

Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent
“Making Education Work for All Georgians”

Charter Amendment Application and Instructions

“The mission of the Georgia Public Charter Schools Program is to increase student achievement through academic and organizational innovation by encouraging local school districts to utilize the flexibility offered by chartering.”

Charter Schools Division
2053 Twin Towers East
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, SE
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-657-0515 (phone)
404-657-6978 (fax)
http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/pea_charter.aspx

Georgia Charter Amendment Instructions

A. Introduction

This form is for use by an existing charter school or charter system to amend the charter contract. Proposed charter amendments must comply with the provisions of the Charter Schools Act of 1998, as amended (O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-2060 through 20-2-2071), and State Board of Education Rule 160-4-9-.04 CHARTER SCHOOLS, in effect at the time of the amendment. These cover sheets, with original signatures, should be attached to the proposed amendment.

B. Submission Procedures

Proposed charter amendments may be submitted at any time during the charter term, except that a charter may *not* be amended during the last six months of the charter term prior to renewal. Any proposed amendment must be approved by:

Type of Charter School	Governing Board/Local School Council	Local Board of Education	State Board of Education
Start-Up	X	X	X
LEA Start-Up, Conversion	X	X	X
Charter System		X	X

Any proposed amendment must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Submit an original copy of the charter contract, a red-lined copy of all proposed changes, and a clean copy of the charter contract incorporating the proposed changes.
- Do not enclose the proposed amended charter in a notebook, binder, or folder.
- The original must contain original signatures in blue ink. Stamped signatures will not be accepted. Faxed or e-mailed copies will not be accepted.
- Mail or deliver proposed amendments to:

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

Only proposed amendments that follow these guidelines will be considered for approval. Proposed amendments will not be returned. Please keep a copy for your records.

C. Amendment Checklist

- **ALL APPLICANTS:** Be sure that you have included each of the following as part of your amendment application. All applicants must submit an **ORIGINAL** and **TWO COPIES** of each of the materials listed below, unless otherwise indicated.
 - Charter Amendment Cover Pages (form attached below)**
 - An original, clean version of the previously approved charter contract and/or petition**
 - Red-lined version, indicating all additions and deletions made from the previously approved charter contract and/or charter petition**
 - A final, clean version incorporating all proposed changes to the charter contract and/or charter petition**
 - An executive summary of the proposed changes including a rationale for each change and the impact of the change, if any, on student achievement, school governance, school operations and the school's budget. The executive summary should not exceed ten (10) pages.**
 - One CD or USB drive with each of the above documents in Microsoft Word format**

Applicants must send or deliver proposed amendments to:

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

Georgia Charter Amendment Cover Pages

Part I. Charter School/Charter System Information

This charter amendment is being submitted by a (check one):

X Start-up Charter School

Conversion Charter School

Charter System

Charter School/Charter System Destiny Achievers Academy of Excellence

School District DeKalb County School District

Charter School/System Address 3595 Linecrest Road Ellenwood, Georgia 30294

Contact Person Mr. Wilbert Dixon

Contact Address 6664 Etterlee Drive Stone Mountain Georgia 30087

Contact Telephone Number 404-2775016

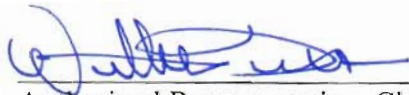
Contact Fax Number 404-328-1294

Contact E-mail Address chaplindix@comcast.net

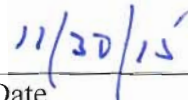
Part II. Assurances and Signatures

For all Charter Schools and Charter Systems

The charter school/system operator(s) assure(s) that the proposed charter school programs, services, and activities will operate in accordance with the terms of the Charter and all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations.



Authorized Representative, Charter School



Date

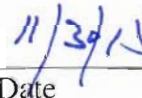
For Start-up and Conversion Charter Schools

This charter amendment was approved by the governing body of the charter school on

12/30/15
Date



Principal/Board Chair



Date

For Start-up and Conversion Charter Schools and Charter Systems

This charter amendment was approved by the _____

Board of Education on _____

Date

Superintendent

Date

Chair, Local Board of Education

Date

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Origin, History and Innovations

As a program alternative for students experiencing issues with the legal justice system, Destiny Academy initially opened in 2008. Enrollment was generated by the DeKalb County Student Services Department as students were referred to Destiny Academy by the department as an alternative to expulsion. As a result of its success with these students, in 2010, Destiny Academy was invited to form a start-up charter high school. Destiny Achievers Academy of Excellence start-up petition was approved for operation as a charter high school for the school years 2011-2016. Destiny Achievers Academy of Excellence serves grades 9-12. Our enrollment has grown steadily from 30 students to a current enrollment of 160 students. The school's innovations have included an older student initiative, Saturday tutorials, credit recovery, extended day classes and dual enrollment options with other local district schools and local colleges to create a school without walls. An advisory period was added to the daily schedule to foster the development of life skills and promote college and career readiness.

Academic Performance and Student Growth

Using the five pillars of academics, health/wellness, student advisement and mentorship, student and parent involvement, Destiny Achievers Academy of Excellence has demonstrated increased academic success as a high school charter in its graduation rate and subject area test performance. While not meeting or exceeding CCRPI scores in comparison to the District and the State, Destiny Achievers Academy of Excellence has maintained and/or increased its performance scores on the CCRPI's Content Mastery Achievement and Post-High School Readiness performance indicators since the 2012 and 2013 school years. The graduation rates for the four-year cohorts of Destiny Achievers Academy of Excellence have shown improvement for four consecutive years with a significant increase to 58.3 percent in 2014 and 75.4% in 2015. Destiny continues to strive to have its five-year cohorts persist in achieving a high school diploma. Given the circumstances of some of our students being court-involved and/or potentially dropping out of the traditional high school setting, through an extension of its charter, Destiny can offer a significant contribution to the overall success of the DeKalb County School District in lowering the District's dropout rate and preparing all students for post-secondary careers and college.

Although our College and Career Ready Performance Index scores are lower than desired, Destiny Achievers Academy of Excellence achieved a School Climate Five-Star rating indicating an environment conducive to learning for these students to receive diplomas and continue their education.

Rationale for Extension

Destiny Achievers Academy of Excellence is seeking an amendment to its initial contract to provide a two-year extension through 2018. The extension of time offers the school time to reach our initial contract goal of educating 300 students. The extension of our contract period also allows us an opportunity to revise proposed innovations and remedy any charter deficiencies that may have occurred. The major goal of the extension of two years for the current contract provides an opportunity to increase our student achievement levels. We have learned that some of our goals were unrealistic due to the motivational, past academic and demographic characteristics of students who choose to attend Destiny Achievers Academy of Excellence. Our students are generally two to three years behind their traditional cohort grade level in academic performance, and attend Destiny for about one year to achieve credit recovery, or are receiving expansive remediation of master course content. Despite these obstacles, there are successes that Destiny Achievers Academy of Excellence has achieved and why we believe that the additional two year extension of the charter term would be beneficial in the school further proving its ability to be successful.