

Leadership Preparatory Academy Renewal Charter Petition Review
Executive Summary

Brief Synopsis: On August 15, 2014, Leadership Preparatory Academy, Inc. (“LPA”) delivered a charter renewal petition to the DeKalb County School District (“District”) for review. Since this date, the District has completed its due diligence to review every aspect of LPA’s responses in the petition to determine if the school’s continuation is in the public interest. This executive summary is a succinct review of the school’s performance and petition. However, this document is not all inclusive of the detailed information found in the full Petition and *Charter Petition Review Results*, attached.

Grades Served: K-8
Number of Students Seeking to Serve: 720
School Innovation: Leadership and STEM

Performance: There are three critical pillars of performance for charter schools: Academic Performance, Governance, and Fiscal Knowledge & Responsibility. Below is a synopsis of LPA’s five year charter term, in review.

Academic Performance

From its inception, LPA has focused on preparing college and career ready students by implementing unique educational approaches that included a comprehensive focus on leadership development. LPA has continuously offered a rigorous, accelerated, academically challenging student-centered program, which is aligned to state standards, wherein all students are held accountable and expected to reach high levels of academic achievement. LPA’s curriculum and instruction addresses the needs of the entire student population, including students with special needs, who are gifted, and who are English Language learners.

CRCT Scores

Charter Schools	READING			ELA			Math			Science			Social Studies		
	Level 2+3			Level 2+3			Level 2+3			Level 2+3			Level 2+3		
	2013	2014	Diff.	2013	2014	Diff.	2013	2014	Diff.	2013	2014	Diff.	2013	2014	Diff.
State	95	95	0	92	92	0	79	84	5	79	80	1	81	82	1
DeKalb	88	90	2	85	85	0	72	71	-1	63	65	2	67	67	0
D.A.T.E	97	97	0	95	96	1	86	82	-4	83	85	2	76	89	13
DeKalb PATH Academy	96	97	1	96	98	2	96	92	-4	84	88	4	92	92	0
DeKalb Preparatory Academy	91	85	-6	80	74	-6	70	71	1	69	60	-9	72	60	-12
International Community School	84	90	6	88	87	-1	75	77	2	70	75	5	73	72	-1
Leadership Preparatory Academy	98	96	-2	93	96	3	86	86	0	74	78	4	78	80	2
The Globe Academy	N/A	99	N/A	N/A	95	N/A	N/A	84	N/A	N/A	88	N/A	N/A	86	N/A
The Museum School	99	100	1	100	100	0	97	93	-4	98	96	-2	100	97	-3
Average	94	95	0	92	92	0	85	84	-2	80	81	1	82	82	0

CCRPI Scores

SCHOOL NAME	ACHIEVEMENT SCORE TOTAL 2012	ACHIEVEMENT SCORE TOTAL 2013	PROGRESS SCORE TOTAL 2012	PROGRESS SCORE TOTAL 2013	ACHIEVEMENT GAP SCORE TOTAL 2012	ACHIEVEMENT GAP SCORE TOTAL 2013	CHALLENGE POINTS TOTAL 2012	CHALLENGE POINTS TOTAL 2013	OVERALL SCORE 2012	OVERALL SCORE 2013	TITLE I (Y/N)
GEORGIA ES	45.6	47.5	16.3	16.5	7.0	9.0	5.6	4.8	74.5	77.8	N/A
DEKALB ES	40.8	40.8	15.3	15.1	8.0	7.0	0.0	0.0	64.1	62.9	N/A
D.A.T.E.	50.0	44.8	15.1	15.2	14.0	8.0	3.8	4.6	82.9	72.6	N
DEKALB PATH	46.8	48.1	19.5	16.1	7.0	9.0	9.7	10.0	83.0	83.2	Y
DEKALB PREP. ACAD.	NA	35.3	NA	19.6	NA	0.0	NA	4.0	NA	58.9	N
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL (ES)	40.2	41.5	17.1	15.5	9.0	6.0	0.0	0.5	66.3	63.5	Y
LEADERSHIP PREP.	43.6	45.0	16.3	16.1	9.0	15.0	4.2	6.8	73.1	82.9	Y
MUSEUM SCHOOL OF AVONDALE	59.4	57.8	20.0	17.4	NA	13.0	0.5	1.0	93.9	89.2	N
DeKalb ES Charter Average	48.0	45.4	17.6	16.7	9.8	8.5	3.6	4.5	79.0	75.1	

There have been no reported or observed academic concerns with the school.

Governance

Leadership Preparatory Academy, Inc. is governed by a nonprofit governing board, composed of 9 members. The governing board consists of members of the local community representing a diversity of expertise including legal, business, non-profits, financial, accounting, and education.

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There have been reported and/or observed governance concerns with the school.

In the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school year, the District received several complaints and concerns from parents, employees, and/or LPA Board Members, regarding governance and leadership at the school. Consequently, a “potential breach of contract notice” was issued to the school’s leaders. At this time, the concern is being resolved and the District feels confident in LPA’s ability to remedy these concerns and implement effective and appropriate governance.

Fiscal Knowledge & Responsibility

The LPA Governing Board is accountable for the fiscal management and oversight of the School’s resources. The Governing Board recognizes the importance of excellent fiscal management and oversight in managing public resources to achieve the mission and vision of the School. The Governing Board will be vigilant in fulfilling its responsibilities to see that funds are used wisely to achieve the purpose for which they are allocated.

Financial Impact: LPA’s financial impact in the 2013-2014 school year was approximately \$3.6 million dollars. The school’s financial impact for the 2014-2015 school year is approximately \$4.3 million dollars in District revenue, with about 562 students enrolled. Based on the current revenue, it is estimated that LPA will utilize nearly \$21.5 million dollars of District funds for five years of operation. The school seeks to increase its enrollment, over the five year term, with 158 students, which would increase the financial impact. Transportation and facility costs are not included in this estimation.

There have been reported fiscal concerns with the school, in relation to the governance.

These reports regard concerns of how allocated funds to LPA were being spent, but nothing that would indicate financial insolvency.

Overall Petition Review Determination: The school meets the requirements for a renewal of its charter contract, to operate as a charter school in the DeKalb County School District.