Maine Charter School Commission
***New Charter School Application Timeline***

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| **Date** | **Activity** |
| *January 15, 2024* | DRAFT Release: New Charter School RFP  |
| *First Tuesday of each month* *March 2024 - August 2024*  | Information Sessions. Orientations designed to support prospective charter school applicants. The purpose of the orientations is to deepen understanding of:1. The Commission’s expectations as articulated in the New Charter School Application;2. How to access Epicenter, the online submission portal;3. How applications will be evaluated;4. The purpose and format of Public Forums; and5. Changes that have occurred to the RFP since last cycle. |
| *July 1, 2024* | Official New Charter School RFP Release |
| *July 15, 2024, by 5:00 pm EST* | Letter of Intent to Apply due via Epicenter, the online submission portal |
| *July 16, 2024* | Online submission portal, Epicenter, opens to entities that submitted the Intent to Apply by the deadline. Proposals will only be accepted via Epicenter |
| *February 13, 2025, by 5:00 pm EDT* | Application deadline |
| *February 20, 2025* | Review application for completeness |
| *February 25, 2025, by 5:00 pm EDT* | Deadline for eligible Applicants to submit Corrections to Proposals |
| *April 8, 2025* | Commission Meeting. Commission will receive review team recommendation as to whether the applicant has thus far demonstrated the capacity to open a successful school and should continue to the next Capacity Interview. This will be followed by a discussion and vote of the Commission. |
| *April 9-21, 2025* | Capacity Interviews. Interviews will ONLY be held on these days; applicants are requested to keep the dates entirely open in their calendars. Applicants will be notified of their assigned interview date and time as soon as possible. Due to significant logistical challenges, it is unlikely that any changes to assigned interview times will be possible. |
| *April 21 – May 7, 2025* | Public Hearings and Commission Interviews. These will ONLY be held on these days; applicants are requested to keep the dates entirely open in their calendars. Applicants will be notified of their assigned hearing date and time as soon as possible. Due to significant logistical challenges, it is unlikely that any changes to assigned interview times will be possible. |
| *May 13, 2025* | Application Approval Vote at Commission Meeting. Commission will approve or deny charter school applications. Applicants are invited to attend the Commission Meeting where they will be allowed to provide a short presentation regarding their application. |
| *June 2026* | Deadline for final contracts to be signed. (60 days prior to school opening) |
| *Fall 2026* | School opening |