



August 1, 2025

Dr. Christopher Holmes, Founder/Chancellor
The Infinity Academy
2929 Rolling Road
Macon, GA 31204

RE: Official Denial of Start-Up Charter Petition for The Infinity Academy

Dear Dr. Holmes,

Thank you for submitting the revised start-up charter school petition for The Infinity Academy (TIA) to the Bibb County School District (BCSD). We recognize and appreciate your commitment to educational equity and innovation, and we commend your team for the dedication and community engagement reflected in your proposal. Following a thorough internal and external review, the Bibb County Board of Education voted on July 18, 2025, not to approve the petition for The Infinity Academy.

In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2064(d)(2), this letter constitutes the formal written statement of denial. It outlines:

1. All deficiencies under Code Section 20-2-2063,
2. Available school choice options within BCSD, and
3. An assessment of the academic performance of schools within the proposed attendance zone.

I. Reasons for Denial and Deficiencies Identified Under O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2063

After a comprehensive evaluation, the following material deficiencies were cited as the basis for denial: The petition does not meet the statutory requirements for approval and was denied based on the following material deficiencies:

1. Policy and Legal Compliance

- The petition lacks adequate due process policies aligned with Georgia law for student discipline.
- Governance documents contain internal inconsistencies that raise legal concerns, particularly regarding the Fair Dismissal Act and staff oversight.
- Required documentation, including enrollment forms, staff and student handbooks, and governance policies, were incomplete or inconsistent with applicable law and best practice.

2. Special Education and Support Services

- The proposed staffing plan does not reflect the capacity to deliver the full continuum of services required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- No comprehensive plan was provided to address accommodations, instructional supports, or compliance for students with disabilities.

3. Budget and Fiscal Concerns

- The Year 1 budget fails to adequately address critical costs such as:
 - Facilities renovations and upgrades
 - Food service and transportation
 - Insurance, maintenance, and instructional resources
- The \$20,000 allocated for facility improvements in Year 1 is unrealistic given the facility's renovation needs, estimated at \$4.7–\$5.7 million based on current market rates.
- The budget lacks evidence of secured funding, grants, or contingency planning.



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4. Operational and Facility Concerns

- The proposed facility at 606 Cherry Street presents serious safety, space, and code compliance issues:
 - The building's size (1.21 acres and approx. 17,000 sq ft) falls far short of the seven-acre minimum typically required for a school of TIA's intended size (250+ students), raising concern over whether required waivers will be approved.
 - No gym, green space, or cafeteria is included; the facility does not meet the 115 sq ft/student minimum commonly used in BCSD facilities.
 - Renovations required to convert the facility to instructional use—including fire-rated walls, HVAC, and plumbing upgrades—would be extensive and costly, yet are not reflected in the financial plan.
- Safety concerns include:
 - No clear plan for secure entry, vestibules, or restricted access between students and the general public in a multi-tenant building.
 - Inadequate student staging areas for daily drop-off and pick-up, which would occur on public downtown sidewalks and a shared parking deck, creating traffic congestion and placing students at risk.
 - The building lacks a safe evacuation zone in case of a fire drill or emergency, as required by state fire code.
 - There is no provision for daily physical activity, as required by state law, due to the absence of a gym or outdoor space.
- The school's response that the landlord will absorb renovation responsibilities is not supported by evidence in the lease or budget. BCSD finds the proposed facility logistically and financially infeasible for operating a school.

5. Governance and Leadership Structure

- The petition lacks clarity regarding school leadership roles and the authority of the governing board.
- Oversight structures and job responsibilities are vague or overlapping, including the Director of Operations role, which is simultaneously expected to handle daily operations, facilities management, and safety compliance—without supporting documentation or budget.

II. Existing School Choice Options in Bibb County School District

BCSD offers a comprehensive portfolio of school choice programs that provide access to high-quality academic pathways tailored to student interests and needs. These include:

- Districtwide Magnet Programs in areas such as STEM, fine arts, health sciences, and leadership.
- Bibb Virtual Academy serving students in grades 6–12 with a flexible, online instructional model.
- Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs supported by industry and college partnerships.
- Transfer Opportunities, including zoned and hardship transfers to accommodate unique student needs and family preferences.
- Expanded Advanced Learning options including AP, Dual Enrollment, and gifted programming.

These offerings ensure equitable access to innovative, rigorous, and personalized learning experiences without requiring enrollment in a start-up charter.

III. Academic Performance of the District

As The Infinity Academy proposed a districtwide attendance zone, BCSD's overall academic profile is the most appropriate point of reference for evaluating need and performance. Over the past three years, BCSD has shown measurable academic growth in key areas:

- English Language Arts (ELA):
 - A growing number of students are meeting or exceeding proficiency, with over a dozen schools recording double-digit gains in recent years.
 - The district has reduced the percentage of students identified as needing ELA support and increased the percentage of students performing at distinguished levels on STAR Reading.

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- Mathematics:
 - The number of students performing below grade level in math has decreased, while the percentage of students demonstrating readiness on STAR Math and District Unit Assessments has increased.
 - Middle and high schools are seeing upward trends in math performance with additional instructional supports in place.
- Targeted Interventions and Innovation:
 - Districtwide use of real-time data dashboards, extended day learning, and small group instruction is helping close achievement gaps.
 - SWSS (Strategic Waiver School System) flexibility has enabled BCSD to respond to needs in real time, hire strategically, and innovate effectively.

These results reflect sustained districtwide progress and a continued focus on evidence-based strategies to accelerate student outcomes—especially in the areas that The Infinity Academy aimed to address.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Although we commend your vision for increasing opportunities for students, the petition for The Infinity Academy did not demonstrate compliance with the academic, financial, and operational standards required by Georgia law. Should your team wish to revise and resubmit your petition in a future charter cycle, we encourage you to address the deficiencies outlined above and reach out to our office to request a feedback session or additional guidance. Thank you again for your desire to serve the students and families of Bibb County.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katika Lovett
Deputy Superintendent
Bibb County School District

cc:

Dr. Dan A. Sims, Superintendent
Bibb County Board of Education
Georgia Department of Education, Office of Charter School Compliance