

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

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

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| School: | <p>Odyssey School in Coweta County, Georgia</p> <p>Odyssey School opened in 2001 as a State Chartered Special School, and added the Georgia Cyber Academy program in 2007. Odyssey/GCA received Commission charters in 2010 (as separate Commission charter schools), but they never operated independently because of the Supreme Court decision in 2011. GCA/Odyssey continue to operate as a single State Chartered Special School, and GCA remains a component of Odyssey School's educational program.</p> <p>The school's mission is to "provide an educational environment where all students are able to discover and develop their talents through active engagement in challenging and enjoyable learning experiences which are constructed around their individual interests, learning styles, and preferred modes of expression. "</p> |
| Attendance Zone: | Odyssey School--Coweta County; Georgia Cyber Academy--Statewide |
| Grade Levels Served: | Odyssey School: Kindergarten-- Grade 8, Georgia Cyber Academy: Kindergarten --Grade 12 |
| Recommendation: | <p>It is recommended that the State Charter School Commission approve a charter for Odyssey School/GCA for a one-year term to run from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 contingent upon the school's release in good standing by the State Board of Education from current contractual requirements. During this one-year charter term, Odyssey and GCA will further distinguish their operational identities as stand-alone LEAs.</p> <p>Following the 2013-2014 school year, Odyssey School and Georgia Cyber Academy will operate as two independent entities holding separate charters. As a result, it is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the State Charter School Commission approve a charter to Odyssey School for a five-year term to run from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2019, and• the State Charter School Commission approve a charter to Georgia Cyber Academy for a five-year term to run from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2019. |

Summary of Findings: Academics (Educational Plan)

Odyssey School, a state-chartered special school, serves grades K-8 in its bricks-and-mortar facility in Coweta County and seeks to increase student achievement through continued implementation of multi-age classrooms at the elementary level to provide opportunities for students to work more at their ability level rather than grade level.

Georgia Cyber Academy provides a virtual, child-centered program for grades K-10 in 2011-2012 (with an additional grade added each year until they serve K-12 in 2013-2014), where students throughout Georgia utilize the online environment to construct their own learning experiences.

Odyssey/GCA's most recent charter renewal process established more rigorous performance-based goals and measurable objectives designed to improve student achievement that directly relate to increased performance on the CRCTs, EOCTs and GHSGT. In the first year of the most recent charter term, both Odyssey and GCA experienced mixed results (outperforming the district and/or state in only a few academic areas), but Odyssey and GCA have implemented professional development opportunities for teachers and remediation opportunities for students in an effort to meet the goals in years 2-5 of the current contract term.

Capacity (Organizational Plan)

Odyssey/GCA 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:

Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, enrollment expansion in a virtual school is contingent on the school's ability to meet contracted performance requirements. Maximum enrollment in the first year of the charter term will be capped at a specified enrollment level. Each subsequent year, the school may increase enrollment only if it meets annual contracted performance goals.

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:

Pending the results of a two-pronged Special Education compliance review, Odyssey/GCA will be released from their current SBOE-approved charter contract in good standing.