

State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia

Summary of Findings and Recommendation Commission Charter Application for Expedited Review

- School:** Ivy Preparatory Young Men’s Leadership Academy (IPYM) located in Atlanta, Georgia
- Ivy Preparatory Young Men’s Leadership Academy opened as a state-chartered special school in 2011.
- The mission of Ivy Preparatory Young Men’s Leadership Academy’s is to “develop elementary, middle, and high school young men into scholars thoroughly equipped, within a structured and supportive environment, to enter and succeed in the colleges and universities of their choosing.”
- Attendance Zone:** Dekalb County
- Grade Levels Served:** Kindergarten – Grade 12
- Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Charter School Commission **approve** a charter for Ivy Preparatory Young Men’s Leadership Academy (IPYM) for a three-year term to run from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016.

Note: IPYM was granted a five-year charter term to run from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018 by the State Board of Education in 2012. A shorter term is recommended for approval by the Commission because of the school’s performance track record. The school has substandard academic results (more details included in the summary of findings below); however, IPYM is only in its second full year of operation. A three-year term will provide the data needed to determine A) if enough improvement has occurred, and B) if a longer renewal is warranted.

Summary of Findings: Academics (Educational Plan)

Ivy Preparatory Young Men’s Leadership Academy is a single-gender school that provides a rigorous, standards-based, college preparatory curriculum for young men. The school offers an extended educational program, including an extended day, week, and year. Ivy Preparatory Young Men’s Leadership Academy proposes to serve approximately 616 students in K-12 by the fifth year of the charter term.

Ivy Preparatory Young Men’s Leadership Academy has established rigorous performance-based goals and measurable objectives designed to improve student achievement that directly relate to increased performance on the CRCTs, the ITBS and the EOCTs. These academic goals and objectives include achieving standards that exceed those of the district and state. Ivy Preparatory Young Men’s Leadership Academy also has established goals related to daily attendance, parent satisfaction and fiscal feasibility.

In 2011-2012, Ivy Preparatory Young Men’s Leadership Academy experienced mixed academic results, and the school was outperformed by the district in almost all CRCT content areas in grades 3-5. However, the school is only in its second year full year of operation, and IPYM’s sister school in Gwinnett County had a similar experience when it first opened but now exceeds local district and state performance.

Capacity (Organizational Plan)

The governing board of the proposed school is comprised of the same individuals responsible for the operation of the existing Ivy Preparatory Academy charter school. These highly experienced

professionals, possess the expertise in the areas of curriculum, assessment, finance, law, school management and governance to be able to replicate the existing design.

The Ivy Prep Board has financial and human resources available to replicate a high quality model, the ownership of the existing school design, and most importantly has a proven track record of success in implementation and design.

Significant Changes from Previous Charter

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:

IPYM completed GaDOE's full petition review process (requesting renewal) within the last year, and was recommended for renewal by GaDOE staff in 2012.