

# Charter Schools in Rutherford County

Rutherford County League of Women Voters



---

# Purposes of a Charter School

---

1. Improve learning for all students and close the achievement gap between high and low students;
2. Provide options for parents to meet educational needs of students;
3. Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods, and provide greater decision-making authority to schools and teachers in exchange for greater responsibility for student performance;
4. Measure performance of pupils and faculty, and ensure that children have the opportunity to reach proficiency on state academic assessments;
5. Create new professional opportunities for teachers; and
6. Afford parents substantial meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

# RCS Charter School Vision

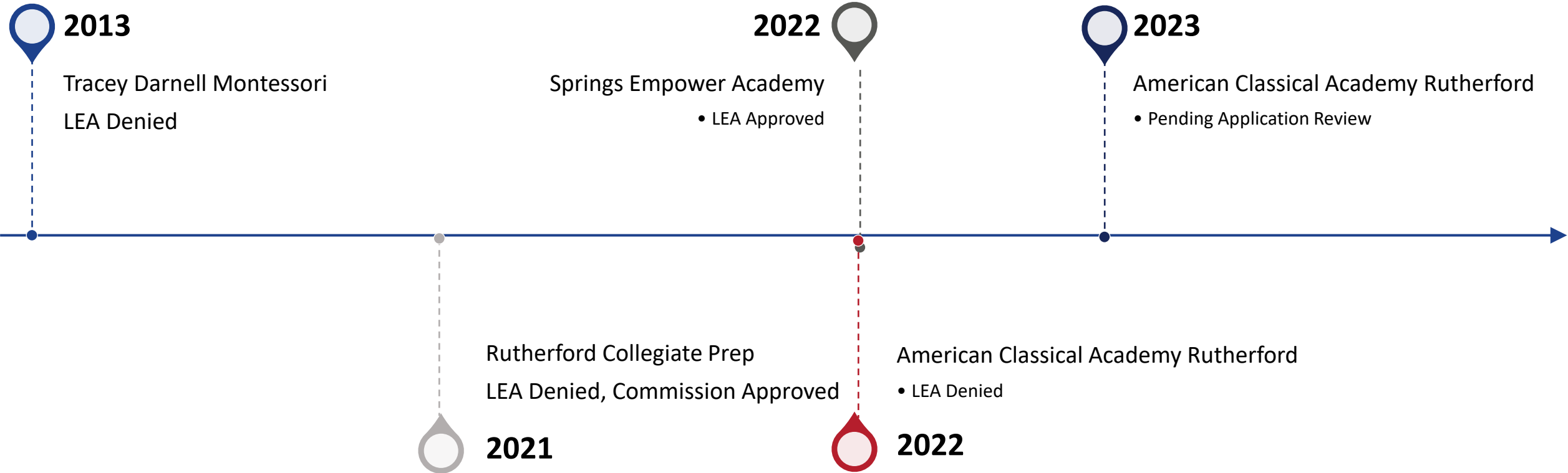
Rutherford County Schools seeks charter schools that emphasize high-quality academic instruction and opportunities for **all students**. The mission of Rutherford County Schools is to invest in our students for tomorrow's possibilities. The purpose of authorizing charter schools in Rutherford County is to offer innovative, high-quality, and diverse school choice options that meet the needs of a rapidly growing district.



# History of Charter Schools in Rutherford County

---

# History of Charter School Applications- RCS





# Local Charter Schools



---

# New Applicants

---

RCS seeks new school proposals and proposals for existing school operators/replicators that offer all the following:

1. Create **innovative educational structures** that are not already offered within the district and that **enhance the positive culture** of Rutherford County Schools
2. **Advance academic achievement for a diverse range of learners** through excellent instruction that reaches all students, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, proficiency in English, academic ability, social capital, and family income.
3. Add to and do not diminish the number of schools **with diverse student enrollment** in Rutherford County
4. Indicate a **willingness to collaborate with the authorizing LEA to align the goals** and performance outcomes to the mission and vision of RCS

---

# Charter Accountability

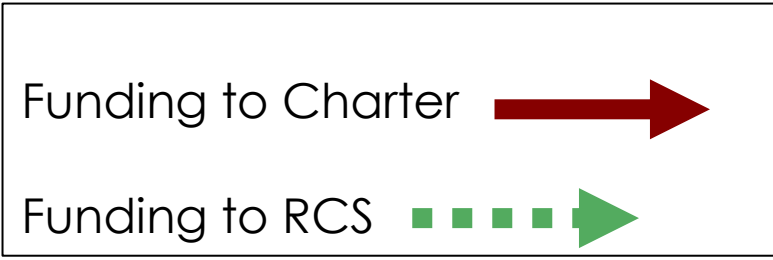
---

- The authorizer (Rutherford County Board of Education) has **broad oversight authority** over the Charter School and may take all reasonable steps necessary to **oversee compliance with the agreement and applicable laws**.
- The most critical performance measures contained in the Performance Frameworks are the academic measures.
- The authorizing office will monitor and provide an annual public report on the Charter School's progress in relation to the indicators, measures, metrics, and targets set out in the Performance Frameworks.
- If necessary, the Authorizer will provide notice to the Charter School of non-compliance with applicable laws, rules, or the Agreement and give the Charter School an opportunity to cure the non-compliance prior to instituting revocation proceedings.



# Relationship between Charters and Authorizing LEA

---



BOE and Authorizing staff are held **accountable** by TN State Board of Education through Authorizer Evaluation.

Rutherford County Board of Education serves as the Authorizer and is responsible for holding the charter school **accountable** using the **Performance Framework**.

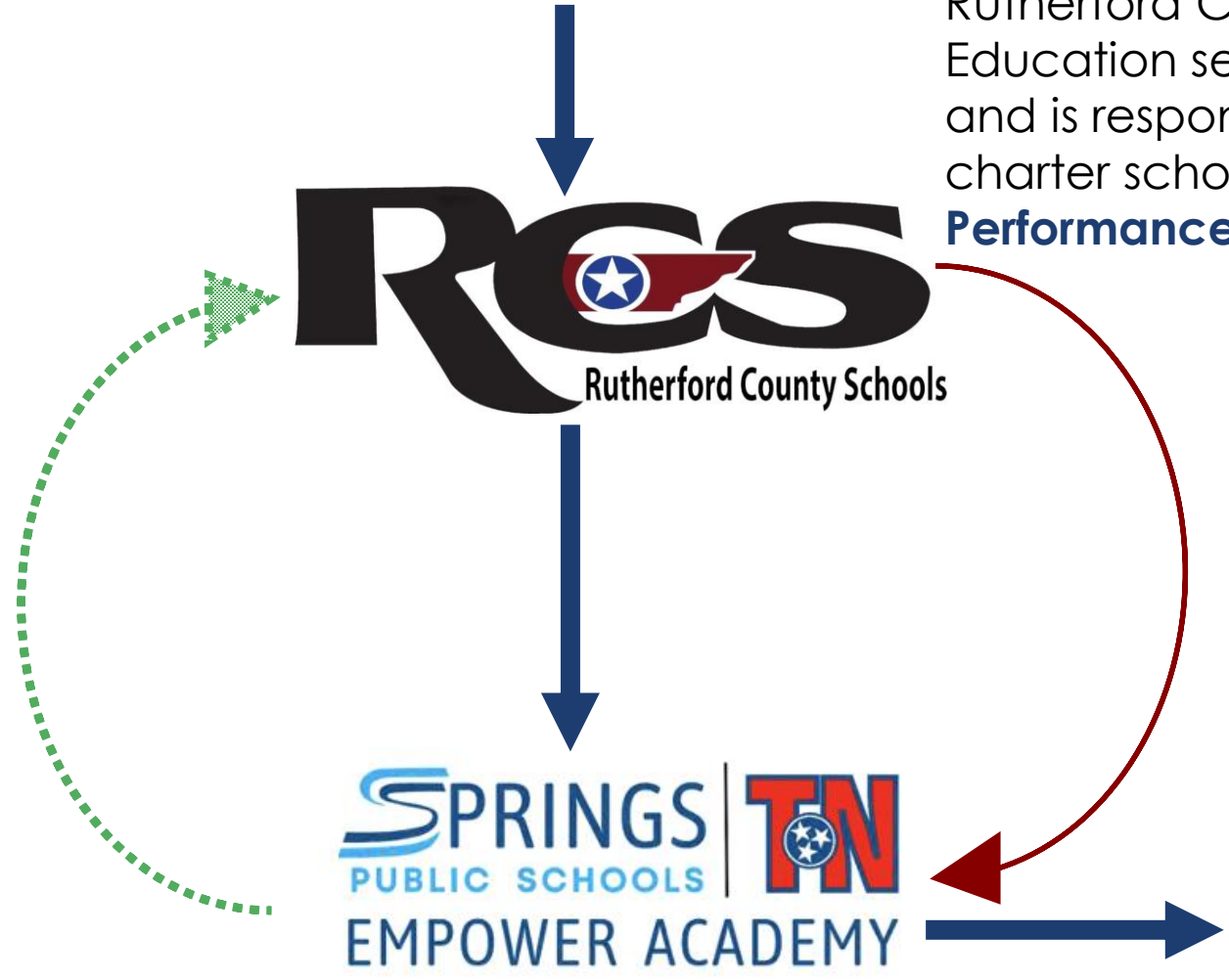


**Authorizer Fee**  
3% of funding or  
\$35,000 maximum

Per pupil **TISA funding**



Executive Director &  
School Staff



# Role of Community: New Start Process

---

## 1.12 Parent and COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

### Characteristics of a strong response:

- There is evidence that community feedback is incorporated in the application.
- There are sufficient letters of support, including those within the local community, evidence of outreach to parents, MOUs, or contracts with community partners (Attachment E) that demonstrate support from the community, and which includes compelling support from community members intending to enroll in the school.
- The applicant outlines a sound and compelling plan for engaging parents and community partners prior to the school's opening and throughout the life of the school.
- The applicant has a well-defined plan for informing and educating parents on school policies.

# RUTHERFORD CHOICE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS



[Rutherford Choice Schools](#) » Rutherford Choice & Charter Schools

## Rutherford Choice & Charter Schools

### A COMMITMENT TO CHOICE

School choice means giving families access to a variety of K-12 education options for their students.

Rutherford County Schools is committed to ensuring we are responsive to our families' needs, that our families are engaged as partners, and that students have access to a variety of options. Our school choices include high-quality community schools, specialized academic programs and academic magnet schools, a virtual school program, an MTSU laboratory school, and personalized learning environments.

We encourage you to learn more about our academic offerings, enrichment opportunities, and exceptional choices through this School Selection Guide. Please use this resource to explore all that Rutherford County Schools has to offer.

For more information about school choice in Rutherford County, visit our [website](#), email [choice@rcschools.net](mailto:choice@rcschools.net), or follow on Twitter [@RCSchoice](#).

- Rutherford Choice & Charter Schools
- Charter Schools - General Information
- Charter Schools - Approved Applications
- Charter Schools - Pending Applications
- Staff



Role of Community:  
New Start  
Process



# New Application Timeline

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Item</b>
<b>December 5, 2022</b>	Letter of Intent Deadline to RCS and TN Department of Education
<b>December 15, 2022</b>	RCS School Board recommends Review Committee Members
<b>February 1, 2023</b>	Completed applications are due to the RCS Charter Schools/ School Choice Coordinator no later than 11:59 PM CST
<b>February 2- February 21, 2023</b>	Independent Application Review by RCS Charter Review Committee, team members upload individual rubrics
<b>February 22- March 3, 2023</b>	Charter Review Committee meets to analyze Independent Review Applications, prepare for Capacity Interview
<b>March 6- 20, 2023</b>	Conduct Capacity Interviews
<b>March 27, 2023</b>	Charter Review Committee members finalize consensus rubric and ratings
<b>March 28- April 14, 2023</b>	Charter Schools/ School Choice Coordinator and Charter Review Committee staff complete findings reports
<b>April 17, 2023</b>	Findings report shared with RCS School Board
<b>Week of April 24, 2023</b>	RCS School Board votes on Charter School Applications

---

# Contact

---

Caitlin Bullard, Ed.D.

Coordinator of School Choice and Charter Schools

Rutherford County Schools

(615)893-5812, extension 22177

[charterschools@rcschools.net](mailto:charterschools@rcschools.net)