THOMAS B. FORDHAM FOUNDATION · CHARTER SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

Tier 1 Renewal Rubric

Fast-Track · Five-Year Renewal · Internal Reviewer Tool

RENEWAL CYCLE
Fall 2026

ISSUED BY
Office of Sponsorship
The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation

How to use this rubric

The rubric assesses how well the school has used the application to set forward-looking goals, disclose material changes, and — where applicable — account for any single indicator that ran counter to the broader pattern of performance.

Scoring scale

4 · Strong — Response is specific, candid, and actionable. Meets every standard the application asks the school to address.

3 · Adequate — Response addresses the application's standards but is uneven in places. Defensible as the basis for a renewal recommendation.

2 · Approaching — Response is partial. Notable gaps in specificity, candor, or evidence; conditions or follow-up warranted.

1 · Insufficient — Response is missing, evasive, or non-responsive. The application standard has not been met.

N/A — The indicator does not apply to this school's model or circumstances. Document the reason.

RUBRIC

Scoring the Tier 1 Application

INDICATOR	4 · STRONG	3 · ADEQUATE	2 · APPROACHING	1 · INSUFFICIENT
1 · Forward-Looking Goals *Application Section 3. Quality and ambition of the academic and organizational goals proposed for the next renewal term.*	Goals are specific, measurable, ambitious but achievable, and clearly named against measure and target. Subgroup focus where the data warrant.	Goals are specific, measurable, and modestly ambitious. Targets extend beyond current performance; subgroup focus where appropriate.	Goals are present but mostly directional; some lack measurable targets or are calibrated to current performance.	Goals are absent, restate current performance, or are too vague to evaluate or hold the school to.
2 · Mission, Model, and Material Changes *Application Sections 2 and 4. Candor and completeness of mission/model confirmation and the disclosure of leadership, governance, facility, enrollment, or other changes since last renewal or on the horizon.*	Confirmation is precise. Every material change is disclosed with date, nature, and board action. Forward risks are named candidly and specifically.	Mission and model confirmation is clean; material changes are disclosed with dates and board action where applicable. Forward risks are named.	Confirmation is largely complete; some material changes are surfaced only generally or are missing board action dates.	Material changes are unstated, contradicted by Fordham's records, or claims of continuity are not credible.
3 · Targeted Gap Analysis (conditional) *Application Section 5. Quality of the diagnostic, the response actions, and the indicator-specific target. Score only when the school had one or more indicators flagged Falls Far Below; otherwise score N/A.*	Diagnostic is candid and precise; actions are specific enough to be observed during a site visit; the indicator-specific target is ambitious and named with a year.	Diagnostic names a knowable driver; actions are specific and observable; an indicator-specific target with a year is committed to.	Diagnostic identifies a driver but lacks specificity; actions are general; target is directional rather than measurable.	Diagnostic is defensive or absent; actions are vague; no indicator-specific target the school is willing to be held to.

FINDINGS

Score Capture and Notes

Record the score for each indicator. Note specific evidence cited and any gaps or concerns.

1 · Forward-Looking Goals — Score (1–4)	
Evidence cited / gaps	
2 · Mission, Model, and Material Changes — Score (1–4)	
Evidence cited / gaps	
3 · Targeted Gap Analysis — Score (1–4 or N/A)	
Evidence cited / gaps	

DETERMINATION

Recommendation Logic

SCORE PATTERN	RECOMMENDATION	RENEWAL TERM
All scored indicators ≥ 3. No N/A required and any Targeted Gap Analysis (if scored) ≥ 3.	**Renew**	5 years, no conditions
All scored indicators ≥ 2, with at most one score of 2. Targeted Gap Analysis (if scored) ≥ 2.	**Renew with conditions**	5 years, conditions tied to the indicator scored 2
Any scored indicator of 1, OR Targeted Gap Analysis scored 1, OR September data raises a material concern not anticipated at tier notification.	**Renew with intensive monitoring**	3 years;

RATIONALE

Reviewer Recommendation

Recommended determination	
Rationale	
Conditions or monitoring requirements	
September data update	