



**Charter School
Agency**

Applications for Sponsors of Charter Schools | Kura Hourua

Information about the processes, timelines and decisions

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1. Application process

- Applications went live GETS on 11 July 2024 for stage one.
- Negotiations have begun for seven sponsors approved for contracting to open schools in February 2025.
- A smaller number of sponsors have been approved for contracting to open schools by February 2026 (negotiations to begin in 2025).
- Approved sponsors were selected via a two-stage application process between July-November:
 - **Stage one** was open to all and established the suitability of potential sponsors and the viability of the proposed school.
 - **Stage two** was open to invited sponsors from stage one and laid out their plans to establish and operate a school, in part considering the condensed establishment timeline.
- With limited funding and many applications received, there was a high threshold for a potential sponsor to be approved for contracting.

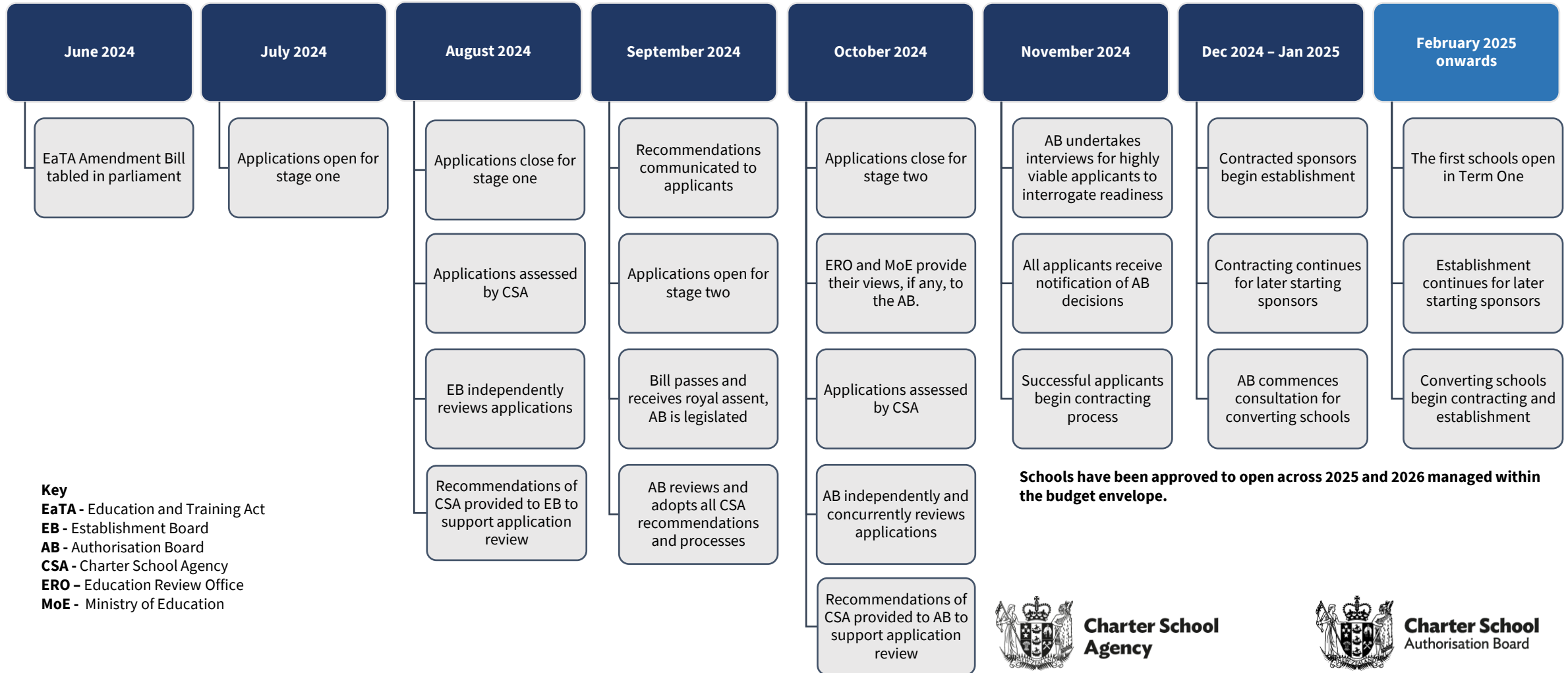


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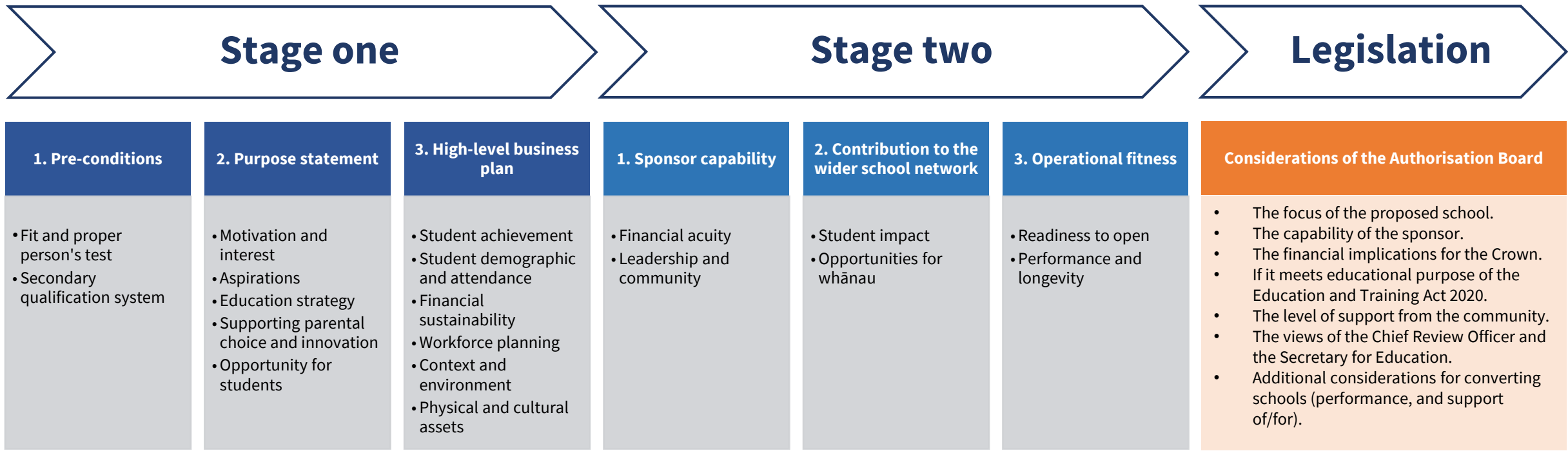
2. Timeline



Key
EaTA - Education and Training Act
EB - Establishment Board
AB - Authorisation Board
CSA - Charter School Agency
ERO - Education Review Office
MoE - Ministry of Education



3. Assessment criteria



4. Assessment ratings

Selection of applicants to progress to stage two considered:

- Demonstration of being a fit and proper organisation/person as outlined in the Education and Training Amendment Act.
- Use of a nationally or internationally recognised secondary qualification system.
- Individual weighted assessment rating.

(1) Not Viable

• If you receive a “1” in any criteria, the CSA will consider if your application should be removed from the process.

(4) Potentially Viable

• If you receive a “4” in any criteria, the CSA will consider your application, but you are not guaranteed progression to stage two.

(7) Viable

• If you receive a “7” in all your criteria, your application will automatically progress to stage two.

Following stage two, the Authorisation Board considered the recommended ratings of the assessment panel against the criteria:

Not Viable

• If you receive a “Not viable” in any criteria, your application may be recommended to the Authorisation Board to be Declined.

Viable

• If you receive a “Viable” in all criteria, your application will be recommended to the Authorisation Board to be Approved.

In using the ratings and exercising their judgement, the Authorisation Board considered the responses in relation to the considerations referenced in the Act and that financial obligations to the Crown could be met.



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5. Role of the Charter School Agency



Contract sponsors

- Manage application process to contract outcomes
- Fund schools on behalf of the Crown within budgets



Monitor and report on outcomes

- Contractual and legislative obligations
- Performance plan



Provide advice

- To the Authorisation Board
- To Ministers
- Work with statutory bodies



Secretariat for the Authorisation Board

- Recommendations
- Operational support



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6. Role of the Authorisation Board



Decide on applications

- Consider applications
- Approve schools to negotiate contracts
- Apply conditions to their approval



Oversee performance of charter schools

- Receive monitoring and reporting
- Determine if sponsors are meeting their contract terms



Provide advice to the Minister

- Operation of the charter school model
- Advice or oversight as requested by the Minister



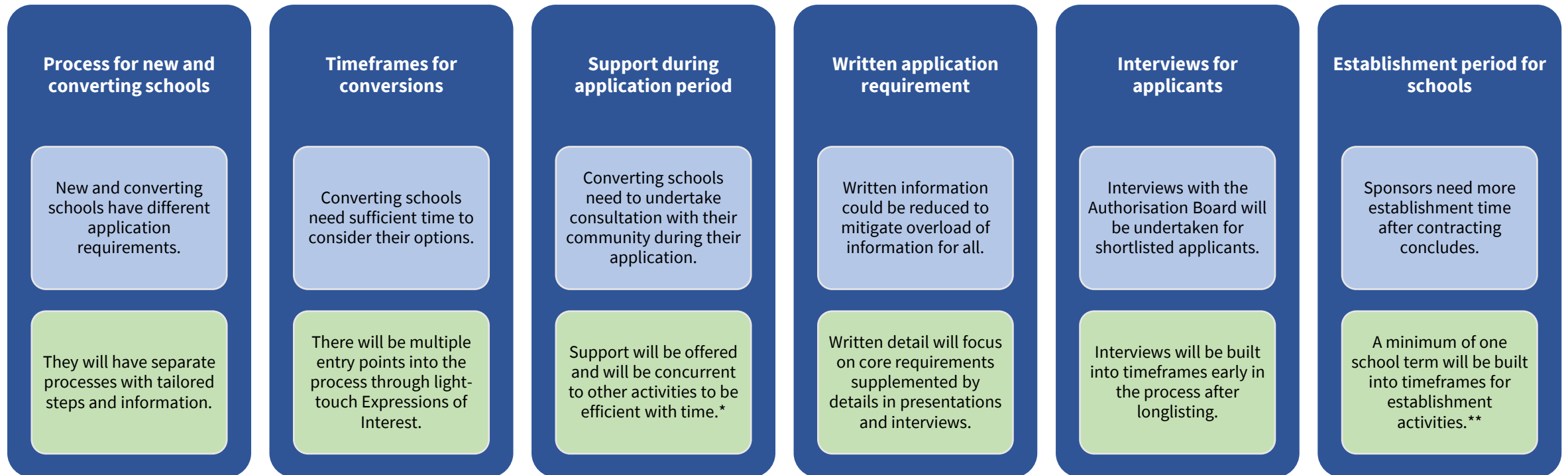
Decide on interventions

- Whether to apply interventions
- Determine level of interventions



7. Lessons to learn from

The Charter School Agency has completed an initial high-level review of the 2024 application process, and has identified the following key lessons to inform planning for further rounds:



*Such as Board consultation obligations, gathering views of Secretary for Education and the Chief Review Officer, application process activities

**Such as employment and property matters, organising supply contracts

