

Sarasota County Schools
2016 – 2017 Charter School Application Process
Preliminary Review Summary – September 15, 2016

Athenian Academy Application for a High-Performing Charter Replication

On July 28, 2016 the district received the application from Athenian Academy, Inc. to replicate a high-performing charter school pursuant to s. 1002.331, F.S. The applicant must provide evidence that the proposed school meets the statutory requirements of being a substantially similar replication of the high-performing school and evidence that the organization or individuals involved in the establishment and operation of the proposed school are significantly involved in the operation of the high-performing school that is being replicated.

- The high-performing charter school to be replicated is the Athenian Academy Pinellas school located in Clearwater, Florida.
- The Athenian Academy school model has a multi-lingual approach focused on Greek and Spanish language, culture and customs as well as an emphasis on creating global citizens who are self-disciplined and intrinsically motivated towards high academic achievement.
- The proposed school plans to open in 2017-18 with an enrollment of 254 K-8 students in year one and up to 640 students by year 5.
- The school will be located in the area of S. Beneva and Fruitville Road. (to be confirmed).
- The applicant proposes to use a third-party Educational Service Provider (ESP), Theopisti, LLC, to provide comprehensive education services and business management services to the school via a management contract with the school's governing board.

The district Charter Review Committee (CRC) followed the evaluation criteria specified in the new 2016 *Florida Charter School Application Evaluation Instrument* and based their determination on the applicant's proposed educational, organization, and business plans as described throughout the state-required *Model Florida Charter School Application* and in reference to the existing Athenian Academy Pinellas school as the school to be replicated.

A summary of the CRC's initial ratings by program area is provided on page 2 of this document. On page 3, the *Initial Ratings* chart provides separate ratings for each of the 22 standards as well as for the High-Performing Replication standards and ESP standards.

A separate and comprehensive report, the *CRC Analysis of Application and Initial Findings, September 15, 2016*, reflect the CRC's preliminary findings and ratings following state's evaluation tool format. The results are divided into three categories: 1) Strengths, 2) Significant Deficiencies and or 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 by September 21, 2016. 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 September 20th School Board Work Session the school's governing board will meet with the School Board to discuss the application and the preliminary review findings. The applicant will also have the opportunity to participate in the CRC Capacity Interview on September 29, 2016 to discuss any unresolved issues and to corroborate the information in the application. Subsequently, the CRC will complete the evaluation and determine final evaluation ratings. The School Board will take action to approve or deny the application at the October 18, 2016 Board meeting.

High-Performing Replication Application

The application does not meet this standard for several reasons, including:

- The applicant does not present compelling evidence that it has the capacity to open and operate a successful school in Sarasota.
- The application lacks a comprehensive and detailed description of the school’s educational design (within the application) and does not support how the proposed Sarasota school will be substantially similar to the high-performing school in Pinellas which is being replicated.
- The operations and business plan for the proposed Sarasota school are considerably different from that of the Pinellas school to be replicated.

Education Service Provider (ESP)

The application does not meet this standard for several reasons, including:

- The applicant failed to provide a rationale for contracting with the ESP or how the ESP was selected.
- The current business manager for the Pinellas school (present/future president of Theopisti, LLC) will “expand into a full ESP” and serve as the ESP for the Sarasota school. The current Principal and Assistant Principal of the Pinellas school will presumably terminate their employment with the school to become employees of the newly created ESP.
- There is no evidence that the ESP has been or will be successful in operating a high-quality charter school in Sarasota.
- Given the extent of ESP services and the structure of the ESP organization, the “arm’s length” relationship between the governing board, the school, and the ESP is questionable.
- The terms, conditions, grounds and procedures by which the ESP agreement may be renewed and terminated, and a plan for continued operation of the school in the event of termination are not addressed.

Charter Review Committee Preliminary Ratings Summary for Athenian 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	17% Meets 67% Partially Meets 17% Does Not Meet	14% Meets 71% Partially Meets 14% Does Not Meet

Addendum A1: High-Performing Replication	Addendum B: Education Service Providers
100% Does Not Meet	100% Does Not Meet

Preliminary Total
13% Meets 58% Partially Meets 29% Does Not Meet

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

**Sarasota County Public Schools
2016-2017 Charter School Application Process
Charter Review Committee (CRC) Ratings**

Applicant: Athenian Academy Charter School of Sarasota

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	Partially Meets
4. Curriculum Plan	Partially Meets
5. Student Performance, Assessment and Evaluation	Does Not Meet
6. Exceptional Students	Does Not Meet
7. English Language Learners	Partially Meets
8. School Culture and Discipline	Partially Meets
9. Supplemental Programming	Meets
II. Organizational Plan	17% Meets 67% Partially Meets 17% Does Not Meet
10. Governance	Partially Meets
11. Management and Staffing	Partially Meets
12. Human Resources and Employment	Partially Meets
13. Professional Development	Meets
14. Student Recruitment and Enrollment	Does Not Meet
15. Parent and Community Involvement	Partially Meets
III. Business Plan	14% Meets 71% Partially Meets 14% Does Not Meet
16. Facilities	Partially Meets
17. Transportation	Partially Meets
18. Food Service	Partially Meets
19. School Safety and Security	Does Not Meet
20. Budget	Partially Meets
21. Financial Management and Oversight	Meets
22. Start-Up Plan	Partially Meets
Addenda	0% Meets 0% Partially Meets 100% Does Not Meet
Addendum A1: High-Performing Replication	Does Not Meet
Addendum B: Education Service Providers	Does Not Meet
Initial Ratings Summary – All Standards (1-22) and Replication/ESP Standards	13% Meets 58% Partially Meets 29% 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 July 28, 2016. The "CRC Analysis and Initial Findings – Athenian Academy Charter Application" report dated September 15, 2016 provides the CRC's analysis and findings.