

# Charter School Appeals: An Overview

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Florida State Board of Education

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# Process to Establish a Public Charter School

- An application for a new charter school may be made by an individual, teachers, parents, a group of individuals, a municipality, or a legal entity organized under the laws of this state.
- Application is submitted to a local school district
  - Applicant must use the Model Charter School Application
  - February 1 deadline
- District reviews application using evaluation instrument developed by FDOE
- School Board votes to approve or deny application

# Model Charter School Application

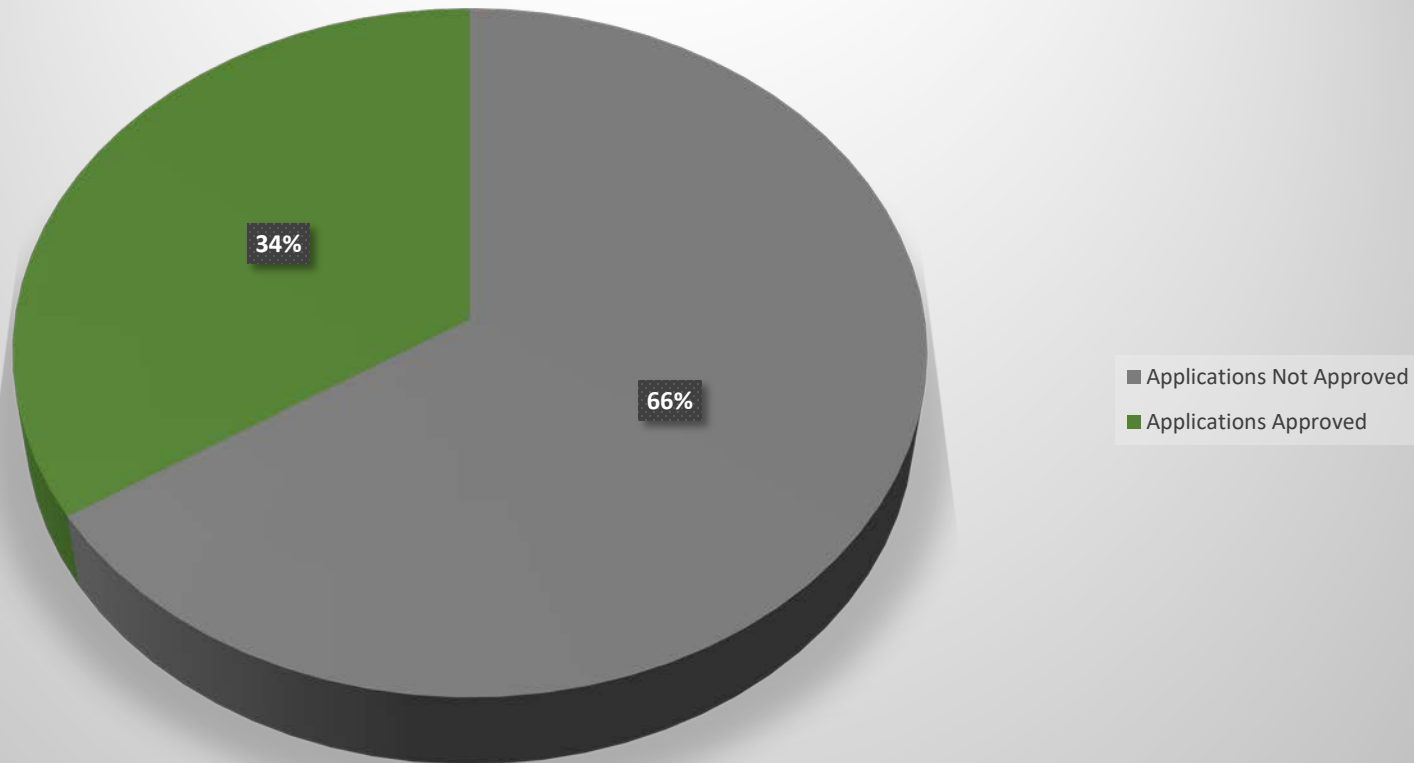
- Required for all applicants
- Developed in consultation with districts, operators, and national experts (2009)
- Districts may request information of the applicant in addition to what is on the model application
- Originally adopted in 2010, with subsequent revisions
  - Major revision in 2015
- 3 Primary Sections
  - Educational Plan, Organizational Plan, Business Plan
    - 22 sub-sections
      - 106-133 Questions
      - 82-96 separate criteria

# Model Application Outline

<b>Cover Sheet</b>		
<b>Executive Summary</b>		
<b>Educational Plan</b>	<b>Organizational Plan</b>	<b>Business Plan</b>
Mission, Guiding Principles and Purpose (4)	Governance (12)	Facilities (5)
Target Population and Student Body (5)	Management & Staffing (5)	Transportation Service (1)
Educational Program Design (5)	Human Resources and Employment (6)	Food Service (1)
Curriculum Plan (6)	Professional Development (1)	School Safety and Security (1)
Student Performance, Assessment and Evaluation (12)	Student Recruitment and Enrollment (3)	Budget (7)
Exceptional Students (11)	Parent and Community Involvement (3)	Financial Management and Oversight (8)
English Language Learners (4)		Start-Up Plan (1)
School Culture and Discipline (2)		
Supplemental Programming (1)		
<b>Replications (7)</b>		
<b>Education Service Providers (20)</b>		
<b>Applicant History Worksheet</b>		

## 5-Year Charter School Application Approval Rate: 2012-2016

Applications Approved/Not Approved by Districts



## Charter School Appeal Commission (CSAC)

- A Charter School Appeal Commission is established to assist the commissioner and the State Board of Education with a fair and impartial review of appeals by applicants whose charter applications have been denied
- The Charter School Appeal Commission may receive copies of the appeal documents forwarded to the State Board of Education, review the documents, gather other applicable information regarding the appeal, and make a written recommendation to the commissioner.

## Charter School Appeal Commission (CSAC)

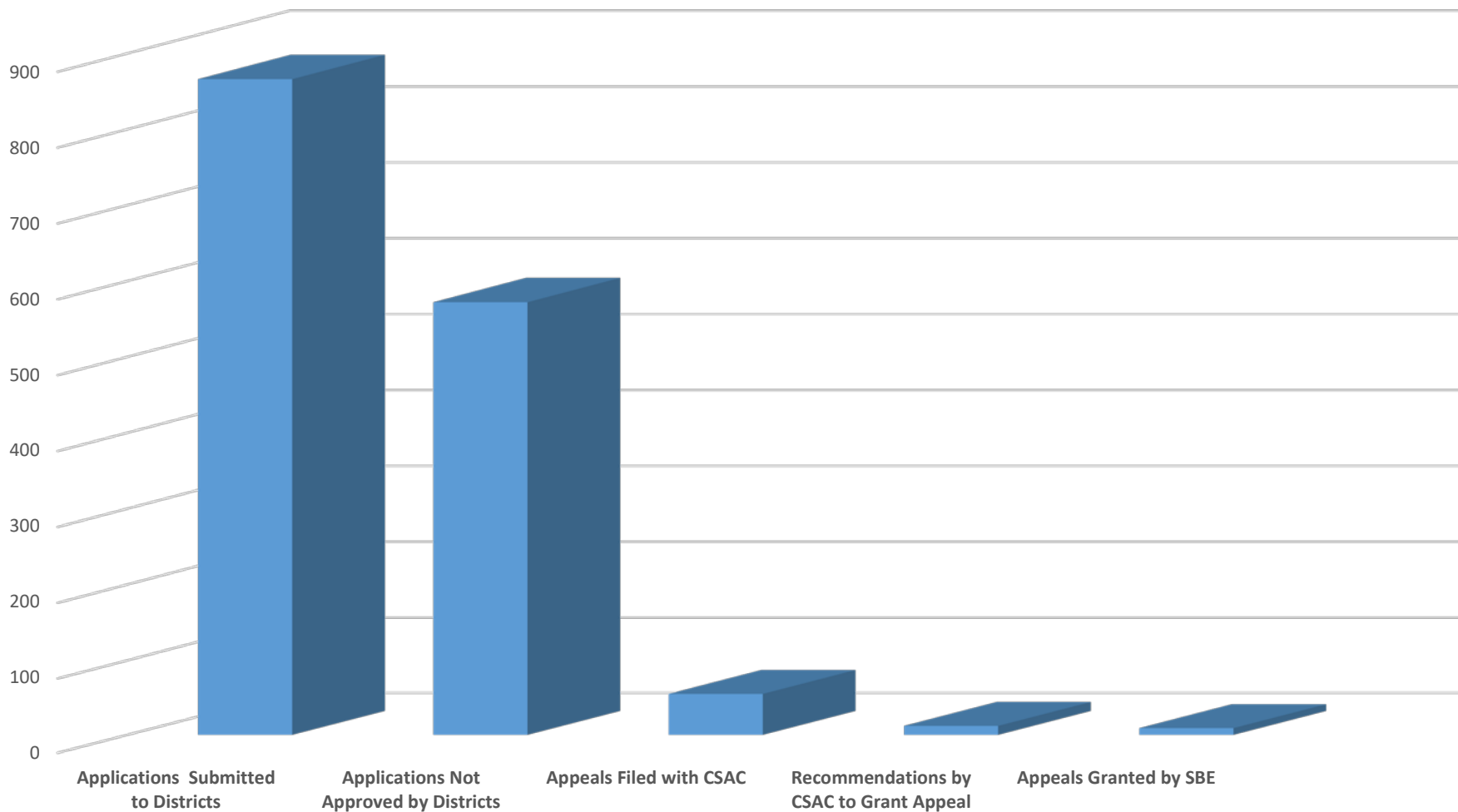
- The commissioner shall appoint a number of members to the Charter School Appeal Commission sufficient to ensure that no potential conflict of interest exists for any commission appeal decision.
- Of the members hearing the appeal, one-half must represent currently operating charter schools and one-half must represent sponsors.
- Commission members shall thoroughly review the materials presented to them from the appellant and the sponsor. The commission may request information to clarify the documentation presented to it.
- Commission members shall provide a written recommendation to the state board as to whether the appeal should be upheld or denied. A fact-based justification for the recommendation must be included.

# CSAC Hearing

- Publicly noticed meeting
  - Chaired by Commissioner’s designee, Lois Tepper, Office of General Counsel
  - Associate General Counsel serves as staff attorney for CSAC
  - Court reporter transcribes proceedings
- Members receive and review prior to hearing:
  - Charter application; evaluation instrument; denial letter; transcripts (if available); appeal briefs from both parties
- Oral presentations
  - Opening statements
  - Individual issues
  - Appeal commission members may ask questions
- Vote
  - Commission votes on each issue
  - Commission votes on recommendation to grant or deny
    - Charter school must win on each issue for recommendation to grant the appeal
    - District must win on one issue for recommendation to deny the appeal
- Conference call to approve written recommended order



5 Years of Applications and Appeals: 2012-2016





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