

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

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

School:	<p>Pataula Charter Academy located in Edison, Georgia</p> <p>Pataula Charter Academy opened as a Commission charter school in 2010 and transitioned to a State Chartered Special School in 2011.</p> <p>Pataula Charter Academy’s mission is to “create a safe and nurturing learning experience that promotes academic excellence, fosters creativity, instills leadership skills and prepares students for success, both in the classroom and beyond.”</p>
Attendance Zone:	Baker, Clay, Calhoun, Early, Randolph Counties
Grade Levels Served:	Kindergarten— Grade 8 (currently); Kindergarten – Grade 12 (upcoming charter term)
Recommendation:	It is recommended that the State Charter School Commission approve a charter for Pataula Charter Academy for a five-year term to run from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018.

Summary of Findings: Academics (Educational Plan)

Pataula Charter Academy utilizes project-based instruction based on constructivist theory paired with an Expeditionary Learning model. The school uses standards-based grading and reporting. Pataula Charter Academy promotes student-centered instruction with a focus on collaboration and the teacher acting as facilitator.

Pataula 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, EOCTs, the GHSWT and the SAT. These academic goals and objectives include achieving standards that exceed those of the district and state. Pataula Charter Academy has also established goals related to daily attendance, fiscal feasibility and parent satisfaction.

Pataula Charter Academy experienced mixed academic results in their first year (2010-2011), but did make AYP. Although AYP was not calculated for the 2011-2012 school year, Pataula Charter Academy outperformed state averages in every subject. The school met or exceeded all AMOs and significantly increased the percentage of students “Exceeding” on the CRCT.

Capacity (Organizational Plan)

Pataula Charter Academy is financially sound and organizationally stable. The school achieved all financial measures outlined in its charter. For two consecutive years, parent satisfaction has been reported at a rate of 95% or higher.

Significant Changes from Previous Charter

Pataula 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:

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

Pataula 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.