



**TENNESSEE**  
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

RESOLUTION OF THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION  
REGARDING STILL I RISE ACADEMY NEW START AMENDED APPLICATION APPEAL

Whereas, pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-101 et. seq., Still I Rise Academy (“Still I Rise”) submitted an appeal on the denial of its amended charter school application by the Memphis Shelby County Schools Board of Education dated July 29, 2025 to the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”), which is charged with serving as an appellate authorizer beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, and;

Whereas, representatives of the sponsor of Still I Rise participated in a public hearing on September 10, 2025 to answer questions of the Commission staff and receive comment from members of the public in the proposed district, and;

Whereas, the Commission’s Charter Review Committee, conducted a capacity interview on September 24, 2025, at which time representatives of Still I Rise provided responses to questions from members of the Review Committee, and;

Whereas, the Commission, at a quarterly meeting on October 17, 2025, reviewed, discussed, and considered the full appeal record, review committee report, and Executive Director’s recommendation prior to voting on a decision;

Whereas, the Commission, determined the following findings of fact:

1. Still I Rise Academy does not meet/exceed standard for academic plan design and capacity
2. Still I Rise Academy does not meet/exceed standard for operations plan and capacity
3. Still I Rise Academy does not meet/exceed standard for financial plan and capacity

Therefore, be it resolved by the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission that the amended application for Still I Rise Academy is denied, pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-106(b)(5)(D).

Commissioner Eddie Smith moved for approval of the Resolution.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Terence Patterson and, upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

1. Commissioner Thomas Griscom voted aye;
2. Commissioner Thomas Marino voted aye;
3. Commissioner Terence Patterson voted aye;
4. Commissioner Eddie Smith voted aye;
5. Commissioner Lauren Smith voted aye;
6. Commissioner Christine Richards voted aye;
7. Commissioner Michael A. Carter, Sr. was absent;
8. Commissioner Thomas Lehrman was absent; and
9. Commissioner Alan Levine was absent.

The Chair thereupon declared that the resolution was duly passed and adopted on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.



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**In accordance with T.C.A. § 49-13-108(b)(5)(D), the decision of the Commission is final and not subject to appeal.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Richards", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Richards, Chair  
Tennessee Public Charter School Commission