

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

School:	Heritage Preparatory Academy located in Atlanta, Georgia
	Heritage Preparatory Academy received a Commission charter in 2011 and transitioned to a State Chartered Special School later that same year.
	The mission of Heritage Preparatory Academy is “to provide an intellectually stimulating and socially engaging school culture in a carefully structured environment in which middle school students learn and develop into capable and socially conscious members of our local and global communities.”
Attendance Zone:	Atlanta Public Schools
Grade Levels Served:	Grades 6—12
Recommendation:	It is recommended that the State Charter School Commission approve a charter for Heritage Preparatory Academy for a five-year term to run from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018.

Summary of Findings: Academics (Educational Plan)

Heritage Preparatory Academy serves a sixth-grade through eighth-grade population with the Expeditionary Learning model, including long-term, intensive inquiry-based science and humanities learning expeditions, literacy instruction based in subject content relevance, student-led parent conferences, and proficiency-based grading and reporting structures. Heritage Preparatory Academy is also implementing an extensive program of public speaking, advocacy, argumentation, and collaborative debate, which will take place in every course offered at the school.

Heritage Preparatory Academy 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 ITBS. These academic goals and objectives include achieving standards that exceed those of the district and state. Heritage Preparatory Academy has also established goals related to daily attendance, fiscal feasibility and governing board effectiveness. Although AYP was not calculated for 2011-2012, Heritage Preparatory Academy performed at or above the state average for the Reading and English Language Arts CRCTs and for attendance rate.

Heritage Preparatory Academy experienced mixed academic results in the first year of operation (2010-2011), but outperformed the district on the ELA and Reading portions of the CRCT. In an effort to strengthen science and math instruction, the school recently partnered with Georgia Tech’s Math and Science Departments for purposes of professional development, and early benchmark data shows positive academic student growth.

Capacity (Organizational Plan)

Heritage Preparatory Academy is financially viable and has significant community support and multiple partnerships with community organizations, without which many charter schools fail. Because of the need for a high quality middle school in the area, there is demand for the school that provides stability in enrollment and subsequent funding which in turn strengthens the school’s operations and budget. Additionally, the governing board is comprised of members with expertise in education, law, and finance that oversee the operations of this middle school in an underserved area of Atlanta.

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:

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

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