

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia
Summary of Findings and Recommendation
Commission Charter Application for Expedited Review

School:	Ivy Preparatory Academy at Kirkwood (IPAK) in Atlanta, Georgia Ivy Preparatory Academy at Kirkwood opened as a State Chartered Special School in 2011. The mission of Ivy Preparatory Academy at Kirkwood is to “develop elementary, middle, and high school girls into scholars thoroughly equipped, within a structured and supportive environment, to enter and succeed in the colleges and universities of their choosing.”
Attendance Zone:	Dekalb County
Grade Levels Served:	Kindergarten—Grade 12
Recommendation:	It is recommended that the State Charter School Commission approve a charter for the Ivy Preparatory Academy at Kirkwood for a five-year term to run from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018.

Summary of Findings: Academics (Educational Plan)

IPAK is a single-gender school that provides a rigorous, standards-based, college preparatory curriculum for young ladies. The school offers an extended educational program, including an extended day, week, and year. IPAK proposes to serve approximately 800 students in K-12 by the fifth year of the charter term. IPAK has established rigorous performance-based goals and measurable objectives designed to improve student achievement that directly relate to increased performance on the CRCTs, the ITBS and the EOCTs. These academic goals and objectives include achieving standards that exceed those of the district and state. IPAK also has established goals related to daily attendance, parent satisfaction and fiscal feasibility.

In 2011-2012, IPAK outperformed Dekalb County in all Grades and CRCT content areas except for Grade 5. Despite low performance on 5th grade CRCT, the school has yet to complete a second full year in operation. Its sister school in Gwinnett County had a similar experience when it first began, but improved during subsequent years.

Capacity (Organizational Plan)

The governing board of the proposed school is comprised of the same individuals responsible for the operation of the existing Ivy Preparatory Academy charter school. These highly experienced professionals, possess the expertise in the areas of curriculum, assessment, finance, law, school management and governance to be able to replicate the existing design. The Ivy Prep Board has financial and human resources available to replicate a high quality model, the ownership of the existing school design, and most importantly has a proven track record of success in implementation and design.

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:

IPAK currently holds a charter in good standing as determined by the State Board of Education.

IPAK completed GaDOE's full petition review process (requesting renewal) within the last year in anticipation of shifting authorizers in Spring 2013, and the school received a recommendation for renewal by GaDOE staff based on progress and performance.