

2010 CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION RECOMMENDATION & EVALUATION

Name: The GREAT Academy	Projected Grades: 10-12
Projected Enrollment: 180	Proposed location: Albuquerque
Founders: Jasper Matthews and Keisha Matthews	
Recommendation: I recommend that the Public Education Commission Deny the application because it is incomplete and inadequate.	

The GREAT Academy application is filled with inconsistencies and a lack of clarity on how the educational plan will unfold. Throughout this application alignment between the mission, the educational plan, and the goals for the school is not well-established. The lack of details offered by the founders make this application incomplete and inadequate.

The reasons for recommending denial of this application are based on the evaluation of each of the sections of the application:

The organizational goals for the GREAT Academy fail to provide a clear target to assess the degree of success or failure in achieving the school’s mission over the term of the charter.

The educational plan is lacking in significant detail as to how the approach to education will be implemented at the school site. The application fails to provide significant detail describing how students’ flexible schedules will be managed, the specific number of instructional hours provided for students, the structure of the school week, how several of the goals will be measured for success, how the assessment plan will be organized, and how a school with such a variety of programs and offerings will be staffed.

The applicant’s five-year budget is not balanced and failed to provide necessary information to connect the resources requested to the plan presented. The application’s revenue and expenditure assumptions do not give details for how the amounts were determined, present inconsistent State Equalization Guarantee (SEG) revenue projections, and do not provide a rationale for beginning with a special education population that is one-third of the total anticipated population.

The governance structure lacks clarity and fails to provide a coherent plan for oversight and management. The organizational chart illustrates a reporting structure that fails to provide clear roles and responsibilities of the administration and other staff. The dual hiring by the Board of Directors of two administrative positions does not meet the requirements of law, and some

specific roles and responsibilities of the Board of Directors demonstrates a lack of understanding of the role of the governing body in the oversight and management of the proposed school.

Dr. Don Duran, Assistant Secretary of Education
CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION

Date: September 2, 2010

CHARTER SCHOOL MISSION AND STATEMENT OF NEED EVALUATION

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Exceeds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The goals do not provide a clear target to assess the degree of success or failure in achieving the school's mission over the term of the charter.

The explanation of need is broad and fails to clearly provide a focused explanation that demonstrates how the proposed charter school is in the best interest of a specific student and community population within which the school will be located.

EDUCATIONAL PLAN EVALUATION

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Exceeds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The GREAT Academy presents seven basic philosophical principles to guide implementation of five components of the educational plan: Virtual Learning (E2020 for the core curriculum), Academic Improvement Plans, Service Learning, Leadership and Character Education, and two pathways to success (career and college preparatory). It also promises to include face-to-face instruction in the form of whole class, small-group instruction, and individualized feedback. A significant amount of educational program information and ideas are presented and are supported by references to research. However, as the required narrative information within the Educational Plan section unfolds, a clear picture of what a student who attends the school will experience in terms of educational climate, structure, materials, schedule, assessment, and outcomes fails to emerge.

The application fails to provide significant detail describing how students' flexible schedules will be managed, the specific number of instructional hours provided for students, the structure of the school week, how several of the goals will be measured for success, how the assessment plan will be organized, and how a school with such a variety of programs and offerings will be staffed.

In addition, the application narrative failed to follow the sequence and format of the application, making it difficult to determine whether or not all prompts were addressed. The application does not provide a coherent plan to guide implementation of the Educational Plan for the proposed school.

FINANCIAL PLAN EVALUATION

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Exceeds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The 5-Year Budget Plan fails to demonstrate soundness of revenue projections, expenditure requirements, and clear alignment with and support of implementation of the mission and educational plan.

The GREAT Academy 5-Year Budget Plan is not balanced and does not align with the budget narrative. SEG revenue projections include approximately one-third of the student membership as special education students without a substantiating rationale. 910B5 revenue projections for each of the 5 years do not match the revenue projections stated on the 5-year Budget Plan. Revenue and expenditure assumptions do not provide sufficient information to understand how budgetary amounts were determined.

GOVERNANCE / MANAGEMENT PLAN EVALUATION

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Exceeds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Governance Management Structure lacks clarity and fails to provide a coherent plan for oversight and management of the proposed charter school. The organizational chart illustrates a reporting structure that fails to provide clear roles and responsibilities of the administration and other staff. The dual hiring by the governing body of two administrative positions does not meet the requirements of law, and some specific roles and responsibilities of the governing body demonstrates a lack of understanding of the role of the governing body in the oversight and management of the proposed school. The nature of the proposed partnerships is unclear and evidence that the school has formal partnership agreements is not provided for the eleven potential partners, additionally many of these identified partners are not necessary to the existence of the proposed school. The governance plan fails to provide required salary schedules, and facility plans are inadequately addressed. A clear picture of the school’s governance and management practices is not evident.

REQUIREMENTS EVALUATION

Inadequate	Approaches	Meets	Exceeds
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The application addressed all of the required components in this section.