

HCSD Charter Application Review Committee 2026 Overview

On February 2, 2026, an application for You Thrive Elementary Academy for Creative Excellence was submitted. A committee of twenty (20) district staff convened to review and evaluate the application. The members of the committee are as follows:

Committee Chair (non-voting member): Dawn Williams, Supervisor of School Choice

Executive Director of Student Support Programs (Non-Voting Member: Lisa Cropley

Members:

Alexis Brown, Director of Human Resources, Dr. Paula Clark, Supervisor of Professional Learning, Lisa Cropley, Executive Director of Student Support Programs, Matt Goldrick, Director of Professional Standards & Labor Relations, Bill Hall, Fire Official/Plans Examiner, Julie Hansen, Accountant, Tiffany Howard, Director of Elementary Curriculum, Dr. Mike Lastra, School Principal, Anna Jensen, Director of Exceptional Student Education, Kill Kolasa, Director of Student Services, Ralph Leath, Director of Transportation, James Lipsey, School Planner, Holly Longo, Director of Food & Nutrition, Dionne Makinson, Coordinator of Finance, Jennifer Merschbach, Director of Research & Accountability, Dr. John Morris, Director of Secondary Curriculum, Angel Pagan, Director of Safe Schools, Magen Schlechter, Director of Federal Programs, and Dawn Williams, Supervisor of School Choice

A comprehensive review and preliminary ratings in each of categories took place on February 19, 2026, along with the development of Capacity Interview questions for which clarification would be asked. On March 2, 2026, the Capacity Interview with the applicants took place, and in the week that followed, the committee finalized their assigned sections. Each section was reviewed using the evaluation criteria required by F.S. 1002.33. Of the twenty-two (22) sections, nineteen (19) can be rated as “Meets the Standard,” “Partially Meets the Standard,” or “Does Not Meet the Standard.” There is no set number of sections that must be rated “Meets the Standard” to qualify for recommendation for approval, nor is there a set number of “Does Not Meet the Standard” to qualify for recommendation for denial.

In this application, nineteen (19) sections were rated as “Meets the Standard,” none (0) as “Partially Meets the Standard,” and none (0) as “Does Not Meet the Standard.” Upon completion of the evaluation, the voting members were polled using a survey whether or not to offer a recommendation for approval or denial to the school board. By a vote of

16-1, the committee offers a recommendation for approval to the School Board. It is **not** a requirement that the Board uphold the recommendation of the committee.