2025 Charter Applications - Generation 30

Fort Worth STEAM Academy - Fort Worth

Link to application and capacity interview

Final Vote: approved 10-4

General Information

- Fort Worth STEAM Academy is a STEM-oriented charter for grades 6-8 that will locate in Central East Fort Worth with a maximum enrollment of 450 students.
- This is Fort Worth STEAM Academy's first application.
- Fort Worth STEAM Academy seeks to serve a similar student population to Fort Worth ISD, though notably will serve larger populations of African-American, economically disadvantaged, at-risk, and English learners than Fort Worth ISD due to location in Central East Fort Worth.
- Fort Worth STEAM Academy states that the need for the charter is low-performing public and chartered middle schools in the area.
- Fort Worth STEAM Academy will require two years of computer science and one year of engineering coursework prior to graduation.

Concerns

- Concerns were raised during the SBOE meeting about the proposed superintendent's fellowship with BES, a national charter organization. 9 of the 11 BES charter schools that have been approved by the SBOE since 2016 were D- or F-rated in 2023 (one had not yet opened). Two closed just this year, including the Fort Worth Academy for Visual and Performing Arts which had just opened in 2023.
- Members also raised concerns about Fort Worth STEAM's failure to provide transportation to students.

- Questions remain about Fort Worth STEAM's ability to support students in high-level coursework throughout their middle school career.