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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY

June 2009

Potential Applicant:

Thank you so much for your recent inquiry about the opportunity of starting a charter school in Manatee County. The mission of the Manatee County School District is to inspire our students with a passion for learning, empowered to pursue their dreams confidently and creatively while contributing to our community, nation and world.

The application process is a major undertaking. Even though we will try to do all that we can to support you through the process, the application is where you demonstrate your capacity to develop and implement your innovative educational program. The process is rigorous and aligned to the Florida statutes. Charter school applications are subject to the requirements including, but not limited to the use of the guiding principles for charter schools, a detailed curriculum plan, clearly defined goals and objectives tied to student learning, a reading curriculum with differentiated strategies and a five year financial plan. These requirements are clearly explained in the statutes and in the model application.

The model application is available on the state website. There are numerous other resources available. I would encourage you to avail yourself of all of the resources. The deadline for a charter application is on or before August 1, particularly if August 1 falls on a weekend. Once an application is submitted, there is no other opportunity to add information. So, an application is reviewed and a decision is made based on what is submitted on or before August 1.

Once you have an opportunity to review the model application, please call my office to make an appointment to meet with me to further discuss the process. Our office hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. During the summer months, we work Monday through Thursday. My office number is (941)-708-8770, ext. 2242.

Once again, thank you for your interest and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,
Verdya P. Bradley, Ed. D
Supervisor, Innovative Programs and Parental Options

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