



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

November 2, 2015

VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL

Dr. R. Stephen Green
Superintendent
DeKalb County School District
1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Re: Local Policies of DeKalb County School District
Related to Charter Schools

Dear Superintendent Green:

It was a pleasure to meet with you and members of your team recently to discuss local policies of DeKalb County School District related to charter schools. As we discussed in our meeting, the creation and adoption of local policies for school districts is the sole responsibility of local boards of education in Georgia. Accordingly, under State law, neither the Georgia Department of Education nor the State Board of Education have the legal obligation to review, require changes to, or approve local board of education policies. Nevertheless, Department staff will upon request provide technical assistance to school districts on their proposed policies for the purpose of providing feedback and comments.

Please understand that while Department staff attempted to provide meaningful feedback to these policies recently, the final communications were not reviewed by my office prior to being sent due to the time press of the DeKalb local board vote on its charter policy. To the extent that those communications indicated that the changes contained therein were required for DeKalb's local board policy to be in compliance with state law and rule, we regret that any confusion was caused to you, your community, and your board. These comments were premature since my office had not yet had an opportunity to review them. We appreciate your willingness to meet and discuss these concerns. As you indicated, you may revisit the charter policies in the future, and Department staff are willing to provide you with technical assistance for this effort, should request it. However, as noted above, these local policies are ultimately the decision of the local board of education. From the Department's standpoint, the SBOE relies on state law, state board rules, and the charter contract for decisions regarding existing charters.

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Thank you again for our meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Hackemeyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jennifer L. Hackemeyer
General Counsel

JLH:das

cc: State School Superintendent, Mr. Richard Woods (via email)
Mr. Matt Jones (via email)
Dr. Garry McGiboney (via email)
Mr. Louis Erste (via email)
Nina Gupta, Esq. (via email)
Laura Lashley, Esq. (via email)