

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| School: | Mountain Education Charter High School located in Blairsville, Georgia Mountain Education Charter High School opened in 1993 as an alternative, evening high school supported by a collaborative of the seven school districts it serves, and has operated as a State Chartered Special School 2007. Mountain Education Charter High School’s mission is to “provide at risk students with the opportunity to become successful learners, to successfully complete their high school graduation requirements and earn a high school diploma.” |
| Attendance Zone: | Fannin, Gilmer, Lumpkin, Pickens, Towns, Union, and White Counties |
| Grade Levels Served: | Grades 9—12 |
| Recommendation: | It is recommended that the State Charter School Commission approve a charter for the Mountain Education Charter High School for a ten-year term to run from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2023. |

Summary of Findings: Academics (Educational Plan)

Mountain Education Charter High School (MECHS) utilizes an individualized, self-paced, mastery-learning model that is aligned with state curriculum and emphasizes those Carnegie Units necessary for a student to earn a high school diploma.

To meet multiple learning needs of “at risk” students, MECHS employs several student oriented, self-paced curricula including PLATO, NovaNet, Rosetta Stone, PACE Learning, Steck Vaughn, Success Maker, Turbo Cad, and various Dolch Materials. While the program is designed to be flexible so as to accommodate the students’ work and family obligations, Mountain Education Center emphasizes the importance of attendance for all students.

MECHS has established rigorous performance-based goals and measurable objectives designed to improve student achievement that directly relate to increased performance on EOCTs and graduation rate. These academic goals and objectives include achieving standards relative to those of the district and state.

MECHS exceeded its long-term graduation rate goal in 2011 and has consistently graduated more than the targeted number of students each year since 2008. Additionally, MECHS consistently met EOCT performance goals in all subject areas. (Note: MEC’s EOCT goals required that the school’s mean score fall within 5% of the State’s mean score on each subject area EOCT).

Capacity (Organizational Plan)

MECHS is financially sound and organizationally stable, and has operated successfully for ten years as both a locally approved multi-district charter as well as a State Chartered Special School.

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:

MECHS currently holds a ten-year charter in good standing as determined by the State Board of Education.