



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

Georgia Department of Education
Item for State Board of Education Approval
– Other –

Item Name

EAP – Decatur City Charter System Renewal

Recommendation – Action Item

It is recommended that the State Board of Education renew a system charter for Decatur City School System, a grades K-12 charter system for a ten-year term beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2023.

Rationale

The petition submitted by Decatur City School System and approved by the Decatur City Board of Education meets all of the requirements of Rule and Law.

Details

N/A

Budget History (minimum of three years):

N/A

Performance, Criteria, and Results:

The charter system will be evaluated based on the academic achievement goals set forth in the charter.

Summary

The Decatur City Board of Education approved the Decatur City School System's charter system renewal petition on October 8, 2012. Decatur City School System's mission is to "challenge every student to succeed by providing a rigorous, engaging and authentic learning experience delivered by highly qualified, caring adults in safe and inviting schools".

Decatur City School System will implement the following educational enhancements for its students during their second charter term:

- Implementation of the International Baccalaureate Program in Grades 11-12, creating a seamless IB education for grades K-12;
- Extending foreign language learning for all students;
- Implementation of a 1:1 technology initiative for Grades 4-8;
- Exploration and possible development of a STEM academy;
- Creation of a Decatur Online Academy to promote blended and virtual learning; and
- Implementation of criterion-based grading.

Decatur City School System has established rigorous performance-based goals and measurable objectives designed to improve student achievement on the CRCTs, the EOCTs and graduation rate. Decatur City School System has also established goals for increased school-level governance, stakeholder satisfaction, student attendance and fiscal responsibility of the charter system. Its academic performance during its first charter term improved in all areas except Social Studies.

Decatur City School System seeks the broad flexibility allowed by law in exchange for the agreement to meet or exceed the goals that are set forth in the charter contract. Consistent with the Charter Schools Act, the Charter System is required to comply with all federal law, the Charter Schools Act of 1998, the State Board of Education Charter Schools Rules, school reporting and accountability provisions set forth in the Charter Schools Act, and all other excluded areas included in O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2065(b). In particular, the Charter System must comply with the Charter Schools Act's incorporation of the QBE Act and will earn funding for each system charter school under the terms of the QBE Act.

Contacts

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