

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation for

The Community Academy for Architecture and Design

Action:	To accept surrender of the charter contract authorizing the operation of The Community Academy for Architecture and Design ("TCAAD").
Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC accept surrender of the TCAAD charter contract, as requested by the TCAAD governing board.
Rationale:	<p>On July 25, 2018, the SCSC approved the petition for operation of TCAAD as a state charter school. TCAAD was scheduled to begin operations in August 2019. However, the school deferred its opening until August 2020 due to facility-related challenges.</p> <p>On February 14, 2020, SCSC staff notified TCAAD that it failed to meet Pre-Opening Checklist requirements. SCSC staff asked the school to submit a number of outstanding Pre-Opening Checklist documents and a facility plan documenting the specific steps the school was taking to ensure that it was prepared to begin operations at the start of the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>The school failed to timely submit a facility plan for SCSC staff review. On March 25, 2020, with the approval of the board chair, SCSC staff informed the school that it would suspend its operations for the 2020-2021 school year because the school's governing board had failed to meet its training obligations, failed to engage SCSC staff in substantive communications regarding its operational preparedness, and failed to provide the SCSC staff with a facility plan showing that the school was prepared to serve students for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p>From April 1st onward, SCSC staff communicated with the TCAAD governing board extensively regarding the school's future operations, including the option of charter surrender and significant changes the school planned to make during its third pre-opening period. On July 7, 2020, SCSC staff notified TCAAD that it would require an updated petition reflecting the school's updated plan for operations and a supplemental capacity interview. On July 31, 2020, the TCAAD founder formally notified SCSC staff that the governing board voted to "rescind and relinquish" the TCAAD charter.</p> <p>SCSC staff recommends that the SCSC approve this recommendation and accept surrender of the TCAAD charter contract, as requested by the TCAAD board.</p>



THE COMMUNITY ACADEMY
FOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN
DEKALB COUNTY
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

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Dear Ms. Lockett,

On behalf of the Governing Board of The Community Academy for Architecture and Design (TCAAD), it is with great sadness that I must inform you that TCAAD has decided to voluntarily rescind its charter contract. After further investigation and study of the current educational landscape in DeKalb County, particularly in light of the COVID pandemic, we concluded that our path to opening a brick and mortar, site-based charter school was implausible for the foreseeable future. We further did not want to delay this decision and give additional hope to our loyal stakeholders or our authorizer.

We remain confident that this exceptional and unique architecture and design educational model can and will be successful in Georgia and will continue to explore opportunities to provide this option to students and families. We certainly have not foreclosed the possibility of resubmitting our petition to the State Charter Schools Commission in a future cycle and hope that you will consider this rescission as demonstration of our good faith collaboration and partnership with your organization.

Please advise us on the steps necessary to complete this rescission and relinquishment of our charter contract.

Sincerely,
Tariq Abdullah, Co-Founder

RLF/jm