

# State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

## Summary of Findings and Recommendation Commission Charter Application for Expedited Review

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<b>School:</b>	Atlanta Heights Charter School located in Atlanta, Georgia  Atlanta Heights Charter School opened as a Commission charter school in 2010 and transitioned to a State Chartered Special School in 2011.  The mission of Atlanta Heights Charter School is “to prepare students for success in high school, college, and beyond by providing a rigorous academic environment, setting high expectations for success, implementing research-based instructional strategies, and supporting students' individual learning needs.”
<b>Attendance Zone:</b>	Atlanta, Georgia (APS District Attendance Zone)
<b>Grade Levels Served:</b>	Kindergarten – Grade 8
<b>Recommendation:</b>	It is recommended that the State Charter School Commission <b>approve</b> a charter for the Atlanta Heights Charter School for a five-year term to run from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018.

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### **Summary of Findings:** Academics (Educational Plan)

Atlanta Heights Charter School (AHCS) contracts with National Heritage Academies (“NHA”) as a management company to provide staff development, curricular assistance, and facilities support to serve a K-8 student population.

Atlanta Heights Charter School has established rigorous performance-based goals and measurable objectives designed to improve student achievement that directly relate to increased performance on the CRCTs and the MAP. These academic goals and objectives include achieving standards that exceed those of the district and state. Atlanta Heights Charter School has also established goals related to daily attendance, fiscal feasibility and governing board effectiveness. Although AYP was not calculated for 2011-2012, Atlanta Heights Charter School demonstrated measurable, sustained progress toward meeting their charter accountability goals.

In addition to state standardized assessments, the Atlanta Heights Charter School uses the Northwest Evaluation Association assessment to measure English Language Arts performance against a national cohort.

### Capacity (Organizational Plan)

Atlanta Heights is financially sound and organizationally stable. The school achieved all financial measures outlined in its charter and maintained consistent enrollment. In 2010-11, Atlanta Heights served 373 scholars with 86 scholars on our waiting list. In 2011-12, Atlanta Heights served 528 scholars with 159 scholars on our waiting list. In 2012-13, Atlanta Heights is serving 590 scholars with 69 scholars on our waiting list.

Further, the model selected by Atlanta Heights Charter School – creating an open enrollment, K-8 school for residents of the City of Atlanta – provides an alternative to the traditional K-5 elementary and 6-8 middle school structure that predominates in the City of Atlanta.

In the 2012-13 school year, the Board engaged the Georgia Charter Schools Association to provide training on governance roles, responsibilities, and best practices.

Significant Changes from Previous Charter

In the updated charter draft for years 2013-2018, Atlanta Heights successfully negotiated changes to its management agreement with National Heritage Academies, Inc. (the school's EMO). These changes ensure greater autonomy for the school's governance board.

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:

Atlanta Heights Charter School completed GaDOE's full petition review process (requesting renewal) within the last year in anticipation of shifting authorizers in Spring 2013, and the school's recommendation for renewal by GaDOE staff based on progress and performance was approved at a called SBOE meeting on March 21, 2013.