



Thomas B. Fordham Foundation

2016 Charter School Application

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in sponsorship with the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation. This application is designed to provide Fordham staff and external application evaluators with key academic, financial, operations and governance plans for the proposed school.

The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation only accepts applications submitted via our online application management system, EpiCenter. This copy (pdf) is included on our website so that prospective applicants and the public are able to view the content of our application. If you plan to submit an application, please contact Theda Sampson at tsampson@edexcellence.net to obtain access to EpiCenter.

Thank you,
The Fordham sponsorship team

Timeline

Timeline for New Charter School Applications (schools planning to open in the fall of 2016)	Dates
Online application available in EpiCenter application management system. Please contact Theda Sampson at tsampson@edexcellence.net to obtain access to EpiCenter.	1/12/2015
Deadline to submit application.	4/30/2015
Fordham staff and external reviewers evaluate application. The process includes: - Content review. Applications that are incomplete or poorly drafted will not be considered. - Individual evaluator review. Applications are reviewed by a team of Fordham staff and external application evaluators. - Evaluation team debrief meeting. The evaluation team convenes to discuss the application's strengths and weaknesses, and decide whether to approve an applicant for an interview.	5/1/2015 – 7/15/2015
Interviews conducted, lead summaries finalized. - Applicants are interviewed by the evaluation team. Interviews are in-person at Fordham's Dayton office. Prior to the interview, applicants will receive an agenda of topics to be covered. - Following the interview, the team convenes to reach consensus on the application. The team leader subsequently drafts the team's analysis and submits it to Fordham's senior sponsorship staff.	7/15/2015 - 8/15/2015
Developers whose applications are not recommended to move forward are notified in writing. Developers whose applications are recommended to move forward are notified by phone or email.	By 9/1/2015
Fordham senior staff notifies the Fordham board's Ohio committee of applications that are recommended for a sponsorship contract.	By 10/15/2015
Fordham board vote on new school contracts.	By 10/31/2015
Applicants are notified as to whether the Fordham board approved or did not approve the applicant for a sponsorship contract.	By 10/31/2015
Sponsorship contracts drafted.	By 1/31/2016
Drafts sent to school boards for review.	2/1/2016 - 2/28/2016
Agreements finalized, executed and sent to the Ohio Department of Education with contract checklist.	By 3/15/2016

Cover Sheet

Name of proposed charter school:	
Name of non-profit corporation (school board):	
Chairperson of the non-profit board:	
Mailing address:	
Indicate the charter type (new school or existing school changing sponsors):	
Name of contact person designated by non-profit board:	
Title/relationship to board:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Education Management Organization information

Name of education management organization (if any):	
Management company contact name:	
Management company contact telephone:	
Management company contact email:	
School leader name (if selected):	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Projected Enrollment

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
K					
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
Total					

Facility

School address:	
If you have not yet selected a facility please describe plans to do so:	

I certify that all information contained herein is complete and accurate. I understand that any misrepresentation could result in disqualification from the application process or termination of the sponsorship contract, if executed.

I understand that incomplete applications and those submitted after the published deadline will not be considered. The person named as the contact person designated by the non-profit board is authorized to serve as the primary contact for this application on behalf of the non-profit board.

I have read, understood, and comply with the above statement.

Name and title

Date

Section A: Education Plan

A.1 Mission, Vision, and Educational Philosophy

Applicant Instructions:

State the school’s mission and briefly present your vision for how the school will operate. Describe the school’s educational foundation and the culture or ethos. Include an overview of the instructional methods and any research or experience that indicates why you have chosen to use this approach with your anticipated student population.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO A.1 IN THE BOX BELOW:

A.2 Geographic Boundaries

Applicant Instructions:

Pursuant to 3314.03(A)(19), please describe which of the following options the school will choose.

- (a) Prohibit the enrollment of students who reside outside the district in which the school is located; or,
- (b) permit the enrollment of students who reside in districts adjacent to the district in which the school is located; or,
- (c) permit the enrollment of students who reside in any other district in the state.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO A.2 IN THE BOX BELOW:

A.3 Curriculum and Instruction

Applicant Instructions:

Provide a description of the curriculum to be used by the school, including measurable objectives and subject area content and skills for each grade level.

Explain how the chosen curriculum aligns with the Ohio content standards.

Discuss the specific instructional strategies that will be relevant or necessary to ensure successful implementation of the curriculum, such as classroom-based or independent study, class size, class structure, and teaching methods.

In addition, describe how the program will meet the needs of the at-risk students to be served.
Provide evidence that the proposed curriculum is research-based and has been or will be effective with the student population you plan to serve.

Include in Attachments: For core subjects, include sample lessons from two different grade levels (**Attachment A**) that illustrate strategies for implementation of the curriculum consistent with the mission and educational philosophy of the school.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO A.3 IN THE BOX BELOW:

A.4 Target Population

Applicant Instructions:

Describe the anticipated population of the school and how the proposed mission, curriculum, teaching methods and services align with the educational needs of that population. Discuss the leadership team’s experience serving similar student populations.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO A.4 IN THE BOX BELOW:

A.5 School Calendar and Daily Schedule

Applicant Instructions:

Complete the table below.

Include in Attachments: Provide the school’s proposed calendar (**Attachment B**) showing the number of days the school will be in session and two sample daily class schedules (**Attachment C**) showing daily hours of operation and allocation of time for core instruction, supplemental instruction, extra-curricular activities, and after-school activities, as applicable.

TYPE YOUR ANSWER TO A.5. IN BOX BELOW:

First day of school	
School day start/end time	
Hours in school day	
Number of instructional minutes (core instruction) per day	
Number of instructional school days per year	
Number of supplemental instruction hours per day	
Time devoted to staff development during school year (indicate days or hours)	
Time devoted to staff development prior to school opening (indicate days or hours)	

A.6 Special Student Populations

Applicant Instructions:

Articulate the school’s philosophy regarding educating special student populations, including but not limited to strategies for student recruitment, retention, and support.

Describe the school’s plans for identifying and successfully serving the following students in order to comply with applicable laws and regulations: students with disabilities, students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), homeless students, gifted and talented students

Explain specifically:

- how these students will be identified,
- how the school will develop plans for their education,
- how their progress will be monitored, and
- how the school has budgeted and staffed to meet those responsibilities.

Explain how the school’s curriculum and approach to instruction will be designed or adapted to serve those students.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO A.6 IN THE BOX BELOW:

A.7 School-Specific Goals and Objectives

Applicant Instructions:

Identify key academic goals and key non-academic goals for which the school plans to hold itself accountable. Explain how these performance standards align with the school’s mission and proposed educational program.

Provide the school’s policy and plan for reporting performance goals to parents and the public.

Well-developed goals will be SMART (i.e., specific, measurable, ambitious, attainable, relevant, time-bound).

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO A.7 IN THE BOX BELOW:

All Ohio public charter schools are required to administer state assessments. Indicate any *additional* assessments the proposed charter school will administer.

Describe the school’s approach to assessment. Explain how the school will evaluate progress of individual students, cohorts over time, and the school as a whole. Describe how the school will use interim assessments to gauge student learning and modify instruction. Indicate the person(s), position(s) and/or entities that will be responsible and involved in the in collection and analysis of assessment data.

Describe the school’s policies and criteria for promotion and retention of students.

Describe the feedback cycle for staff.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO A.8 IN THE BOX BELOW:

A.9 School Climate and Discipline¹

Applicant Instructions:

Describe the strategies the school will employ to develop and sustain a safe and orderly school climate that supports fulfillment of the educational goals and incorporates research-based discipline practices such as positive behavior interventions.

Explain the school's student behavior philosophy. Include the discipline policy or code of conduct for both the general student population and for students with special needs.

Include in Attachments: The full discipline policy should be included with procedures and policies for implementing alternative instruction (**Attachment D**). The policy should address the consequences (or range of consequences); due process procedures; identify the individuals responsible for carrying out the discipline policy; and, escalation process.

Indicate how the school staff will be educated about, and trained to implement, the policy.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO A.9 IN THE BOX BELOW:

A.10. Prior Success in Raising Student Achievement

Applicant Instructions:

Please describe prior success the developer has in improving student academic outcomes; please include supporting data.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO A.10 IN THE BOX BELOW:

Section B: Organizational Plan:

B.1. Governing Body

Applicant Instructions:

Provide a brief description of the governing board, its history, and its current operation. Provide the governing board's view of the relationship between itself and the school leader and management entity (if any).

Discuss any training the board plans to obtain. Include a timetable, topics to be addressed and requirements for participation.

¹ Please note there is not a section A.8. The sections in this application align to our contract; A.8 is included in the contract only.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO B.1 IN THE BOX BELOW:

B.2 Governing Board Composition

Applicant Instructions:

List the members of the proposed governing board including their names and current employment. Set forth board members' relevant experience or qualifications for serving on the board including, but not limited to, their relationship to the community in which the school will be located.

Include in Attachments: For each proposed governing board member, the application should include **(Attachment I)** a resume.

Member 1	
Position	
Name	
Mailing Address	
Phone (day)	
Phone (evening)	
Fax	
Email	
Relevant experiences or qualifications	

Member 2	
Position	
Name	
Mailing Address	
Phone (day)	
Phone (evening)	
Fax	
Email	
Relevant experiences or qualifications	

Member 3	
Position	
Name	
Mailing Address	
Phone (day)	
Phone (evening)	
Fax	
Email	
Relevant experiences or qualifications	

Member 4	
Position	
Name	
Mailing Address	
Phone (day)	
Phone (evening)	
Fax	
Email	
Relevant experiences or qualifications	

Member 5	
Position	
Name	
Mailing Address	
Phone (day)	
Phone (evening)	
Fax	
Email	
Relevant experiences or qualifications	

B.3 Management and Operations

Applicant Instructions:

Describe the plans to recruit, train and retain new board members.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO B.2 IN THE BOX BELOW:

Describe the organizational structure of the school and its day-to-day operation.

Explain the management roles and responsibilities of key administrators with respect to:

- Instructional leadership
- Curriculum development and implementation
- Personnel decisions
- Budgeting
- Financial management
- Legal compliance
- Any special staffing needs.

Discuss how the school will handle back office support, including state data entry.

Include in Attachments: Provide desired qualifications, credentials and resume (if selected) of principal candidate (**Attachment J**). Attach an organizational chart (**Attachment K**) that clearly presents the school's organizational structure, including lines of authority and reporting between the governing board, staff, any related bodies (such as advisory bodies or parent and teacher councils), and any external organizations that will play a role in managing the school.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO B.3 IN THE BOX BELOW:

B.4 Staffing and Human Resources

Applicant Instructions:

Specify plans for recruitment, selection, and evaluation for all staff – including leadership and operations positions – of the proposed charter school. Include job descriptions for all staff members, employment benefits offered, and estimated salary ranges.

Explain how the non-profit governing board and school administration will handle unsatisfactory staff performance, as well as staff turnover and leadership succession.

Include in Attachments: Include a staffing chart for the school's first year, and a staffing plan for the term of the charter (**Attachment L**). Attach a copy of the proposed school personnel policy (**Attachment M**).

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO B.4 IN THE BOX BELOW:

B.5 Professional Development

Applicant Instructions:

Describe the professional development opportunities that will be offered to teachers and staff.

Indicate the lead person responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating professional development plans.

Describe how the proposed professional development will include and support both general and special education teachers.

Explain how the professional development program is aligned with the school's pedagogy and curriculum.

Articulate how the professional development program will be evaluated to assess its effectiveness and success, and how the program will be modified to support identified teacher needs.

Include in Attachments: Provide a schedule for professional development (**Attachment N**).

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO B.5 IN THE BOX BELOW:

B.6 Student Recruitment and Enrollment

Applicant Instructions:

Describe the plan for recruitment and enrollment of students. Explain how the school will be publicized and marketed throughout the community to a broad cross-section of families and prospective students.

Describe the school's plans and timelines for the school's recruitment, enrollment, and admission process (including lottery).

Include in Attachments: include any documents related to student enrollment (e.g., enrollment forms) in **Attachment O**.

Include in Attachments: provide a detailed Enrollment Policy in **Attachment P**.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO B.6 IN THE BOX BELOW:

B.7 Community Involvement

Applicant Instructions:

Explain how the school will encourage family involvement to support student learning.

Discuss policies, programs, and practices to ensure parental involvement and procedures to respond to parental complaints.

List potential community partners and how they will support the school.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO B.7 IN THE BOX BELOW:

Section C: Financial Plan

C.1 Budget

Applicant Instructions:

Complete **Attachment T: Budget**, using the excel file provided.

- 1) Budget Form 1: Start-up Budget with Assumptions
- 2) Budget Form 2: First Year Budget with Assumptions
- 3) Budget Form 3: First Year Monthly Cash Flow Projection with Assumptions for monthly changes
- 4) Budget Form 4: Five Year Budget Plan with Assumptions for yearly changes

Detailed assumptions of the calculations used to estimate revenues and expenditures must be included for each line item.

Include in Attachment Q: Provide letters of commitment from any outside source (e.g., banks, lending institutions, corporations, foundations, grants, etc.) from which you expect to receive funds, property, or resources. Letters should indicate when the funds, resources or property were secured. If the funds are not secured, the letter should indicate when the funds, resources or property will be secured.

C.2 Financial Management

Applicant Instructions:

Describe the systems and procedures for managing the school's finances and identify the staff position(s) that will be responsible for financial oversight and management, as well as their relevant qualifications to manage this work.

Identify any vendors that will be used to support finance and operations.

If using an education management entity, please provide the three most recent years of the entity's audited financial statements.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO C.2 IN THE BOX BELOW:

C.3 Transportation, Food Service, Other Partnerships

State whether the school intends to provide transportation for students. If so, describe the transportation plan for all students, including those with special needs, and explain budget revenue and expenditure assumptions.

Describe the school's plans for providing food service.

Indicate any types of health services that will be provided.

Explain any other partnerships or contractual relationships central to the school's operations or mission.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO C.3 IN THE BOX BELOW:

C.4 Insurance

Applicant Instructions

Provide a quotation/letter that describes the level of insurance coverage that will be obtained (**Attachment R**).

C.5 Pre-Opening Plan

Applicant Instructions:

Provide a pre-opening plan that documents key tasks to be completed between approval of the application and opening of the school, including but not limited activities associated with finance, leadership, facilities, state obligations, students, parents and community.

Timelines and schedules for pre-opening may be included under **Attachment S**.

TYPE YOUR RESPONSE TO C.5 IN THE BOX BELOW:

Applicant Assurances

Please review the following list of assurances. By signing this document, I hereby acknowledge the following:

1. That no trustees, or individual(s) responsible for the operation of the community school under contract with the governing authority, owe the state any money or are in a dispute over whether the trustee or individual owes the state any money, concerning the operation of a community school that has closed; and
2. That no trustee has been convicted of an offense that would disqualify a teacher from obtaining licensure in the state of Ohio;
3. That no present or former member, or immediate relative of a present or former member, of the governing authority of any community school established under Chapter 3314 of the Ohio Revised Code is an owner, employee, or consultant of any sponsor or operator of the proposed school, unless at least one year has elapsed since the conclusion of the person's membership; and
4. That no member of the governing authority, the proposed school's development team, or the school leadership has been affiliated in any manner with a school that has closed pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 3314.35; and
5. That no member of the governing authority, the proposed school's development team, the school's leadership or the treasurer have been affiliated with a school that has been deemed "unauditable" by the Auditor of State; and
6. That all governing authority members and the school leadership have completed an Ohio criminal background check, and a Federal Bureau of Investigation background check if the individual has been an Ohio resident fewer than five (5) years, and that no member of the governing authority or the school leadership has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any of the offenses as set forth in Ohio Revised Code section 3319.39(B)(1)(a); and
7. That the school will comply with Ohio’s Public Records and Open Meetings Acts; and
8. That the school will comply with Ohio’s Ethics laws; and
9. That the school shall not discriminate against any student, staff member, or volunteer on the basis of race, religion, gender, or national origin. Furthermore, with regard to students, the school admits students of any race, religion, gender, color, national and ethnic origin, and disability to all

the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school; and

10. That the school will enroll any eligible student who submits a timely application, unless the school receives a greater number of applications than there are spaces for students (in which case the school shall hold a lottery), and each timely applicant will be given equal chance of admission; and
11. That the school will adhere to all provisions of federal law relating to students with disabilities, including the IDEA, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, that are applicable to it; and
12. That the school will be non-religious in its programs, admissions policies, governance, employment practices, and all other operations, and its curriculum will be completely secular; and,
13. That the school will adhere to all provisions of federal law relating to students who are Limited English Proficient (LEP), including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, that are applicable to it; and,
14. That the school will follow any and all other federal, state, and local laws and regulations that pertain to the applicant or the operation of the community school; and
15. That the governing authority have or will create, and will remain, a tax-exempt entity under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and,
16. That the school will be firmly committed to high expectations for all our students and accountability for academic results.

As developer for this community school application, I agree to and will comply with all of the above.

Name and title

Date

Application Checklist

- ☐ I have completed all portions of the Education, Business and Organizational plans.
- ☐ I have included all attachments.
- ☐ I have submitted all documents in word or excel format.
- ☐ I have completed and submitted the Assurances.

I certify that I have the authority to submit this application and that all information contained herein is complete and accurate. I acknowledge that any misrepresentation could result in disqualification from the application process or revocation after approval. I understand that incomplete applications and those submitted after the published deadline will not be considered.

The person named as the contact person for the application is so authorized to serve as the primary contact for this application on behalf of the organization.

Signature/date

Print name

Title

