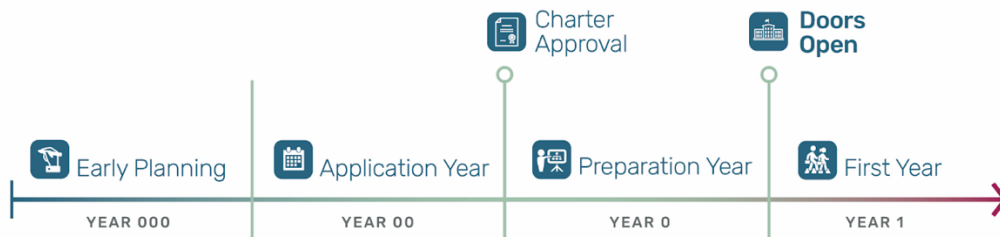


# Charter School Timeline

The timeline for a charter school to go from idea to doors open is typically a 2 to 3-year process. Depending on the applicant's experience and the challenges and opportunities involved, the timeline may be shorter or longer.



## Early Planning

In the early planning phase, founders must identify and spend time in the community they want to serve, study applicable laws and requirements, begin building a founding team, and more. The **exploration** and **initial design** involved in early planning takes approximately 6-12 months, depending on previous start-up experience, community ties, demand, partnerships, and resources.

## Application

In Mississippi, the application cycle includes submitting a letter of intent, submitting the full application, and progressing through three stages of review to a final capacity interview. At any stage, applicants may be deemed ineligible or unqualified to move forward. Leading up to the formal application cycle, **major design** elements – academic, financial, and operational plans – must be thoroughly addressed before **drafting the application**, reviewing in great detail, and submitting the complete proposal. In all, putting together the school design and writing the application takes approximately 12-18 months.

## Preparation

Once approved, charter schools must wait to open until the following school year, so in the ensuing 10-11 months, they must prepare to open their doors. During this year, operators will hire staff, secure a facility, purchase equipment and materials, finalize transportation, recruit students and families, and more to be prepared to serve students.