



Clayton County Public Schools

Division of Teaching and Learning & Strategic Improvement

1058 Fifth Avenue • Jonesboro, Georgia 30236 • (770) 473-2700

ANTHONY SMITH, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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& Strategic Improvement

April 23, 2025
VIA Email

Dr. Artesius Miller, CEO Miller Group
artesium.miller@utopianacademy.com
2750 Forest Parkway
Ellenwood, GA 30294

Dear Dr. Miller,

Per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Utopian (K-12) and Clayton County Public Schools, if Utopian Academy of the Arts (UAFA) intended to apply for a renewal of its charter, it must submit its renewal petition no later than six (6) months in advance of the end of its current term which expires June 30, 2025. Although it is the sole responsibility of UAFA to submit its charter renewal more than six (6) months in advance of the end of its current term, the Charter Review Committee accepted the renewal petition on March 29, 2025, which was significantly less than the required six(6) months.

Thank you for your submission of the charter petition for ***Utopian Elementary, Utopian Elementary Site Visit (April 23, 2025) and for Utopian Elementary's participation in our Capacity Interview held on March 20, 2025.*** After a careful and thorough review, the Clayton County Public Schools Charter Review Committee has reviewed your charter petition that was submitted on the March 29, 2025 deadline and found your written petition lacks sufficient details that convince the Committee that Utopian will be viable and successful. Our initial recommendation to the Superintendent and Board of Education for Clayton County Public Schools is to approve your renewal petition pending receipt of revisions and additional documentation requested below. Please note, the Clayton County Board of Education authorizes charter schools and has the final vote to approve or deny a charter school petition.

Next steps, the Charter Review Committee and Superintendent will share this recommendation with the Clayton County Board of Education on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 6pm, if petitioner waives the 30 day requirement and submits revision documents sooner via dropbox <https://www.dropbox.com/request/PHYJCn622D5NbvKJduuV>. The Board meeting will be held at the Clayton County Administrative Complex located at 1058 Fifth Avenue, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236. You are welcome to attend or watch the proceedings via our CCPS Youtube Livestream.

Revised Renewal Timeline

1. CCPS Charter Committee posted and made available the petition timeline and submission links on the CCPS Website in August 2024.
2. CCPS Charter Committee held a petitioner's workshop on October 29, 2024 via Zoom to discuss start-ups and renewal petitions. Utopian attended this workshop and received all submission links.
3. CCPS Charter Committee held an Initial Charter Renewal Meeting with Utopian's leadership including Dr. Miller and Utopian's Board on December 6, 2024.
4. CCPS Charter Committee held Utopian's Capacity Interview on March 20, 2025.
5. Utopian Elementary School submitted its charter renewal application on March 29, 2025, three (3) months prior to its charter's June 30, 2025 expiration date.
6. Utopian Elementary School and CCPS requested a 60 day extension to their current charter from the SCSC to complete the charter review process on April 16, 2024.
7. CCPS Charter Committee emailed Utopian a Letter of Revision on April 23, 2025.
8. Utopian Middle School will promptly provide any requested information or revisions to the CCPS charter committee by May 24, 2025 via the following link <https://www.dropbox.com/request/PHYJCn622D5NbvKJduuV>, if the petitioners waive the 30-day requirement for petitioners to respond to deficiencies in a petition.
9. The CCPS charter committee will diligently review the charter petition and its accompanying documents from May 24, 2025 to May 29, 2025, unless petitioner submits its revisions sooner than the 30 days and waive the 30 day requirement.
10. Following the receipt of any revisions and additional documentation to the petition, the CCPS charter committee will craft a superintendent's recommendation for presentation to the Board by May 27, 2025.
11. The Board of Education reviews the petition's recommendation for action and then votes on the recommendation at its June board meeting.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to continuing our thorough and fair review process. Should you have any additional questions, please email me. I wish you the best!

Sincerely,



Dr. Chantara Rumph-Carter, Director of MSAP and Charter Schools

cc: Mr. Benjamin Straker, Board Chair
Ms. Mary Baker, Board Vice-Chair
Dr. Anthony Smith, Superintendent/CEO
Dr. Douglas Hendrix, Senior Deputy Superintendent Chief of Staff
Dr. Delphia Young, Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
Dr. Monika Wiley, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Improvement

Report of Deficiencies

Evaluated on its merits, the petition presents the following substantive issues that require additional revision, documentation and information. The deficiencies, not exhaustively, are the following.

1. Please submit Utopian's financial records for all 5 years of the charter including 1099 statements, bank statements (August 2024-current). Please describe a plan for submitting financial statements with evidence (bank statements, etc.) to Business Services each month.
2. Monthly financial reports submitted are not being reported correctly; should be using the modified accrual method of account for monthly and annual reporting. Additionally, the cash reserves amount is below the required limit. Please submit evidence of training for CFO and description of the method of accounting for monthly and annual reporting.
3. Please submit Utopian's plan for strong fiscal independence and financial sustainability, including maintaining a minimum of a 45 day cash reserve to ensure continuity of operations.
4. Please submit the Annual Audits for each year of the charter including its findings, plan for resolutions, recommendations and accommodations.
5. Please submit the Charter School Annual Report for each year of the charter.
6. Please describe how Utopian's leadership and Board members will meet monthly financial obligations such as payroll, etc. when receiving monthly allotments within 5 days of CCPS receiving allotments from the Georgia Department of Education.
7. Petition didn't provide information to support how it would incorporate diverse stakeholders and tactics to reach the school's target population. Additionally, there was no detail regarding specific community support and partnerships. Please describe how Utopian will increase community partnerships.
8. How are stakeholder's input solicited in the process for the school? Please submit surveys, feedback from stakeholders, etc. as evidence.
9. Please submit your SST Plan and supporting documentation including meeting dates, parent signatures for plans for students in tiers as evidence.
10. Please submit DES, ESOL, Gifted and EIP plan, support and timelines for completion of eligibility reports. Also, please submit your procedural manual for special education , meeting dates, parent signatures for plans for students in the tiers as evidence Utopian is in compliance with federal and state mandates for these programs.
11. How will Utopian maximize its EIP, ESOL, DES, Gifted and specialty programs to maximize funding and student outcomes?
12. Please submit Utopian's professional learning plan for teachers and evidence that training is occurring.
13. Please submit Utopian's staffing model plan for ESOL, DES, Gifted.
14. Please submit evidence that Utopian Elementary's Nutrition Staff is receiving required training.
15. Please provide evidence of the diversity of Utopian's Board.
16. Are all DES teachers certified to teach DES? If not, what is their pathway to gain certification?
17. Please submit copies of your Parents Right to Know Letters as evidence for professionally qualified teachers.
18. Please submit academic performance data for K,1,2 over the 5 years of the charter.Please submit Utopian's K-5 academic improvement plan and the metrics used to measure progress.