs of exceptional students
Next Steps

- Application Approval
- Application Denial
- Application Withdrawal
Questions?
Reactions?
Ideas?
BREAK

See you in 10 minutes!