

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	August 28, 2025 2:29 pm
Browser:	Chrome 139.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	70.225.15.70
Unique ID:	1375629972
Location:	36.1515, -86.792

Name	Brian Haden
Email	brianlhaden@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 545-8976
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	Wilson
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy

Written Comment

Dear Commissioners,

As a community member and business leader, I am writing to express my strong support for the approval of Still I Rise Academy.

My company has a presence here in Memphis, with local staff dedicated to serving and supporting schools. Through our work, I've seen firsthand the impact that high-quality educational options can have on families and the broader community. I believe that expanding access to public charter schools is vital to strengthening educational opportunities in Shelby County and across Tennessee.

The approval of Still I Rise Academy will not only provide families with more high-quality choices, but it will also further the larger effort to improve education outcomes across the state. In a community where so many children are eager for pathways to success, additional school options can be life-changing.

I respectfully urge the Commission to approve Still I Rise Academy. Doing so will help ensure that more families in our community have the opportunity to choose an excellent education for their children.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to students and families in Tennessee.

Sincerely,

Brian Haden

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 2:02 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	174.161.205.239
Unique ID:	1380859520
Location:	35.2345, -89.8502

Name	Vernice Walton
Email	waltonvernice49@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 524-9042
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	This would be a plus for pregnant women going to school it is well needed

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 2:04 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.59.91.190
Unique ID:	1380860151
Location:	38.1439, -85.6204

Name	Victoria Jones
Email	Jonesvicky32@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 579-8051
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Other
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I stand with Still I Rise academy and their objective of trying to lend a helping hand to those who aren't fortunate enough to maneuver through lifes obstacles.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 2:05 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 139.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	208.190.13.64
Unique ID:	1380860899
Location:	32.3705, -90.1746

Name	Princess Walker
Email	princesswalker685@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 524-7335
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	This would be good for young teenagers girl

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 2:21 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	75.25.97.103
Unique ID:	1380867540
Location:	35.032, -90.0139

Name	Chekesha Jones
Email	chekeshajones@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 650-2091
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	MSCS
Written Comment	<p>This charter school I fully support because I've had relatives that were pregnant teenagers and needed assistance in the continuation of their education and couldn't get no help.</p> <p>Still I Rise will self motivate and give teens another chance and place them with opportunities</p>

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 2:33 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	12.170.78.117
Unique ID:	1380872792
Location:	35.1499, -90.0558

Name	Isaac Scott
Email	isaacscott009987@gmail.com
Phone	(662) 880-1779
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	Desoto County
Relationship to Application/District	Application Staff or Board Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I support still I rise because it caters to the people.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 2:34 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	73.127.100.176
Unique ID:	1380872835
Location:	35.1128, -89.9085

Name	Angelica Wright
Email	wrightangelica1997@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 292-1666
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	This a great idea

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 2:40 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	74.93.139.42
Unique ID:	1380875836
Location:	35.0514, -89.9265

Name	Tosha Dae
Email	toshibatatyana4@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 491-5160
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy

Written Comment	I believe that Still I Rise Academy would be an amazing Chapter School for the community it will offer the teen parents an opportunity to get a education lower the drop out rate for the Shelby County school the teen parents will not have to worry about who is going to watch their children while their in school. Also it would help the juvenile students by keeping them off the streets giving them guidance showing that it's still someone out here who believe in them and care about their future. This school will play a major role in the community for our children.
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Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 2:51 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	76.138.112.253
Unique ID:	1380880257
Location:	35.1063, -89.941

Name	Sharon Macklin
Email	sharonmacklin62@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 487-5412
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	<p>There is no doubt in my mind that Still I Rise Academy is in the best interest of this community. I believe Still I Rise Academy will be more than just another school. It has the potential to become a model not only for Shelby County, but for the Nation. A demonstration of what happens when we meet students where they are and give them the support they need to succeed. I humbly ask you to approve this school, so that we can finally give our students a chance to rise above the failures they have endured for far too long.</p>

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 3:04 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.59.89.104
Unique ID:	1380885573
Location:	38.1439, -85.6204

Name	Nina Ophelia Booker
Email	ninabooker70@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 410-3876
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I pray that we continue to stand for our future (children) that will become leaders and mentors for our communities.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 3:49 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	73.2.237.86
Unique ID:	1380904214
Location:	35.164, -89.7826

Name	Bruce Dailey
Email	bru_dai1@bellsouth.net
Phone	(901) 488-9049
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I support Still I Rise Academy whole hardly. The mere fact that it's a topic of conversation to educate those left out for what ever reason, proves to me that someone is thinking of how to change the course of Memphis from its current state. We've tried everything except the way we think about education.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 4:34 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.56.69.28
Unique ID:	1380921364
Location:	33.6026, -84.4769

Name	Carolyn Quinn
Email	carolyntylerquinn@att.net
Phone	(901) 734-5738
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Application Staff or Board Member
I wish to comment in support of	MSCS
Written Comment	There care cry's for help

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 4:38 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	166.196.54.113
Unique ID:	1380922876
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Jacquelyn Bracey
Email	jdbracey1@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 488-4230
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	A school that will support pregnant students and students with children will benefit the community by encouraging them to stay in school regardless of their circumstances. It will help the family structure as a whole.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 4:50 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	166.196.58.69
Unique ID:	1380927036
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Darlene Willis
Email	darlene@e-znaillifter.com
Phone	(901) 314-7104
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I would like to decree that Still I RISE Academy would help children that is having a hard time coping with trying to find their way. This school will bring out the Best in any child because of the sincere love and care that the staff will give. Help Still I Rise raise the level of the children mind to a higher scope of life. STILL I RISE IS MOR THAN A SCOOOL it IS A LIFESTYLE. Don't let this moment pass by we must help our children become productive or otherwise we get what we get . Something you don't want. Still I Riseis a mindset.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 5:00 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.58.255.60
Unique ID:	1380930333
Location:	38.8778, -77.0127

Name	Monique Wade
Email	hodgdevelopmentgroup@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 937-9190
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Application Staff or Board Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	<p>Still I Rise Academy is the opportunity for life changing results for students and parents thus impacting the community as a whole. As an opportunity school, Still I Rise creates a path for chronically absent dropouts teen parents and other vulnerable students to overcome objections to their uncontrollable circumstances.</p> <p>Approving Still I Rise will bring impactful results for this city county and school district . The common goal is not competition with our school district but to work together to offer resolutions to make a difference for students community and the educational system</p>

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 5:13 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	75.66.0.193
Unique ID:	1380934015
Location:	34.974, -89.999

Name	April Richardson
Email	april4chester@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 297-7696
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	This will be a great help to the community!

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 8:01 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 17.5 / iOS
IP Address:	12.75.143.26
Unique ID:	1380978798
Location:	45.5248, -122.6789

Name	Jordan Clayton
Email	Claytonjj316@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 620-1372
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	The socioeconomic status of many families limits the ability for protective factors to be maintained. Without these factors survival instincts take the wheel of many lives and recreate scenarios that enhance the likelihood of survival, in most cases a survival of numbers. By improving the quality of resources available to improve the social conditions , we as a society will see an increase in our capabilities of our offspring as well as in our surrounding neighborhoods.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 9:36 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.0 / iOS
IP Address:	73.2.137.72
Unique ID:	1380997692
Location:	35.0324, -89.8145

Name	Jacobie Alston
Email	Zooskii@yahoo.com
Phone	(332) 234-5889
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	All Students Rather Pregnant Or Juvenile Deserve Equal Rights As The Other Kids No Matter The Situation

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 9:36 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 140.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	166.196.54.110
Unique ID:	1380997699
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Dana Pearson
Email	pearson4757@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 827-2099
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	MSCS
Written Comment	No form

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 9:37 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	24.125.190.107
Unique ID:	1380997708
Location:	33.7574, -84.4236

Name	Felicia Edwards
Email	feliciaedwards6596@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 437-2584
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I think this would be great because I know how it is when you are a teenager mother and don't know what too and all the stares . I felt like I was being judged behind my back

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 9:41 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	73.5.6.53
Unique ID:	1380998490
Location:	35.2345, -89.8502

Name	Jyrun Edwards
Email	jyrune23@yahoo.co
Phone	(901) 412-8656
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Other
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	N/A

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 9:43 pm
Browser:	Safari 18.6 / OS X
IP Address:	174.224.154.252
Unique ID:	1380998869
Location:	35.1841, -89.8588

Name	Antonius Hart
Email	bigt73love@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 237-2450
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	Other
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	N/A

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 9:43 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 139.0.7258.76 / iOS
IP Address:	107.115.151.101
Unique ID:	1380998907
Location:	33.4945, -86.8028

Name	TOMMY MOONEY
Email	tommy@mycscorp.com
Phone	(469) 987-5884
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I support Still I rise Academy

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 9:44 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	166.198.161.12
Unique ID:	1380998936
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Ceddreka Mcvay
Email	ceddreka04@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 656-1014
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	Charter school for pregnant students and students who are in juvenile

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 9:47 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	162.236.0.132
Unique ID:	1380999553
Location:	35.0514, -89.9265

Name	Alysse Adams
Email	avadams97@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 530-2686
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	MSCS
Written Comment	Thank you

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 9:55 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.5 / iOS
IP Address:	172.98.131.230
Unique ID:	1381000733
Location:	39.7801, -86.0557

Name	Professor Y. C. Love
Email	yvette.love@morrisbrown.edu
Phone	(901) 628-9029
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	Shelby county
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	Supporter
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I support this well needed/helpful/inspiring effort.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 10:00 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.0 / iOS
IP Address:	108.67.142.137
Unique ID:	1381001575
Location:	35.2083, -89.8058

Name	LaMeka Ivy
Email	lamekaivy@icloud.com
Phone	(901) 239-4996
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I am supporting the vision of Still I Rise Academy. This is something that has been overlooked or neglected for years.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 10:03 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	73.177.67.55
Unique ID:	1381002067
Location:	35.0324, -89.8145

Name	Coralotta Cromer
Email	coralotta@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 355-8969
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	Desoto
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	Supporter
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	Still I Rise Academy is a much needed charter school in community. It's vision is to promote a curriculum that will allow students to develop innovative educational approach. It will enhance a student ability to learn better by providing smaller classroom and additional 1:1 student support. Still I Rise Academy will provide not only additional support to its students but it families as well. They will be doing this by providing productive communication, and community resources. Education is the top priority at Still I Rise Academy which the focus to promote and provide education to all children., which destine to be great!!!

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 10:05 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 140.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	174.212.199.157
Unique ID:	1381002463
Location:	35.0984, -89.9813

Name	Pat Edwards-Sipp
Email	patsipp2000@gmail.com
Phone	19014859039
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	I perform community service in the district.
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	This charter school is much needed for the community. I am in full support of having this charter school.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 10:18 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 130.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	71.143.212.63
Unique ID:	1381004496
Location:	35.1128, -89.9085

Name	Penny Pizza-LeeGrand
Email	ppizza001@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 644-2400
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy

Written Comment

Public Comment on Still I Rise Academy Charter School Appeal

To the Charter Commission,

I am writing to provide my public comment regarding the Still I Rise Academy charter school appeal.

I believe it is important that the Commission carefully considers how this proposed charter school will impact students, families, and the broader community. In particular, I urge you to weigh the following:

Educational Opportunity: Whether Still I Rise Academy will expand access to high-quality learning options for students.

Community Need: Whether the school addresses gaps or specific needs not currently being met in the district.

Accountability & Sustainability: Whether the school has a clear plan to ensure financial responsibility, strong leadership, and long-term success.

My hope is that the Commission will make its decision based on what will best support students' academic growth and overall well-being.

Thank you for considering my comment as part of the record.

Respectfully,
Penny Pizza-LeeGrand
Memphis, Tennessee

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2025 10:30 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.5 / iOS
IP Address:	12.74.143.114
Unique ID:	1381006415
Location:	37.9448, -90.7243

Name	Amber Crawford
Email	leighamber620@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 491-7357
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	Still I Rise is innovative, creative, and ready to take on a new dawn. Please help to be apart of this rising movement by approving Still I Rise Academy.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 12:50 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	166.196.54.135
Unique ID:	1381023255
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Gerald Kiner
Email	kinergk@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 650-7340
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	The attachment below shows several reasons why MSCS is not equipped to handle the students Opportunity Schools were designed for. A district in crisis cannot help students in crisis.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/18511333770

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 12:54 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	73.252.66.125
Unique ID:	1381023779
Location:	35.0761, -89.8547

Name	Jikena Bush
Email	jikenasmith@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 350-3729
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I support Still I Rise Academy.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 4:08 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	104.28.78.198
Unique ID:	1381066418
Location:	36.9886, -76.4143

Name	Mekel Richardson
Email	ms_mekel@yahoo.com
Phone	(601) 672-4213
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I support the still I Rise Academy

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 5:12 am
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 130.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	71.143.212.178
Unique ID:	1381074679
Location:	35.1128, -89.9085

Name	Deener Newberry
Email	deener_newberry@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 331-4183
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	<p>A charter school like Still I Rise Academy, designed for pregnant students, student parents, and children in the juvenile court system, is a critical investment in the Memphis community.</p> <p>These young people face immense barriers to education, from the need for on-site childcare to the challenges of re-integrating from the legal system. Without specialized support, they are at high risk of dropping out, which perpetuates cycles of poverty and instability for both them and their children.</p> <p>A charter school model provides the flexibility to address these issues head-on. It can offer a supportive, trauma-informed learning environment with crucial resources like on-site childcare, flexible schedules, and comprehensive social services.</p> <p>By helping these students earn their diplomas, Still I Rise Academy not only gives them a path to a better future but also empowers them to break these cycles for their families. This investment in their success ultimately strengthens our entire community by creating a more educated, stable, and hopeful population.</p>

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 7:33 am
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 140.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	166.198.157.40
Unique ID:	1381100982
Location:	39.7684, -86.158

Name	DEBRA WILLIAMS
Email	coachdebra.w@gmail.com
Phone	19018338200
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	Still I Rise Academy has seen the effects of ineffective parenting in the City of Memphis in the rampant crime that plagues our city. We have seen what ineffective parenting has caused. Children raising children without the necessary support or firm foundation that once existed. Now children grow up seeing and exposed to too much too soon because their parents don't know, don't have the support and guidance needed, no real roots to draw on, so each generation gets worse. We, as a city, can no longer stand by and do nothing to address the root causes of its current state.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 7:41 am
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 130.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	107.127.32.26
Unique ID:	1381103060
Location:	35.0514, -89.9265

Name	Stephanie Williams
Email	williamssd195@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 640-4404
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Application Staff or Board Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	<p>Still I Rise Academy would be a great foundation for students who have a different path and opportunity in life. They will be taught, encouraged and given specific structure for their futures and the future of their children. They will be encouraged to know, we are all winners.</p> <p>They can be leaders in the Shelby County Community.</p> <p>They will know, inspire of any obstacle in life to have a mind set on being a positive and respectful hardworking individual and rise above it all.</p>

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 8:04 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.59.90.221
Unique ID:	1381109514
Location:	38.1439, -85.6204

Name	Raymond Gary
Email	rtff1961@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 671-6425
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I think this will open door for our children

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 8:06 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.59.90.221
Unique ID:	1381109808
Location:	38.1439, -85.6204

Name	Ella Gary
Email	ellagary404@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 671-6474
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I support Rise Academy

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 8:08 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.59.90.221
Unique ID:	1381110437
Location:	38.1439, -85.6204

Name	Sequitta Gary
Email	garysequitta@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 395-1676
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I support Rise Academy

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 10:42 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.5 / iOS
IP Address:	166.196.54.33
Unique ID:	1381170246
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Vicky Bolden
Email	anointedone124@icloud.com
Phone	(901) 571-5755
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	Different concept sane path. One edcation

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 11:35 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 16.6.1 / iOS
IP Address:	96.4.180.124
Unique ID:	1381196304
Location:	35.2083, -89.8058

Name	Michelle Woods
Email	nails2know@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 425-5335
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	Concerned parent
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I believe if pregnant students have a place to be educated with like student's opportunities for them to finish school will increase

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 2:29 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	174.224.158.252
Unique ID:	1381273444
Location:	35.1841, -89.8588

Name	Jerome Davis
Email	jerome291on1@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 275-4757
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I appeal this because the charter school would increase opportunities for personalized learning through flexible curriculum and smaller class sizes, specialized academic programs, and a strong sense of community with high levels of parent and staff involvement. These schools can provide innovative teaching methods, a tailored educational approach to meet diverse student needs, and a tuition-free learning environment with potentially higher academic standards and graduation rates. Please reconsider this opportunity for the school to move forward, it would make a major positive impact on the communities. Thanks in advance.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 4:11 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 140.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	172.59.93.248
Unique ID:	1381312922
Location:	38.1439, -85.6204

Name	Senteria Johnson
Email	sjohnson23637@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 520-2039
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	<p>I'd like to ask that you strongly consider approving Still I Rise Academy. This charter school would help give so many kids who've been exiled, talked about, bullied, and even stigmatized hope that they can overcome their circumstances. There aren't many schools that cater to the specific needs of children that have been in these circumstances but Still I Rise Academy is ready and equip to take on that role and give these children a level of support, mentorship, and education that will help them achieve their goals of beating the odds of just being a statistic. This charter school isn't just a dream but reality that our kids are our future and they deserve the greatest education Still I Rise can offer them. So please don't let our children down by denying such a great opportunity with this charter school instead show them that they matter and they still have a chance to become exceptional leaders, business owners, community activist etc. Approve Still I Rise Academy and watch our children changed the state of our district to be barrier breakers and a new statistic of Rising instead of Failing. Thank you.</p>

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2025 10:58 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	75.66.142.66
Unique ID:	1381402709
Location:	35.0324, -89.8145

Name	Rannesha Stevenson
Email	ranneshas@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 246-2550
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	Let's turn the can't to the can with the help of Still I Rise Academy!! □□□□

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 17, 2025 8:44 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	174.224.158.225
Unique ID:	1381489155
Location:	35.1841, -89.8588

Name	Ashley Mckinney
Email	ashley1998mckinney@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 831-2358
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	38106
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	This is needed cause they won't be a distraction to other kids.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 17, 2025 9:09 am
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 140.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	174.230.150.138
Unique ID:	1381498578
Location:	35.1567, -89.9274

Name	S. R. Stanley
Email	hesvets@gmail.com
Phone	(615) 810-5671
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	Nashville
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	Trades Instructor/teacher
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	I am will to volunteer to teach construction program trades.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - StillIRise/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 17, 2025 12:58 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.59.193.105
Unique ID:	1381591858
Location:	32.7836, -96.8674

Name	Dawn Bonner
Email	d.e.bonner@icloud.com
Phone	(901) 361-9919
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Still I Rise Academy
Written Comment	The community needs this

To Whom It May Concern

Date: September 10, 2025

**State of the District: Why MSCS Cannot Meet the Urgent Needs of Opportunity
Charter School Students**

The Humanitarian Outreach Development Group respectfully submits this report to explain why Memphis-Shelby County Schools (MSCS) is not presently equipped—structurally, financially, or culturally—to serve the high-risk, underperforming students that Tennessee’s Opportunity Charter School model was specifically created to rescue.

The following facts and trends demonstrate a district in ongoing crisis:

Academic Failure at Scale

- Countless MSCS students failed to score proficient in math on recent TNReady state assessments.
- The majority do not met reading/language arts proficiency standards.

- Dozens of MSCS schools are currently classified as Priority Schools by the state—some for over a decade.
 - Multiple MSCS schools have been placed on the State’s “Additional Targeted Support and Improvement” (ATSI) list, including campuses with less than 5% student proficiency.
-

Alarming Safety Concerns

- MSCS has repeatedly made headlines for violence, including school shootings, lockdowns, and mass fights broadcast on social media.
 - At several schools, teachers report being physically assaulted by students.
 - In 2024 alone, MSCS faced over 1,200 school-based safety incidents, including weapons being found on campuses.
-

Administrative Turmoil

- The district is currently operating without a permanent superintendent, creating instability at the top.
 - Leadership turnover continues across key departments, including finance, academics, and school operations.
 - The district's credibility was further damaged by the abrupt resignation of Superintendent Dr. Joris Ray amid scandal—a blow to community trust.
 - Dr. Marie Feagins former MSCS Superintendent: selected by the MSCS Board in February 2024 after a long search fired less than 1 year later causing a community uproar and causing Rep. Mark White and Senator Brent Taylor to call for a state takeover.
-

Mismanagement of Federal & Local Funds

- MSCS has failed to adequately report how hundreds of millions in federal ESSER (COVID relief) funds were spent.

- The district has been publicly scolded by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office for inadequate financial controls.
 - In 2024, MSCS was involved in a procurement scandal involving contracts awarded without competition, violating both district policy and state law.
-

Infrastructure Decay and Lead Exposure

- As of 2025, over 20 MSCS schools have tested positive for dangerous levels of lead in drinking water, including student water fountains.
 - Some schools reported lead levels exceeding 10 times the EPA limit.
 - MSCS' delayed public disclosure of lead contamination eroded public trust and exposed thousands of children to neurotoxic risk.
-

Enrollment Decline and Broken Community Trust

- MSCS enrollment has dropped by nearly 20,000 students in the past five years.
 - Parents are increasingly fleeing to charter schools, private schools, and home-schooling—voting with their feet.
 - Despite declining enrollment, academic outcomes have not improved, and per-student spending remains inefficient.
-

Opportunity Schools Are Being Sabotaged by Neglect

- Instead of focusing on effective collaboration with approved charter schools, MSCS has engaged in active obstruction—delaying facility approvals, withholding data, and spreading misinformation to local and state officials.
 - The very population the General Assembly sought to serve—students in chronically underperforming schools—are being denied choices by a district more concerned with protecting turf than pursuing transformation.
-

The Solution: Independent Charter Schools Like Still I Rise Academy

- Still I Rise Academy was approved for the Opportunity Charter School designation because it provides a unique, focused solution for at-risk students whom MSCS has repeatedly failed.
 - It has contingency plans, proven community partnerships, and \$750,000 in approved state startup funding.
 - Unlike MSCS, its leadership is stable, accountable, and mission-driven, with the ability to deliver immediate results in a safe and structured learning environment.
-

Conclusion: A District in Crisis Cannot Save Students in Crisis

Tennessee created the Opportunity School model precisely because of districts like MSCS. These students cannot afford another year of violence, lead poisoning, neglect, and failure.

The Humanitarian Outreach Development Group humbly ask the Commission to approve and protect high-quality schools—like Still I Rise Academy—who are willing to serve the students MSCS cannot and will not prioritize.

Respectfully submitted,

Humanitarian Outreach Development Group

Memphis, Tennessee

September 10, 2025