

STARTING A CHARTER SCHOOL IN ELMORE COUNTY

Are you interested in starting a Charter School in Elmore County? If so, the following is a step-by-step guide of what to do.

Step One: The process for starting a charter school begins with understanding the two types of charter schools that can be created in Alabama: conversion charter schools and start-up charter schools.

A **conversion charter school** is one in which a traditional school system identifies one of its existing schools to be converted into a charter school that will operate with an independent school board but will remain a school within the system.

A **start-up charter school** is a new public school established by a nonprofit organization to operate independently from any other school system. Start-up charter schools can have one of two possible authorizers: a local school system authorizer or the APCSC serving as an authorizer. If an applicant chooses to locate the school in the geographic location of a local authorizer, the applicant must apply to that school system. **Elmore County Public Schools is a local authorizer and is currently taking applications for start-up charter schools from now until November 30th.**

Step Two: Obtain federal 501(c)3 nonprofit status for your organization and identify a geographic location and engage the community in the process.

Step Three: Find a facility. Although this step is not required for the application, it is strongly recommended.

Step Four: Understand funding for charter schools: local, state, federal, and philanthropic.

Step Five: Respond to the request for a proposal (RFP) from Elmore County Public Schools by setting up an account and completing the application located online at <http://charter.tools/>

The application portal is open until 11:59 p.m. on November 30th. Decisions are made within sixty days of the submission date.