

January 28, 2013

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

RE: Letter of intent to establish the Stephens County School District as a Charter System

In accordance with Georgia State Board of Education Rule 160-4-9-.04, please accept our letter of intent to submit a petition for the Stephens County School System to become a Charter System.

Our vision for the Stephens County School System (SCSS) is ***Schools Committed to Student Success*** and is not just a theme for the school system, but a genuine commitment to educate each and every student in our community. The increased flexibility gained from charter system status would allow SCSS the opportunity to pursue innovative strategies and programs to meet the needs of our students.

The mission of SCSS is ***Academic Achievement....Personal Potential***. SCSS strives to empower all students to reach their highest academic and personal potential. We've stated our beliefs as expectations and are committed to the following:

- Expect all students to learn.
- Expect every student to be valued.
- Expect all adults to contribute to the success of students.
- Expect parents, teachers, and community members to work together for the success of students.
- Expect respect for students, faculty, and staff.
- Expect students to be engaged in their learning.
- Expect opportunities for success.
- Expect high quality instruction.
- Expect a safe, nurturing school environment.

In Stephens County, educators, parents, students, and the community are working together to achieve results. The governance structure and increased stakeholder involvement afforded through charter system status will allow the school system to operate with the most flexibility and greatest amount of local decision making to represent the true intent of the Charter System legislation.

The Stephens County School System proposes to submit a petition by November 1, 2013 and begin operating as a Charter System for the 2014-2015 school year. All 6 schools will be a part of the Charter System petition.

The Stephens County Board of Education examined the options of operating as a Charter System, as an IE2 system, and remaining as a status quo system. After carefully considering the structure of each accountability program, the Charter System offers the greatest opportunity of moving Stephens County to the next level of excellence the community and staff are seeking.

Sherrie Whiten

Superintendent

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We look forward to working with you through the completion of our petition.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jerry Steele, Chairman
Stephens County Board of Education

Sherrie Whiten, Superintendent
Stephens County School District