



# Fast Track

2015 Webinar

By Brian Smith

# Where do I apply?

- Timeline posted in multiple places to prevent confusion.
- Eligibility policy requirements posted here for transparency.
- Resource Manual available for quick reference guide.

**OFFICE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS**

DPI NEWS ACCOUNTABILITY FBS QUICK LINKS Google Search!

## CHARTER APPLICATIONS

### APPLY TO OPEN A CHARTER SCHOOL

This page provides information on requirements to submit a public charter school proposal to the North Carolina State Board of Education.

**NOTE:** This application is not to enroll your child into an individual charter school. If you are seeking enrollment at a charter school, please refer to the [schools webpage](#) for a list of contact information for all charter schools in North Carolina.

Applying to open and operate a public charter school is a multiple step process.

### TRAINING

[Training Opportunities](#)

### CHARTER SCHOOL FAST TRACK APPLICATION

For schools to open in Fall 2016

Prequalification for Fast Track is due no later than April 1, 2015  
Online submission <https://schools.nc.gov/fasttrack>

**ONLINE APPLICATION DUE July 1, 2015 at 5:00pm EST**  
Online submission <https://schools.nc.gov/fasttrack>

### CHARTER APPLICATION RESOURCES

- Fast Track Replication Timeline (pdf, 96kb)
- Eligibility Requirements: [TCS-U-016](#)
- Resource Manual (pdf, 564kb)

# What is the process for Fast Track?

- Determine if you are eligible from the requirements.
- Apply for NCID
- Complete the Prequalification before April 1, 2015
- Wait for approval to start application
- Complete the application by July 1, 2015 at 5:00PM EST
- Interview in September when requested by CSAB
- See if you are approved in October (CSAB) and November (SBE)
- Open school in Fall 2016 forgoing the planning year as outlined in policy TCS-U-016

# How do I register for NCID?

- Once you have determined if you are eligible, you will need a NCID. That can be attained from this website: <https://ncid.nc.gov/> for completing the prequalification phase.
- Access to the application link: <https://schools.nc.gov/fasttrack> If you have problems: Contact the NCID Help Desk Phone **919-754-6000** or toll free at **1-800-722-3946**
- The last step is to fill in all of the required fields of the application by July 1, 2015 at 5:00 PM EST. Do not leave anything blank (i.e. N/A is an option) as outlined below.
- Follow the timeline to see if you are approved for opening in Fall 2016.

# Components and Timeline

- Notice the yellow writing indicates important due dates.

2015 FAST TRACK APPLICATION TIMELINE		
Timeframe	Actions	Description of events
March 16- <b>April 1</b> Open window	Submit prequalification  Potential Applicant to Register for NCIS <a href="https://ncid.nc.gov">https://ncid.nc.gov</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All Prequalification's submissions completed</li><li>• Prequalification will not be accepted after April 1.</li></ul>
April 1-April 30	OCS Eligibility Review  Applicant can start application process upon approval of prequalification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OCS will notify eligible schools. (Must be a current nonprofit corporation who holds a charter to operate a public charter school that is both financially and academically successful for the past three years.)</li><li>• Must have unqualified audits without fiscal compliance issues for three preceding years and No warning letters from DPI. (All applications that are found ineligible will be stopped and not move forward.)</li></ul>
<b>July 1 by 5:00PM</b> (Eastern Standard Time) Non-refundable fee may be submitted with completed application on or before.	Application and fee are due for all applicants  <b>Form will be posted on the OCS website</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed application for replication submitted electronically (Must address the special or unique needs of the proposed students and community)</li><li>• \$1,000 non-refundable fee to the OCS (may submit up to 2 applications per cycle, each assessed of its own merits and be tailored to identified population or targeted locale.)</li></ul>
July	OCS Reviews with external evaluators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OCS review &amp; Evaluate and</li><li>• Recommend to CSAB.</li><li>• Reject incomplete and late submissions</li><li>• Evaluate academic an financial plan for related educational need</li></ul>

# Timeline Continued...

		<p>submissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate academic and financial plan for related educational need</li> <li>• The nonprofit board's organizational capacity to expand its portfolio by a thorough review of the board's operation and governance model</li> </ul>
August	CSAB committee reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OCS conference call to CSAB committees review and evaluate each application for replication and move towards interview by the CSAB.</li> </ul>
September-Interviews	CSAB Interviews and recommends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full CSAB interviews qualified candidates recommended by the committees.</li> <li>• Interview with the proposed BOD will be a 45 minute time frame.</li> <li>• CSAB will deliberate following the interview</li> <li>• Recommendation made</li> </ul>
October	CSAB Recommendations forwarded to SBE	SBE Review
November 5	SBE Decision	SBE makes final decision.
Fall 2016	New Replicated School Starts	Approved Schools open next academic year (foregoing planning year)

# What are the Application Specifications?

Applicants MUST submit applications by July 1, 2015 at 5:00 pm EST deadline; applicants are to use the following specifications:

- All applications must be submitted using the online platform. Applications submitted outside of this platform will not be accepted.
- All submitted applications must be from an approved nonprofit group by the NC Secretary of State
- Each major section (Mission, Purposes and Goals, Education Plan, Governance and Capacity, Operations, and Financial Plan) must be located within the designated section, as indicated in the online document.
- If a particular question does not apply to your team or proposal, respond "Not Applicable," **AND** state the reason this question is not applicable to your team or proposal.
- All required Appendices should be clearly titled and include page numbers (i.e. Appendix A and page numbers as- A1, A2, and B1...).
- Review all elements of your application for completeness before submitting. An incomplete section **will** result in the elimination of the application.
- Late submissions **will not** be accepted. **No exceptions.**
- Applicants must turn in the application fee by the stipulated timeline.
- Complete application packages must be submitted through the online platform. ***ALL applications are due by 5:00 pm EST on July 1, 2015.***

# FAQS

- Fast Track requires specific guidelines found in the eligibility requirements and are intended for replication of High Quality Charter Schools that exceed District and State expectations.
- A \$1,000 non-refundable application fee must be submitted for your application. You may submit up to 2 applications this cycle. Payments are to be made by: Mailing in Application Fee Payment Form with a Bank Issued Check or Money Order.
- If you do not qualify, the prequalification phase will not let you submit.
- Data for prequalification was checked through Accountability.
- If you are late on any timeline you will be disqualified. April 1 and July 1 are important deadlines that are required by policy.
- Fast Track is for the replication of a school and its board that is successfully exceeding expectations. Please feel free to apply for new schools charters in the regular application phase.
- Warning letter information can be found in State Board Policy TCS-U-006 –Impact of Financial, Governance, and Revocation
- Must have 3 years of preceding data to be eligible.
- Must adhere to the Dissolution plan in Appendix W where \$50,000 be placed aside solely for closure proceedings.



# Are there any questions?

- If you have questions regarding the Fast Track Replication application process, please contact Brian Smith at 919.807.3492 or [brian.smith@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:brian.smith@dpi.nc.gov).