

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

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<b>School:</b>	<p>Cherokee Charter Academy located in Holly Springs, Georgia</p> <p>Cherokee Charter Academy opened as a Commission charter school in 2011 and transitioned to a State Chartered Special School later that same year.</p> <p>The mission of Cherokee Charter Academy is to “provide a safe learning environment where each student is challenged to achieve his/her full potential.”</p>
<b>Attendance Zone:</b>	Cherokee County
<b>Grade Levels Served:</b>	Kindergarten—Grade 8 (currently); Kindergarten – Grade 12 (upcoming charter term)
<b>Recommendation:</b>	It is recommended that the State Charter School Commission <b>approve</b> a charter for the Cherokee Charter Academy 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)

Cherokee Charter Academy contracts with Charter Schools USA, an Education Management Organization, to offer a rigorous and research-based educational model incorporating the Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum, the STRIVE 65 Character Education Curriculum, and the Community of Character framework.

Cherokee Charter Academy has established rigorous performance-based goals and measurable objectives designed to improve student achievement that directly relate to increased performance on the CRCTs, the EOCTs, the SAT/ACT and the CCRPI. These academic goals and objectives include achieving standards that exceed those of the district and state. Cherokee Charter Academy has also established goals related to daily attendance, parental satisfaction and fiscal feasibility.

Cherokee Charter Academy promotes a positive student culture through the use of school uniforms and offers foreign language at all grade levels.

Capacity (Organizational Plan)

Over a multi-year effort, Cherokee Charter Academy has garnered significant community support for the charter school. Substantial demand for enrollment exists, which is an indication of stability in revenue and resources that will strengthen the school’s operations and chances for success.

Cherokee Charter Academy is financially sound and organizationally stable. The school achieved all financial measures outlined in its charter and maintained consistent enrollment.

Significant Changes from Previous Charter

Cherokee Charter Academy plans to expand from a K-8 school to a K-12 school during this charter term.

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:*

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

Cherokee Charter Academy 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.