



Expansion Applications

September 2020



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Definition

- An expansion is when an existing school seeks to amend their charter agreement to serve more students, or to add more grades, or both.
- An expansion can be large or small.
- An expansion does not create a new campus, referred to as a satellite.



Process

- Recently USBE amended Board Rule R277-552, which governs how the SCSB may grant expansion requests.
- These changes made the process much more rigorous.
- Schools must now meet a large set of minimum standards before the SCSB can even accept an expansion application.
- If a school fails to meet even one of the minimum standards, the school cannot present to the SCSB regarding their expansion request.



Process

- If the school meets the minimum standards to present, they are invited to the full SCSB meeting.
- At that point, there are additional minimum standards that must be met throughout the full application before the SCSB can approve an expansion request.
- If a school fails to meet even one of the additional requirements, the school cannot be granted an expansion.



Process

- Per the newly updated and approved rule and process, each request is reviewed by staff for eligibility before an expansion request is heard by the board.
- The review ensures that each school meets the minimum requirements to be considered, as outlined in our application and required by R277-552-6(2).
- Staff then provided feedback to each school and provided each school the opportunity to respond and meet the minimum requirements.



Criteria

- In addition to the minimum requirements to have their application considered, schools must also meet all the minimum requirements in R277-552-6(4) before they can be approved.
- The school's application addresses each of these requirements and will need to sufficiently satisfy the SCSB before any request can be approved.
- Staff recommends that the SCSB address each requirement while reviewing the application request.



Criteria

The minimum requirements for approval are:

- The school is meeting the terms of its charter agreement.
- The school is academically and operationally successful, taking into consideration at least two years of data.
- The school provides educational services consistent with state law and Board rule.
- The school administers and has capacity to carry out statewide assessments.
- The school provides evidence-based instruction for special populations as required by federal law.
- The school has adequate qualified administrators and staff to meet the needs of the proposed expansion.
- The school is in compliance with all applicable school legal obligations.
- There is a market demand for the increase.
- The school is financially viable.
- The school has or will have adequate facilities for the expansion.
- The school has appropriately dealt with student safety issues.



Criteria

- **Note:** a school that meets the minimum requirements for approval does not have to be approved. There may be other reasons to deny the approval. However, if a school fails to meet even one of the requirements, the school cannot be granted an expansion.



Today's Process

- For 2020 application year, the SCSB received five expansion requests.
- Of the five requests, only one, Vanguard Academy, met the minimum requirements to even be considered.
- Today you will review criteria, see a presentation from the school, have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the request before deciding if the expansion request is granted.
- A scoring rubric is included in your board meeting materials.