



THE OFFICE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

160 Glenn Rogers Sr. Street (formerly S. Hollywood), Room 138 • Memphis, Tennessee 38112
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Submitted October 15, 2025, for the October 17, 2025 Quarterly Commission Meeting

Dear Members of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

Memphis-Shelby County Schools (“MSCS”) would like to begin by recognizing the thorough planning and execution of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission staff and Commission members throughout a robust appellate cycle, while also engaging in the Commission’s regular authorizing duties. We appreciate the commitment of the team to uphold the Tennessee Quality Charter Authorizing Standards and ensure transparent practices throughout the process.

As an authorizer, we use these quality authorizing standards as our North Star to ensure consistency in meeting the appropriate standards for approval and authorization. The appellate cycle and the recommendation from the review team affirm our standard of review in ensuring a fair and rigorous process for all applicants. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission uphold the Executive Director’s recommendation to affirm the Shelby County Board of Education’s decision to deny the charter application for Hillcrest High School.

In the TDOE scoring rubric, MSCS determined that Hillcrest High School provided insufficient evidence of capacity in both the Academic Plan and Portfolio Review and Performance Record sections to demonstrate that the application meets the required criteria of the rubric. The school and network have not demonstrated increased academic outcomes of achievement nor growth, decreased chronic absenteeism, or increased graduation rates across their charter term. Based on historical data, the school and network do not show a consistent pattern of high-performing schools to transform public education in Tennessee.

For these reasons, we again respectfully ask that the Commission uphold the Executive Director’s recommendation to affirm the Shelby County Board of Education’s decision. Memphis-Shelby County Schools appreciates the Commission’s time and consideration regarding Hillcrest High School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arlandra Parker". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Arlandra Parker
Director, Charter School Development