

**Sarasota County Schools
2017- 2018 Charter School Application Process
Preliminary Review Summary – September 28, 2017**

Sarasota STEM Academy Charter School Application

On August 1, 2017 the district received the application for Sarasota STEM Academy to open a K-8 charter school in Sarasota County. The charter school will be organized under the International School of Excellence, Florida d/b/a Sarasota STEM Academy.

- The school will be a Science Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) school with a focus on marine science.
- The proposed school plans to open in 2018 - 2019 with an enrollment of 714 VPK - 6 students in year one, adding grades 7 and 8 in subsequent years to reach a projected enrollment of 890 students by year 5.
- The school will be located 930 N. Beneva Road in Sarasota, County.
- The applicant proposes to use an Educational Service Provider (ESP), Alliance Educational Services, Inc., to provide comprehensive education services, HR services and business management services to the school.

The Sarasota County Charter Review Committee (CRC) is composed of a diverse group of district and school-based administrators, charter school leaders and community members with expertise in the areas of education, student services, operations, business and finance. The CRC's initial evaluation findings are based on the extent to which the charter school application addressed the evaluation criteria required to meet each of the standards, as specified in the state *Florida Charter School Application Evaluation Instrument*.

A summary of the CRC's initial ratings by program area is provided below. On page 3 of this document the *Initial Ratings* chart provides separate ratings for each of the 22 standards as well as for the ESP standard.

Preliminary Ratings Summary for Sarasota STEM Academy

I. Educational Plan Standards 1 – 9	II. Organizational Plan Standards 10 – 15	III. Business Plan Standards 16 – 22
11% Meets 56% Partially Meets 33% Does Not Meet	33% Meets 67% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	43% Meets 28.5% Partially Meets 28.5% Does Not Meet

Addendum B: Education Service Providers
100% Does Not Meet

Preliminary Total
26% Meets 48% Partially Meets 26% Does Not Meet

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

A separate and comprehensive report, the *CRC Analysis of Application and Initial Findings, September 28, 2017*, reflects the CRC's preliminary findings and ratings following the state's evaluation tool format. The results are divided into three categories: 1) Strengths, 2) Deficiencies/Concerns/Weaknesses, and 3) Areas in Need of Additional Information and/or Clarification. The CRC is offering the applicant an opportunity to address the "Areas in Need of Additional Information and Clarification" and respond in writing by October 4, 2017. However, this clarification process may not be used to submit any new information which has not been requested or make substantive changes to the submitted application.

During the October 3, 2017 School Board Work Session the school's governing board will meet with the School Board of Sarasota County to discuss the application and the CRC's preliminary review findings. The applicant will also have the opportunity to participate in the CRC Capacity Interview on October 10, 2017 to answer additional questions and to corroborate the information in the application in order to confirm that the school's founding/governing board members have knowledge of the application and have the capacity to establish a charter school in Sarasota County.

Considering all information presented in the original application, in the written responses to the CRC's questions, the School Board Work Session, due diligence findings and the oral responses provided by the applicant during the Capacity Interview, the CRC will complete the evaluation and assign the final ratings for each standard through unanimous consensus. The School Board will take action to approve or deny the application at the November 7, 2017 School Board meeting.

If the application is denied, the applicant has the right to appeal the Board's decision to the State Board of Education within 30 days of receipt of the district's official notice. If the Board approves the application, the district will begin the process of negotiating the contract, called the charter, for Board approval.

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

Charter Applicant: Sarasota STEM Academy

Charter School Application Section	Preliminary CRC Rating
I. Educational Plan	11% Meets 56% Partially Meets 33% Does Not Meet
1. Mission, Guiding Principles and Purpose	Partially Meets
2. Target Population and Student Body	Does Not Meet
3. Educational Program Design	Does Not Meet
4. Curriculum Plan	Does Not Meet
5. Student Performance, Assessment and Evaluation	Partially Meets
6. Exceptional Students	Partially Meets
7. English Language Learners	Partially Meets
8. School Culture and Discipline	Partially Meets
9. Supplemental Programming	Meets
II. Organizational Plan	33% Meets 67% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet
10. Governance	Meets
11. Management and Staffing	Partially Meets
12. Human Resources and Employment	Partially Meets
13. Professional Development	Meets
14. Student Recruitment and Enrollment	Partially Meets
15. Parent and Community Involvement	Partially Meets
III. Business Plan	43% Meets 28.5% Partially Meets 28.5% Does Not Meet
16. Facilities	Partially Meets
17. Transportation	Does Not Meet
18. Food Service	Meets
19. School Safety and Security	Meets
20. Budget	Does Not Meet
21. Financial Management and Oversight	Meets
22. Start-Up Plan	Partially Meets
Addendum	0% Meets 0% Partially Meets 100% Does Not Meet
Addendum B: Education Service Providers	Does Not Meet
Initial Ratings Summary – All Standards (1-22) and ESP Standard	26% Meets 48% Partially Meets 26% Does Not Meet

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

Note: These are not considered the final ratings. Preliminary ratings are based solely on CRC's review of the written charter application submitted on August 1, 2017. The "CRC Analysis and Initial Findings – Sarasota STEM Academy Charter Application" report dated September 28, 2017 provides the CRC's analysis and findings.