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Mr. Michael L. Thurmond

April 14, 2015

Georgia Department of Education
Charter School Division
2053 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, SE
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Adjusted Letter of Intent for the DeKalb County School District

In accordance with Georgia State Board of Education Rule 160-4-9-.05, please accept this communication as an adjusted Letter of Intent for the DeKalb County School District to submit an application for charter system status for a five-year term effective July 1, 2016. The District also understands that in order to make this date, the deadline for submission of its application for charter system status is November 1, 2015.

The District began the process of examining flexibility options over eighteen months ago. The District determined through community and staff input that the flexibility option that best matches DeKalb's vision to inspire our community of learners to achieve educational excellence and DeKalb's mission to ensure student success, leading to higher education, work, and life-long learning is charter system status.

The DeKalb County School System's original Letter of Intent that was delivered to the Georgia Department of Education on April 28, 2014, listed a planned start date of July 1, 2015; however, after five community engagement sessions to review the options available to school systems from the Georgia Department of Education, five community engagement sessions designed to seek input on desired flexibility and local school governance design, countless hours devoted by the District's Flexibility Advisory Committee (FAC), and support from vendors recommended by the Charter System Foundation, the District determined that prior to submission of its application, additional input from community members and District staff would be sought. For this reason, a single year delay was determined to be the most responsive action to address this need. We look forward to support from the Georgia Department of Education's Charter School Division in this important endeavor.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Thurmond", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Michael Thurmond
Superintendent

Cc: Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent