

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Staff Recommendation for the 2015 Petition Cycle August 26, 2015

School:	Challenge Preparatory Academy
Attendance Zone:	Statewide with a brick-and-mortar location in Richmond County
Grade Levels:	K-12
Staff Recommendation:	SCSC staff recommends that the petition for Challenge Preparatory Academy be denied .

Rationale:

1. The petition presents components of a strong and innovative educational program; however, neither the petition nor the interview demonstrated a cohesive plan for a consistent educational program. For example, the school's proposed Challenging Holistic Academic Program (CHAP), focusing on project-based learning and media arts/communication, relies on the use of many educational products, assessments, and local partnerships; however, neither the petition nor the interview demonstrated a strategy for integrating all aspects of its educational model into an organized and interrelated educational model.
2. The proposed school did not demonstrate that the governing board and school personnel possess adequate capacity to operate a charter school that serves as its own Local Education Agency (LEA). This issue was exacerbated by the severance of the partnership with the proposed educational service provider (ESP) after submitting its petition to the SCSC. The school was not able to demonstrate its ability to provide a number of services without the assistance of the ESP.
3. The school proposes partnerships with a variety of community organizations and stakeholders, but the lack of written memorialization substantiating these partnerships raises concerns about the school's ability to leverage these relationships in a way that bolsters implementation of the academic program.
4. The petition presented a budget that raised questions about the proposed school's financial viability. The budget failed to accurately estimate the costs the school would incur for health benefits, teachers, administrative staff, professional development and expeditions for students as required by the school's educational model.
5. The petition did not demonstrate community need and support at the level needed to warrant a statewide attendance zone. Although the petitioner generally stated that people travel to the Grovetown area for work, there was no written documentation evidencing broad geographic support for the proposed school.

**Link to Petition and
Related Materials:**

[Click here to view Challenge Preparatory Academy](#)
