

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation for the 2014 Petition Cycle August 27, 2014

School:	Columbia County School for the Arts
Attendance Zone:	Columbia County
Grade Levels:	K-12
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for Columbia County School for the Arts be denied .

Rationale:

1. The proposed school did not demonstrate that the governing board possesses adequate governing capacity to operate a charter school that operates as its own Local Education Agency (LEA) and hold the school leaders accountable. The proposed school governing board, while passionate about education and the school, did not establish its ability to hold school leadership accountable for the implementation of the educational plan and adherence to all legal requirements. The school leaders proved knowledgeable regarding the requirements for operating a state charter school; however, the governing board did not demonstrate that it would be able to assert authority, management, and oversight over the school leaders.
2. The proposed school did not have a clear strategy to begin operation by the 2015-2016 school year. Preparing to operate a state charter school is a time-consuming task that requires serious commitment and dedication. Among many obligations the governing board and school leader must complete prior to a school's opening are to establish and manage a budget; acquire facilities; develop each aspect of its instructional program; hire teachers and support staff; establish and implement governing, personnel, and student policies. The leaders of the school, however, are under contract to work full time in the school's proposed planning year, and it was not clear how the school leaders propose to balance the conflicting obligations.
3. The proposed school did not articulate a strategy for locating the school or obtaining a facility in an achievable timeframe to begin operation by the 2015-2016 school year.

Link to Petition and Related Materials:

[Click here to view Columbia County School for the Arts](#)
