



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: New Vision Academy- Northwest

CHARTERING AUTHORITY FOR PROPOSED CHARTER SCHOOL: Metro Nashville Public Schools

SPONSOR/SPONSORING AGENCY: New Vision, Inc.

MODEL OR FOCUS OF PROPOSED SCHOOL: 5th – 8th grade middle school

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: Timothy Malone

MAILING ADDRESS: 297 Plus Park Blvd., Nashville, TN 37217

PRIMARY TELEPHONE: (615) 360-1115 **ALTERNATE TELEPHONE:** (615) 473-3006

EMAIL ADDRESS: timothy.malone@newvisiontn.org

REPLICATION APPLICATION: YES

PROJECTED YEAR OF SCHOOL OPENING: 2016-2017

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.



Signature

2/2/15

Date



ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

| | GRADE LEVELS | TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| YEAR ONE | 5 | 100 |
| YEAR TWO | 5, 6 | 180 |
| YEAR THREE | 5, 6, 7 | 240 |
| YEAR FOUR | 5, 6, 7, 8 | 300 |
| YEAR FIVE | 5, 6, 7, 8 | 300 |
| YEAR SIX | 5, 6, 7, 8 | 300 |
| YEAR SEVEN | 5, 6, 7, 8 | 300 |
| YEAR EIGHT | 5, 6, 7, 8 | 300 |
| YEAR NINE | 5, 6, 7, 8 | 300 |
| YEAR TEN | 5, 6, 7, 8 | 300 |

CURRENT LEADERSHIP

List all current and identified board members and their intended roles on the table below.

| FULL NAME | CURRENT JOB AND EMPLOYMENT | FOCUS/EXPERTISE* |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Hank Berry | IT Coordinator, MNPS | Training/Professional Development |
| Dwayne Greene | Lieutenant, Metro Nashville Police Department | Safety/ Legal Expertise |
| Dr. Larry Glover | Fisk University | Education |
| Keith Jordan | CEO, Jordan Consulting | Public Relations/ Real Estate |
| Eric Jackson | Owner, Old Man Artz Design | IT/ Marketing |
| Tiwana Woods | Regional Administrator, Department of Children's Services | Organizational Management |
| Therese King | Program Manager, New Vision, Inc. | Community & Social Services |

Mission: The purpose of New Vision Academy is to provide middle school students with the skills, knowledge, and tools necessary to become active, creative, and self-motivated life-long learners.

Vision: The vision of New Vision Academy is to implement a “holistic” approach to educating each and every student. New Vision Academy strives to provide students with quality learning experiences while fostering critical relationship building and outreach to family members. New Vision Academy believes that regardless of a scholar’s life circumstances, success can be attained.

Academic Focus and Plan: New Vision Academy (NVA) believes in “sweating the small stuff”, which is incorporated every day to anticipate issues that may arise and hinder academic and social success, as well as to identify small victories that can grow into monumental gains. Our teachers and staff expect more, and in return, student performance is higher. The goal of these collective efforts is that our students take learning beyond the classroom and make it a life-long practice.



New Vision Academy provides Rigorous Academic Instruction. NVA's instruction is assessment-driven and student-centered. We provide intensive, explicit instruction while also creating ongoing opportunities to differentiate teaching and learning. Students are regularly assessed through formative and summative assessments in an interim assessment model.

Data-Driven Instruction. We assess often and are relentless about analyzing data to determine gaps, progress and instruction. Leadership has the dedicated time to support teachers on instructional and cultural priorities and teachers have the dedicated time to evaluate and action plan from weekly and cyclical data.

More Time. A strong academic foundation is first informed through the extended and prioritized use of time. The National Center on Time and Learning (2011) highlights the impact of extended, prioritized learning time focused on students' needs on all students, and particularly those with special needs.

More Literacy, More Math, More Supports. At the core of our academic program, we focus on reading, writing, and math and meeting the needs of all students. Academic Supports are based on student data and individual educational plans.

Project-Based Learning: At the core of our program is a hands-on, minds-on approach to learning that will develop students' critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, motivation, communication and cooperation. Instead of treating each subject in isolation, we recognize that in the real world, math, science, English Language Arts, history, technology and the arts all intersect. Cross-disciplinary teacher-created projects enable students to learn via active engagement and "doing."

NVA is a **Social Emotional Learning School.** Interwoven in all we do at NVA is an emphasis on students' self-advocacy and self-actualization through high standards for student behavior, applied learning, student choice and continuous support and feedback. We emphasize self-regulation and good decision making in the pursuit of ambitious goals, helping students understand that some of the greatest learning can come from reflection on "setbacks."

School Culture. With a positive and strong school culture based on our DREAM values (Determination, Respect, Excellence, Ambition, and Mastery), middle school scholars can seamlessly transition to high school with little risk of dropping out, and have college-bound goals informed by the skills and knowledge to get them there.

Need: While there has been recent academic gains within the district and strong programs and reforms enacted by MNPS and the state of Tennessee there still exists a need and opportunity to continue to push the students in the Northwest area of Nashville to achieve at the levels required for true college preparation. There is an urgent need for high quality public schools in Northwest Nashville that is tailor made to meet the needs of the whole child, particularly in the Pearl Cohn and Whites Creek clusters. The MNPS Academic Performance Framework for 2013 illustrates that the two MNPS operated middle schools (John Early & McKissack) in the Pearl Cohn cluster are both targeted. Two of the three MNPS operated middle schools (Haynes & Joelton) in the Whites Creek cluster are targeted and the third (IT Creswell) is under review.

Targeted Population of Students: New Vision Academy- Northwest student body will be reflective of the diverse landscape of Nashville. This diversity will include students from various socio-economic backgrounds, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and educational levels. New Vision Academy- Northwest priority will be to serve those students zoned for the struggling middle schools in the Whites Creek and



Pearl Cohn clusters. As an experienced public charter middle school, our goal is to continue to offer our current students and future enrollees, who are generally at-risk for academic failure and suffering from emotional and social challenges, with a quality, comprehensive, public school education.

Community Outreach Completed or Planned: New Vision, Incorporated the sponsoring organization for New Vision Academy- Northwest has an extensive history of collaborating and partnering with the Nashville community. New Vision will continue to work with existing partners as well as develop collaborative partnerships with organizations in the Whites Creek and Pearl Cohn clusters.

Individual or Organizational History of Success/Accomplishments in Education: In 2001, Timothy Malone founded New Vision, Inc. New Vision is a social service non-profit in Nashville, TN. New Vision (NVI) operates under the primary goal of reducing the number of children entering the state's custody. New Vision has served over 45 counties reaching over 800 children and families yearly. In 2010, Timothy Malone and New Vision Inc. began New Vision Academy, a public charter middle school (grades 5-8), to deliver a first-rate education to at-risk students who were attending failing public schools from southeast Nashville's low-income, heavily immigrant populated neighborhoods. Under the leadership of Timothy, New Vision Academy has been recognized as a **Reward School** by the state of Tennessee. The only charter school in **Nashville to receive this honor in 2012**. New Vision Academy was once again a **Reward school in 2014**. We will continue to implement best practices in the services provided by New Vision, Inc. and New Vision Academy. In January of 2015, New Vision Academy gained accreditation by AdvancEd. This accreditation process aligns accreditation with accountability, emphasizing learner outcomes when evaluating institutional quality. AdvancEd is the largest community of education professionals in the world.