

**Sarasota County Schools
2017- 2018 Charter School Application Process
Summary of Final Evaluation – May 8, 2018**

Pinecrest Academy Gulf Coast Charter School Application

On February 1, 2018 the district received the application for the Pinecrest Academy Gulf Coast K–8 charter school. The application was submitted by the Pinecrest Academy, Inc. governing board as a “Replication of an Existing School Model” application. The Pinecrest Academy, Inc. governing board currently oversees 11 Pinecrest Academy schools in Florida.

- The Pinecrest Academy Gulf Coast charter school will open in 2019-2020 with an enrollment of 424 students in K-6 and grow to 800 K-8 students by its fifth year of operation. The proposed school may be located in the Palmer Ranch area.
- The application proposes to replicate the K-8 school model and identifies two “A” rated K-8 schools, the Pinecrest Cove Academy and the Pinecrest Academy – North Campus, both located in Miami-Dade County, FL.
- The Pinecrest Academy school model provides a standards-based, research-based curriculum and instruction program incorporating a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) theme. Students learn in a safe and nurturing environment in which all students are able to master state and national standards.
- The Pinecrest Academy governing board contracts with Academica, an Educational Service Provider (ESP), to provide comprehensive education services and business management services for the Pinecrest Academy network of schools.

This document presents a brief summary of key findings and excerpts from the comprehensive final evaluation report entitled, *Charter Review Committee Final Evaluation and Ratings – May 8, 2018*, which is a separate report and not included with this document. Overall final ratings are presented in Table 1 below. The chart of ratings for each of the standards is provided on page 4.

Table 1. Final Ratings Summary for Pinecrest Academy Gulf Coast Application

I. Educational Plan Standards 1 – 9	II. Organizational Plan Standards 10 – 15	III. Business Plan Standards 16 – 22	Addenda Addendum A: Replication Addendum B: ESP	Preliminary Ratings Total
89% Meets 11% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	67% Meets 17% Partially Meets 17% Does Not Meet	86% Meets 0% Partially Meets 14% Does Not Meet	0% Meets 100% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	75% Meets 17% Partially Meets 8% Does Not Meet

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

Pinecrest Academy Gulf Coast Charter Application

Please note that the information presented here does not cover all 22 standards of the application; rather, the focus of this summary is on those standards that most directly pertain to teaching and learning, services for special populations, and the school's financial viability. In addition, because the application is a proposal to replicate an existing Pinecrest Academy school model and the school will contract with an ESP, Academica, these additional standards will be addressed.

Educational Plan

With one exception, the standards in the educational plan are met. The standard partially met is:

Student Performance Goals: The applicant does not provide sufficient evidence that the school will hold high expectations for the student academic performance of all students. The measurable goals for student academic growth and improvements are not clearly stated in all cases. The English/Language Arts and mathematics FSA achievement goals in the application appear to be significantly lower than the achievement of the K-8 school models to be replicated, lower than Ashton Elementary and Sarasota Middle, two schools currently serving the proposed Palmer Ranch area, and lower than the average achievement levels for all schools within the 5-mile radius of the proposed school location.

Organizational Plan

The application meets or partially meets the majority of the standards in this section. The standard not met is:

Parent and Community Involvement: The applicant group provides no evidence of demand for the school or support from intended community partners or families. The applicant submits the demographic and site-planning maps and Building Hope data used for enrollment projections as evidence of demand for the proposed school. During the capacity interview, it was evident that the applicant team was not familiar with the Sarasota schools in the area, the educational programs offered, the community or the student population.

The Pinecrest Academy Gulf Coast governing board members will not be Sarasota County or local community residents, which is permissible under state statute. The CRC strongly believes that it is in the best interest of the parents/students served that governance and oversight of the proposed "Community School" be under the direction of local board members who understand the needs of its stakeholders and meet in the community.

School Replication Application: Replication of Pinecrest Academy School Model

Pursuant to s. 1002.331, F.S., the applicant, the Pinecrest Academy, Inc. governing board must provide evidence that the proposed school meets the statutory requirements of being a substantially similar replication of the school.

The application partially meets this standard for several reasons, including:

- The school model to be replicated has not consistently demonstrated academic success for all students. Not all Pinecrest Academy schools are A-rated schools. The schools in Orange County – the K-8 Pinecrest Prep Charter, is a C school and the Pinecrest Creek school received Fs in its first two years, then C and finally received a B-rating in 2017.
- The demographics of the target population in Sarasota, whether based on district-wide data or for the Palmer Ranch area, are considerably different from those of the replication schools in terms of the percent of Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners (ELL) and race/ethnic composition. The applicant does not provide a convincing rationale for how the school or model to be replicated will successfully serve the proposed target student population in Sarasota.
- The applicant states that the school will follow the district Student Progression Plan, the district's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plan, the district's reading plan, and the district's assessment program with little explanation as to how the Pinecrest model will align with district programs and plans without compromising the fidelity of the school model. Therefore, it is likely that the proposed school will be substantially different from the K-8 model schools to be replicated, such as the Miami-Dade schools.
- The applicant does provide ample evidence that the Pinecrest Academy governing board and Academica will be deeply involved in the establishment and operation of the Sarasota school as they are with all the Pinecrest Academy schools, including those being replicated.

Education Service Provider (ESP): Academica Management, LLC.

The application partially meets this standard for several reasons, including:

- Academica provides educational program services, curriculum development, intervention programs, and professional development for over 120 schools in Florida. Granted, the majority of schools are achieving at high levels, however, it is of concern that five Florida schools are rated D/F and 20 received a grade of C.
- The independent financial audit resulted in findings for the Pinecrest Academy (North Campus) school, the school to be replicated. Twenty-one (21) other Academica-managed charter schools in Florida had audit findings in 2017.

**Sarasota County Public Schools
2017-2018 Charter School Application Process
Charter Review Committee (CRC) Ratings**

Applicant: Pinecrest Academy Gulf Coast

Charter School Application Section	Preliminary CRC Rating	Final CRC Rating
I. Educational Plan	44% Meets 56% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	89% Meets 11% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet
1. Mission, Guiding Principles and Purpose	Meets	Meets
2. Target Population and Student Body	Partially Meets	Meets
3. Educational Program Design	Partially Meets	Meets
4. Curriculum Plan	Partially Meets	Meets
5. Student Performance, Assessment and Evaluation	Partially Meets	Partially Meets
6. Exceptional Students	Meets	Meets
7. English Language Learners	Partially Meets	Meets
8. School Culture and Discipline	Meets	Meets
9. Supplemental Programming	Meets	Meets
II. Organizational Plan	67% Meets 33% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	67% Meets 17% Partially Meets 17% Does Not Meet
10. Governance	Meets	Meets
11. Management and Staffing	Meets	Meets
12. Human Resources and Employment	Meets	Meets
13. Professional Development	Meets	Meets
14. Student Recruitment and Enrollment	Partially Meets	Partially Meets
15. Parent and Community Involvement	Partially Meets	Does Not Meet
III. Business Plan	43% Meets 57% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	86% Meets 0% Partially Meets 14% Does Not Meet
16. Facilities	Partially Meets	Meets
17. Transportation	Partially Meets	Does Not Meet
18. Food Service	Partially Meets	Meets
19. School Safety and Security	Meets	Meets
20. Budget	Partially Meets	Meets
21. Financial Management and Oversight	Meets	Meets
22. Start-Up Plan	Meets	Meets
Addendum		
Addendum A: Replication	Partially Meets	Partially Meets
Addendum B: Education Service Providers	Partially Meets	Partially Meets
Ratings Summary – All Standards (1-22) and Addenda	46% Meets 54% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	75% Meets 17% Partially Meets 8% Does Not Meet

Due to rounding percentages may not add to 100%

Note: Preliminary ratings are based on CRC's review of the February 1, 2018 charter application. Final ratings are based on the evaluation of the initial application together with the applicant's written response (submitted April 18, 2018) to the *CRC Analysis and Initial Findings* report and the April 24, 2018 Clarification/Capacity Interview.