

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Summary of Findings and Recommendation Commission Charter Application for Expedited Review

School: Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett (IPAG) located in Norcross, Georgia

Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett opened as a state-chartered special school in 2008, received a charter from the former Charter Commission in 2009, and transitioned back to a state-chartered special school in 2011.

The mission of Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett is “to develop middle and high school young women into scholars thoroughly equipped, within a structured and supportive environment, to enter and succeed in the colleges and universities of their choosing.”

Attendance Zone: Gwinnett County

Grade Levels Served: Grade 6 – Grade 12

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Charter Schools Commission approve a charter for Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett for a five year term to run from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018.

Summary of Findings: Academics (Educational Plan)

IPAG is a single-gender school serving female students in grades 6-12. During its four years of operation, IPAG has demonstrated strong student academic achievement despite the unpredictable revenue stream received under each successive charter. IPAG has established rigorous performance-based goals including such assessments such as EOCT, CRCT, SAT, Georgia Writing Assessment, NWEA’s MAP, as well as college acceptance rates and graduation rates. Ivy Prep has also established organizational goals in the areas of financial responsibility, student retention rates, and waiting list numbers.

Capacity (Organizational Plan)

IPAG has maintained consistent enrollment since it opened in 2008. During the school’s most recent charter term (a two-year term granted by SBOE to allow the school time to implement a new strategic plan enabling a transition to self-management), the school renegotiated their facilities lease to reduce costs, hired a full-time Network Controller (who meets the criteria in the rule for CFO and serves in that capacity) employed directly by the school, submitted an acceptable Deficit Reduction Plan showing the structural changes necessary to balance their budget using the new revenue stream provided by HB 797, and established a board finance committee that oversees monthly cash flow projections, balance sheets, income-expense statements, and budget-to-actual revenue and expenditure reports.

Significant Changes from Previous Charter

All academic goals have been updated to reflect the state-wide change in federal accountability. New goals are aligned with the state performance targets and the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI).

Additional Assurances:

CCAT completed GaDOE’s full petition review process (requesting renewal) within the last year, and was recommended for renewal by GaDOE staff in 2012.