



LETTER OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR A TENNESSEE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL - 2015

All applicants must file a Letter of Intent at least 60 days prior to the application deadline of April 1, 2015. This letter must be delivered to the local board of education and the Tennessee Department of Education no later than February 2, 2015.

Submit the letter of intent via email to charter.schools@tn.gov.

Contact the local board of education to determine where to submit the letter of intent.

NAME OF PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL: KIPP Nashville Middle

CHARTERING AUTHORITY FOR PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL:
Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

SPONSOR/SPONSORING AGENCY: KIPP Nashville

MODEL OR FOCUS OF PROPOSED SCHOOL: Fresh-start, college-prep

Provide the name of the person who will serve as the **primary contact** for the Application. The **primary contact** should serve as the contact for follow-up, interviews, and notices regarding the Application.

NAME OF CONTACT PERSON: Randy Dowell

MAILING ADDRESS: 123 Douglas Ave

PRIMARY TELEPHONE: (615) 715-9562 ALTERNATE TELEPHONE: (615) 226-4484

E-MAIL ADDRESS: rdowell@kippnashville.org

NAME OF PROPOSED SCHOOL LEADER (if any): _____

REPLICATION APPLICATION: YES NO

Projected Year of School Opening: 2017-18

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

	GRADE LEVELS	TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT
YEAR ONE	5th	100
YEAR TWO	5th - 6th	200
YEAR THREE	5th - 7th	300
YEAR FOUR	5th - 8th	400
YEAR FIVE	5th - 8th	400
YEAR SIX	5th - 8th	400
YEAR SEVEN	5th - 8th	400
YEAR EIGHT	5th - 8th	400
YEAR NINE	5th - 8th	400
YEAR TEN	5th - 8th	400

CURRENT LEADERSHIP

List all current and identified board members and their intended roles on the table below (attach additional names and information as needed).

FULL NAME	CURRENT JOB AND EMPLOYER	FOCUS/EXPERTISE*
Jim Flautt	Senior Vice President, Asurion	Scaling, Team Leadership, Finance
Brad Smith	CEO, Aspire Health	Startup, Finance, Strategy
Daphne Butler	Community Volunteer	Development
Chris Dowdy	CFO, Edgenet	Finance, Strategy
Drew Goddard	Partner, Bass, Berry & Sims	Legal, Communications
Elizabeth Dennis	Community Volunteer	Development

**Community Service/Outreach, Legal Expertise/Attorney, Public Relations, Education, Management/Organizational Experience, Parent/Community Involvement, Finance, Marketing, Fundraising/Grant Writing, Personnel/Human Capital, Other (please elaborate)*

Please provide an abstract for your proposed school (two pages maximum). Please address the following elements:

- Mission and vision for the proposed school,
- Academic focus and plan,
- The need for the proposed school,
- The targeted population of students,
- Community outreach completed or planned, and
- Individual or organizational history of success/accomplishments in education

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Tennessee law limits who may sponsor a charter school and proscribes what type of entity may operate a charter school. T.C.A. § 49-13-104(7), 106(c). **Please read the following statements and confirm eligibility to submit an application and verify the status of or plans for the governing body.**

The sponsor of this charter school is not “a for-profit entity, a private elementary or secondary school, a post-secondary institution not accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools [now [AdvancEd](#)], a religious or church school” and does not “promote the agenda of any religious denomination or religiously affiliated entity.”

Charter schools must be operated by entities that have exemption from federal taxation under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Please check one of the following, as applicable:

The sponsor of this charter school is a not-for-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status.

The sponsor of this charter school is a not-for-profit organization and has applied for 501(c)(3) status.

I will provide evidence of non-profit incorporation and 501(c)(3) status at the time of contracting with the chartering authority.

The complete Tennessee Public Charter Schools Act is contained in T. C.A. §§ 49-13-101 through 137, and in § 8-35-242. You can access Tennessee laws [here](#).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Please identify any potential conflicts of interest that you or any board member may have in the space below. This is in alignment with best practices for both non-profit and charter school governance and is also aligned with Tennessee Charter Law §49-13-111 (g), which reads “with regard to conflicts of interest, the governing body of a charter school shall be subject to TCA §§ 12-4-101 and 12-4-102. These portions of Tennessee law govern public contracts and personal interests of officers and boards of directors. If approved, board members will be subject to filing form SS-8805 with the district in which it resides.

By my signature below, I affirm that all of the above statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Randy Dowell

Digitally signed by Randy Dowell
DN: cn=Randy Dowell, o=KIPP Nashville, ou,
email=rdowell@kippnashville.org, c=US
Date: 2015.01.27 16:57:47 -0600

Signature

January 27, 2015

Date

Charter Letter of Intent

Abstract – KIPP Nashville Middle

Mission & vision:

KIPP Nashville Middle will build on the success of the KIPP Nashville region of schools that includes KIPP Nashville College Prep middle school, KIPP Academy Nashville middle school, and KIPP Nashville Collegiate High School. The vision of KIPP Nashville, the non-profit entity that will oversee the operations of KNCPE, is that every student in Nashville will have access to a high-quality, college-preparatory seat in a public school.

The mission of KIPP Nashville Middle is to cultivate in our students the academic and character skills needed for them to succeed in high school, college and life beyond. These mission and vision statements were formed by the KIPP Nashville leadership team in conjunction with the KIPP Nashville Board of Directors.

Academic focus & plan:

KIPP Nashville Middle will accomplish its mission of placing students on a path to college by adhering to KIPP's Five Pillars (High Expectations, Choice and Commitment, More Time, Power to Lead, and a Focus on Results) and by setting rigorous performance goals that align with a set of six guiding questions. The school will be characterized by the following elements of high-performing schools:

- Rigorous, standards-based, college preparatory curriculum
- Increased time on instructional tasks
- Strong behavioral management system
- A school culture of academic achievement
- Committed and driven teachers

These characteristics are foundational to the model KIPP Nashville Middle will implement, with standards-based curriculum and assessments; strategies to increase instructional time within the school day; a behavioral management system that utilizes positive reinforcement and frequent parent communication to facilitate seamless support of appropriate behavior; a school culture that is focused on preparing students for success in college and beyond; and a staff of committed, driven teachers who are developed to engender superior results from their students and retained and rewarded when they do so.

The need for the proposed school:

KIPP Nashville proposes a K-4 grade college-preparatory school that will provide students with a rigorous, college-prep school option. The proposed school will address needs articulated in the 2015 Charter School Application Guide published by Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS). Specifically, KIPP Nashville proposes a middle school that will satisfy the first three requests in the MNPS call for new school proposals:

- 1) Advance academic performance of students that underperform (Review and Target) over multiple years on the Academic Performance Framework (APF).
- 2) Reduce pressure on overcrowded (>100%) and significantly overcrowded schools (>120%) as recommended by MGT.
- 3) Add to and do not diminish the number of schools with student enrollment diversity in Nashville.

The MNPS Academic Performance Framework (APF) released in fall, 2014 lists 3 "Excelling" and 3 "Achieving" non-charter public middle schools in Nashville. At the same time, the APF lists 5 "Review"

and 2 “Target” non-charter public middle schools. This data reveals a need for more high-performing middle school options for Nashville’s students.

This proposed middle school will align with MNPS priorities by/through:

- A viable plan to address the needs of economically disadvantaged students and close the achievement gap;
- Increasing high school graduation rates for students at risk of not graduating;
- A focus on preparing students with academic and character skills needed to successfully transition to middle school;
- Using high-quality assessments designed to measure the learning of critical concepts and are aligned with Tennessee State Standards;
- Management and leadership capability to overcome initial start-up problems and establish a fiscally viable school;
- Increasing the acquisition, adoption and use of professional development systems that provide teachers and school leaders with the information and resources they need to inform and improve instructional practices, decision-making and overall effectiveness; and,
- Demonstrated use of data to make instructional decisions.

Targeted population of students:

Over the past two years MNPS leaders have prioritized clusters with over-subscribed schools and clusters with high percentages of low-performing schools as target neighborhoods for new charter school starts. KIPP Nashville will work with MNPS leaders to identify target communities of highest need for a new-start KIPP Nashville Middle. We expect that MNPS will direct us toward either Madison or South Nashville to launch this college-prep middle school.

History of success:

KIPP Nashville Middle will be part of the highly successful national network of Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) schools that provide college preparatory education to more than 59,000 students in 162 schools located in 20 states and the District of Columbia. More than 85% of KIPP students, nationally, are eligible for the federal free and reduced-price meals program and more than 95% are African American or Hispanic/Latino.

By building on the strength of KIPP Academy Nashville and KIPP Nashville College Prep, two of only 13 MNPS middle schools designated as “Excelling” on the 2014 APF, KIPP Nashville will continue to develop college-preparatory pathways for Nashville’s students through the establishment of this KIPP Nashville Middle.

Community outreach:

Once we identify the right community, the KIPP Nashville team will begin cultivating relationships with community leaders and parents in the designated community. We will do this work in close partnership with MNPS.