

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 26, 2026 3:42 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.3 / iOS
IP Address:	154.9.42.13
Unique ID:	1492104678
Location:	35.0278, -85.1461

Name	Chris Morris
Email	morrismodelededucation@gmail.com
Phone	(706) 296-3648
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga
Written Comment	See attached
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19984363355

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 26, 2026 3:57 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.3 / iOS
IP Address:	154.9.42.13
Unique ID:	1492110230
Location:	35.0278, -85.1461

Name	Jamichael Heathington
Email	jamichaelheathington12@gmail.com
Phone	(931) 846-2259
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga
Written Comment	See attached.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19984442167

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 26, 2026 4:12 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.3 / iOS
IP Address:	154.9.42.13
Unique ID:	1492115812
Location:	35.0278, -85.1461

Name	Eundra Porter
Email	eporter@partnershipfca.com
Phone	(423) 443-9721
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga
Written Comment	See Attached.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19984522324

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 26, 2026 4:57 pm
Browser:	Chrome 151.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	154.9.42.13
Unique ID:	1492130801
Location:	35.0278, -85.1461

Name	Gus Hernandez
Email	GHernandez@silverdalebc.com
Phone	(423) 242-3191
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga

Written Comment

Dear Members of the Charter School Authorizing Committee,

I am writing as a community leader to express my strong support for the establishment of Empowerment Charter School and its mission to create meaningful opportunities for students, families, and the broader community.

Empowerment's focus on strengthening literacy and math skills is especially important. Strong foundational skills in reading, writing, and mathematics are essential for students to succeed academically and prepare for future educational and career opportunities. I appreciate the school's commitment to helping students grow academically while maintaining high expectations for their achievement.

I also strongly support Empowerment's emphasis on family participation and engagement. When families are actively involved in their children's education, students are more likely to feel supported, motivated, and connected to their school. Building strong partnerships between educators, families, and the community can create a culture of shared responsibility for student success.

The school's focus on attendance is another critical component of its mission. Students cannot fully benefit from educational opportunities if they are not consistently present. Creating a school culture that encourages regular attendance and helps families address barriers to attendance can have a significant impact on student achievement.

I am equally encouraged by Empowerment's commitment to leadership development and social-emotional learning. Our young people need more than academic knowledge. They need opportunities to develop confidence, resilience, communication skills, responsibility, empathy, and the ability to make positive decisions. Developing these qualities helps students become successful learners and productive, engaged members of their communities.

As a community leader, I believe Empowerment Charter School can serve as an important partner in strengthening our community. Its holistic approach recognizes that student success depends on academic achievement, consistent attendance, engaged families, strong leadership skills, and healthy social-emotional development.

I am proud to lend my support to Empowerment Charter School and its mission. I believe this school has the potential to positively impact students and families and contribute to a stronger future for our community. I respectfully encourage the approval of its charter and look forward to supporting its continued success.

Sincerely,

Gus Hernandez-Associate Pastor Silverdale Baptist

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 26, 2026 5:26 pm
Browser:	Safari 18.6 / OS X
IP Address:	68.209.237.141
Unique ID:	1492139033
Location:	36.3125, -82.377

Name	Jaylah Nunez-Radden
Email	jaylahnunezradden@gmail.com
Phone	(423) 653-7212
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga
Written Comment	Black young men deserve educational spaces where they are seen, supported, and empowered to recognize their full potential. Charter schools can create environments that provide mentorship, strong academic support, leadership opportunities, and a sense of belonging-helping Black boys not only succeed in the classroom, but envision themselves as future leaders, professionals, and change-makers. Every Black young man deserves to learn in an environment that believes in him before the world tells him what he cannot become. Providing access to supportive, empowering schools can give Black boys the mentorship, confidence, and opportunities they need to thrive academically and see themselves as leaders in their communities. That is why I am in support of Empowerment Academy Chattanooga Charter School.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 5:40 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.2 / iOS
IP Address:	68.169.182.97
Unique ID:	1492507663
Location:	35.0278, -85.1461

Name	Janet Radden De Paula
Email	janetroshelle@gmail.com
Phone	(423) 355-1880
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga
Written Comment	As a former educator and parent I know first hand of the needs of the community with respect to the youth of Hamilton County and Chattanooga. It is very apparent that there is more to do with respect to making educational equity and sustainability not just a vision, but an attainable reality. This academy would operate within the sphere of meeting the needs to promote and elevate our youth to achieve the ability to forge a path toward success. As an educator, I realize in order to promote excellence in individual education, educators must meet the student where they are while assessing the need to allow for meaningful educational growth. The Academy offers a different perspective in teaching.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 5:54 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 151.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	74.205.133.67
Unique ID:	1492510936
Location:	35.0956, -85.1769

Name	Tracy Fears
Email	Otfears@yahoo.com
Phone	(423) 314-6109
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga
Written Comment	I am in support of the Empowerment Academy Chattanooga. It would make a difference for our boys in the community as well as the families. This would impact our future leaders, fathers, and husband. Our boys are in need of positive mentorship to help mold them into the men God has called them to be by instilling core values of self accountability, self awareness, respect, and help instill vision for our future.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 5:55 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 151.0.7922.112 / iOS
IP Address:	69.220.147.18
Unique ID:	1492511109
Location:	35.1431, -90.0492

Name	JiAnne Black
Email	jianne.radden98@gmail.com
Phone	14234885574
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga
Written Comment	I am in support of the the Empowerment Academy Chattanooga.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 5:56 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 151.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	172.58.3.215
Unique ID:	1492511438
Location:	33.8583, -84.2165

Name	Angela E Westberry
Email	a.westberry.am@gmail.com
Phone	(423) 304-0538
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga
Written Comment	I believe that empowerment academy will be a benefit to the community and to parents.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 7:47 pm
Browser:	Chrome 150.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	71.56.0.137
Unique ID:	1492536978
Location:	33.8212, -84.3578

Name	Erica McGregor
Email	e.l Drake79@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 453-0121
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga

Written Comment

To the Tennessee Charter School Commission:

My name is Erica McGregor, and I am the mother of an 8-year-old son. I am writing to express my strong support for Empowerment Academy Chattanooga and the opportunity for this school to serve boys and families in our community.

As a mother, one of my greatest responsibilities is making sure my son has access to an educational environment where he is not only taught academically, but also encouraged to grow into a confident, respectful, responsible young man. I believe Empowerment Academy has the potential to provide that kind of environment.

At this age, boys need positive examples, strong expectations, and adults who will recognize their individual strengths while holding them accountable. I am especially interested in a school that intentionally focuses on developing boys academically, socially, and personally rather than expecting every child to thrive within a one-size-fits-all approach.

I would want my son to attend Empowerment Academy because I believe the school could give him the opportunity to build confidence, develop discipline, discover his strengths, and learn what it means to lead and serve others.

Chattanooga families deserve educational options that give parents meaningful choices for their children. I believe Empowerment Academy could be a valuable addition to our community, and I respectfully ask the Commission to support its appeal and allow the school the opportunity to serve Chattanooga's boys.

Thank you for considering my perspective as a mother and community member.

Sincerely,

Erica McGregor

Mother of an 8-year-old son

Signature: Erica McGregor_____

Date: 08/27/26_____

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 7:50 pm
Browser:	Chrome 150.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	71.56.0.137
Unique ID:	1492537478
Location:	33.8212, -84.3578

Name	Essence McClure
Email	essencemcc03@gmail.com
Phone	(423) 508-7482
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga

Written Comment

To the Tennessee Charter School Commission:

My name is Essence McClure, and I am the mother of a 5-year-old son. I am writing in support of Empowerment Academy Chattanooga because I believe the earliest years of a child's education are critical in shaping how they see themselves as learners.

As my son begins his educational journey, I want him to be in an environment that recognizes his potential from the beginning. I want him to learn that school is a place where he can be curious, creative, challenged, supported, and encouraged to believe in himself.

One of the reasons I would consider Empowerment Academy is the opportunity for my son to grow within a community specifically designed around the development of boys. I would value an environment where academic expectations are paired with opportunities to develop confidence, communication skills, discipline, and leadership from an early age.

I also believe there is something powerful about allowing boys to grow together through different stages of childhood while being surrounded by adults who are intentional about preparing them for their future.

As a mother, I want choices. I want to be able to look at the educational options available in Chattanooga and choose the environment that I believe will allow my son to thrive. Empowerment Academy could provide families like mine with another meaningful choice.

I strongly support the opportunity for Empowerment Academy Chattanooga to open and serve families in our community. I respectfully ask the Commission to consider the voices of parents who want additional educational opportunities for their children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Essence McClure
Mother of a 5-year-old son

Signature: Essence McClure

Date: 08/27/26 _____

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 7:52 pm
Browser:	Chrome 150.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	71.56.0.137
Unique ID:	1492537997
Location:	33.8212, -84.3578

Name	Edward Drake Jr.
Email	edwardldrakejr@gmail.com
Phone	(423) 671-0386
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga

Written Comment

Written Public Comment in Support of Empowerment Academy Chattanooga

To the Tennessee Charter School Commission:

My name is Edward Drake, and I am the father of three sons, ages 10, 12, and 13. I am writing to express my support for Empowerment Academy Chattanooga.

Raising three boys has given me a firsthand appreciation for how different boys can be from one another, even when they grow up in the same household. They each have different personalities, interests, strengths, and ways of learning. That is one reason I believe having more educational choices in Chattanooga is so important.

I am particularly interested in Empowerment Academy because I believe boys benefit from an environment where they can be challenged academically while also being taught accountability, teamwork, communication, and leadership.

I want my sons to understand that being a young man is about more than getting good grades. It is about learning how to work with others, how to overcome challenges, how to treat people with respect, and how to take ownership of their future.

An all-boys school could provide a focused culture where those expectations are reinforced every day. I would welcome the opportunity to consider a school where my sons can develop alongside other young men and be encouraged to pursue excellence.

I believe Chattanooga families should have access to diverse educational options, and I believe Empowerment Academy could provide a meaningful option for families raising boys.

I respectfully ask the Commission to support the school and its appeal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward Drake
Father of three sons, ages 10, 12, and 13

Signature: Edward Drake Jr.
Date: 08/27/26

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 7:55 pm
Browser:	Chrome 150.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	71.56.0.137
Unique ID:	1492538493
Location:	33.8212, -84.3578

Name	Yolanda Hubbard
Email	em.contentcreations@gmail.com
Phone	(423) 994-2933
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga

Written Comment

Written Public Comment in Support of Empowerment Academy Chattanooga

To the Tennessee Charter School Commission:

My name is Yolanda Hubbard, and I am a grandmother to two grandsons, ages 6 and 9. I am writing in support of Empowerment Academy Chattanooga because I believe our boys need educational environments that intentionally prepare them not only for the classroom, but for life.

As a grandmother, I think about the kind of men I want my grandsons to become. I want them to grow up understanding the importance of character, responsibility, respect, perseverance, and service to their community.

What stands out to me about the possibility of an all-boys school is the opportunity to create a culture where boys can be challenged to reach their potential while being surrounded by positive mentorship and high expectations. I believe there is tremendous value in giving young boys opportunities to see leadership modeled and to learn from men and other positive role models who are invested in their development.

I would seriously consider Empowerment Academy for my grandsons because I want their education to help them become well-rounded young men who understand that their future is bigger than their circumstances.

I also believe Chattanooga should continue expanding the educational opportunities available to families. Parents and grandparents should have options when determining what environment will best support their children.

I respectfully encourage the Commission to support Empowerment Academy Chattanooga and give this school an opportunity to become a positive resource for boys and families in our city.

Thank you for allowing me to share my perspective.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Hubbard
Grandmother of two grandsons, ages 6 and 9

Signature: Yolanda Hubbard_____

Date: 08/27/2026_____

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 8:00 pm
Browser:	Chrome 150.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	71.56.0.137
Unique ID:	1492539617
Location:	33.8212, -84.3578

Name	Deborah Bell
Email	tookiebird13@gmail.com
Phone	(678) 249-0559
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga

Written Comment

Written Public Comment in Support of Empowerment Academy Chattanooga

To the Tennessee Charter School Commission:

My name is Deborah Bell, and I am the great-aunt of an 11-year-old boy. I am writing to express my support for Empowerment Academy Chattanooga and its proposed opportunity to serve boys in our community.

At 11 years old, boys are beginning to form a much stronger sense of who they are, what they are capable of, and what they believe their future can look like. I believe this is an important stage of development, and I would welcome an educational environment that intentionally helps boys navigate that transition.

One of the reasons I would want my great-nephew to attend Empowerment Academy is the potential for the school to help boys develop leadership skills and a strong sense of purpose. I want him to be challenged to think critically, communicate effectively, take responsibility for his decisions, and understand that he has something meaningful to contribute to the world.

I believe an all-boys environment can provide a unique opportunity to build brotherhood and encourage healthy competition while allowing students to learn from one another and grow together.

Chattanooga would benefit from having more educational choices that intentionally address the needs of young men. I believe Empowerment Academy has the potential to fill an important space in our community.

For these reasons, I support the appeal of Empowerment Academy Chattanooga and respectfully ask the Commission to allow this school the opportunity to serve Chattanooga families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Deborah Bell
Great-aunt of an 11-year-old boy

Signature: Deborah Bell _____
Date: 08/27/26 _____

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 8:14 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 151.0.7922.112 / iOS
IP Address:	69.220.147.18
Unique ID:	1492542190
Location:	35.1431, -90.0492

Name	JiAnne Black
Email	jianne.radden98@gmail.com
Phone	14234885574
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga
Written Comment	I am in support of the the Empowerment Academy Chattanooga.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	August 28, 2026 8:11 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.6 / iOS
IP Address:	104.28.32.232
Unique ID:	1492642776
Location:	35.0454, -85.3089

Name	Rachel Turman
Email	leah11ray@gmail.com
Phone	(423) 635-0009
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga
Written Comment	N/a

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	September 1, 2026 11:00 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.1 / iOS
IP Address:	172.58.3.134
Unique ID:	1493727178
Location:	33.9395, -84.2008

Name	Kyra Reed
Email	reedkyra1@aol.com
Phone	(423) 544-1902
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga
Written Comment	I am in support of this movement.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	September 2, 2026 6:34 pm
Browser:	Chrome 151.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	68.42.21.140
Unique ID:	1494244642
Location:	35.0278, -85.1461

Name	Jasmine Elder
Email	jelder3990@gmail.com
Phone	(423) 708-9279
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga
Written Comment	As the mother of a 4th grader, I want to express my excitement about the Empowerment Academy. My son, will be the first 5th grader to enroll. Thank you!

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment East/Hamilton
Submission Time:	September 3, 2026 9:34 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.6 / iOS
IP Address:	172.58.146.38
Unique ID:	1494400806
Location:	36.0711, -86.7196

Name	Pedro Basden
Email	pbasden551@yahoo.com
Phone	(502) 807-9987
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Chattanooga
Written Comment	I am the Pastor of St. Paul Ame Church and former pastor of Warren Chapel AME Church. I have and continue to serve in Chattanooga for 9 years. Our church worked with children and young people from the area. The continued work of the Boys and Girls Club in the community of North Chattanooga helps to shape and develop our children which speaks to the servicing of the underserved. Also, The United Way has a daycare that they run which is located immediately behind Warren Chapel Church. The daycare serves the community and those who are considered under served. There are about four black churches in the immediate North Chattanooga area. These churches indeed draw on the people and families that live in the area. One of the things I am acutely concerned about is the school to prison pineline. An opportunity like the Empowerment Academy will help to plug the breach by providing a targeted and rounded education. So, I stand in support of Empowerment Academy and state that a need exists to expand the possibilities of our children having every chance to succeed.

Kelly T. Keisling

State Representative

District Office:

8500 Hwy 111, Suite 150
Byrdstown, TN 38549

Legislative Office:

Cordell Hull Bldg., Suite 566
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N.
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
rep.kelly.keisling@capitol.tn.gov
(615) 741-6852



**House of Representatives
State of Tennessee**

NASHVILLE

September 14, 2026

Member:

Commerce Committee
Judiciary Committee
Banking and Consumer Affairs
Subcommittee
Children and Family Affairs
Subcommittee

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission
Attn: Executive Director and Members of the Commission
500 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Letter of Support, Empowerment Academy

Dear Members of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

I am pleased to offer my support for Empowerment Academy and its efforts to provide Tennessee students and families with another quality public education option.

Throughout my years of service in the Tennessee General Assembly, I have believed that one of our most important responsibilities is ensuring that Tennessee children have every opportunity to receive a strong education and prepare themselves for a successful future. Every family and student have different needs, and I believe we should encourage educational opportunities that can help meet those needs while maintaining strong standards of accountability and academic achievement.

An education that combines academic achievement with personal responsibility, leadership, and involvement in the community can make a lasting difference in the lives of young people. With that in mind, I am encouraged by Empowerment Academy's proposed emphasis on strong foundations in reading and mathematics, individualized learning, character and leadership development, mentorship, technology, family engagement, and experiential learning.

I also appreciate Empowerment Academy's willingness to participate fully in Tennessee's charter authorization process, receive feedback, and continue refining its proposal. Any public charter school entrusted with educating Tennessee students should be expected to demonstrate sound governance, fiscal responsibility, academic accountability, and a commitment to producing meaningful results for students.

38th District
Clay Fentress Macon Pickett Scott
Counties

Ultimately, parents want what is best for their children. They want their children to attend schools where they are challenged academically, supported personally, and prepared to become responsible and productive citizens. Providing families with additional high-quality educational opportunities can help Tennessee continue building upon the progress we have made in education.

For these reasons, I respectfully support Empowerment Academy's application and ask that the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission give its proposal full and fair consideration based upon its educational model, organizational readiness, and potential benefit to Tennessee students and families. Thank you for your service to the students and families of our state and for your careful consideration of this application. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office anytime.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly T Keisling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Kelly Keisling

Letter of Support for Empowerment Academy

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my stalwart support for the proposed Empowerment Academy, a K-5 public charter school that would serve young boys from historically underserved communities in Hamilton County.

Our community has a responsibility to make sure every child has access to an educational environment where he can learn, grow, and develop the character and confidence necessary to succeed. Empowerment Academy's mission directly supports that responsibility by combining academic achievement with leadership and character development.

The proposed model is especially important because it emphasizes intervention and opportunity during the elementary years. Strong reading and mathematics skills are vital building blocks for future academic success. A school that intentionally focuses on establishing those skills early can help prevent students from falling further behind as they progress through school.

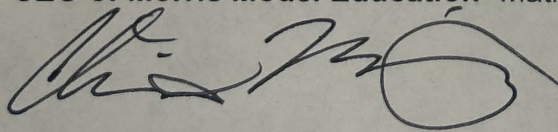
I am also encouraged by the proposed 1:10 teacher-to-student ratio and small-school model. This structure creates an opportunity for meaningful relationships between educators and students which allows teachers to provide more individualized attention and accountability.

Empowerment Academy is not simply proposing another school option. It is proposing an educational environment intentionally designed to help boys build a strong academic foundation while becoming responsible, confident, and capable young leaders.

I believe the families of Hamilton County can benefit from this type of educational choice and from an institution committed to measurable student growth and achievement. I strongly support the Empowerment Academy and encourage the appropriate decision-makers to give serious consideration to its proposed charter.

Sincerely,

Chris Morris-CEO of Morris Model Education- Math Tutoring and Teaching Company.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Morris", with a large, stylized circular flourish at the end.

706-296-3648

Letter of Support for Empowerment Academy

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in strong support of Empowerment Academy, a proposed K-5 public charter school in Hamilton County dedicated to serving young boys from historically underserved communities in the Chattanooga area.

I believe Hamilton County needs additional educational options that are specifically designed to ensure boys develop a strong academic foundation during their earliest and most important years of schooling. Too many students enter later grades without the literacy, mathematics, confidence, and learning habits they need to succeed. Empowerment Academy offers a thoughtful approach to addressing these challenges early.

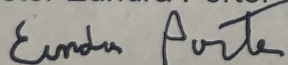
What particularly stands out to me is the school's commitment to a small, relationship-centered learning environment. A 1:10 teacher-to-student ratio can provide students with the individual attention, academic support, encouragement, and accountability that many children need to reach their potential.

I also support Empowerment Academy's focus on early literacy, academic growth, leadership, and character development. Academic achievement and character should not be viewed separately. Young men need strong reading and mathematics skills while also learning responsibility, perseverance, leadership, respect, and confidence.

For these reasons, I strongly support the establishment of Empowerment Academy in Hamilton County and encourage consideration of its proposed K-5 charter school model.

Sincerely,

Pastor Eundra Porter



Former K-5 Charter School Advisor- Inner-City Ministries Christian Academy

423-443-9721

Dear Members of the Charter School Authorizing Committee,

I am writing as a parent to express my strong support for the establishment of Empowerment Charter School. I believe this school has the potential to make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of students and families in our community.

What excites me most about Empowerment Charter School is its clear commitment to measurable student success. The focus on improving literacy and math growth, while ensuring that students master Tennessee academic standards, demonstrates a commitment to providing children with the strong academic foundation they need to succeed in school and beyond. I also appreciate the emphasis on attendance. Consistent attendance is essential to student achievement, and I believe a school that prioritizes getting students to school every day is making an important investment in their future.

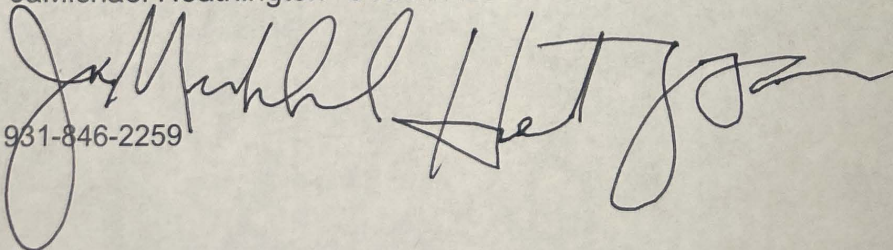
As a parent, I am especially supportive of the school's commitment to family engagement. Children, boys in particular, are most successful when families and educators work together. I want to be part of a school community where parents are informed, welcomed, heard, and encouraged to actively participate in their child's education.

The emphasis on leadership development and social-emotional growth is equally important. Students need opportunities to develop confidence, responsibility, perseverance, communication skills, and the ability to make positive decisions. Academic achievement and personal development should go hand in hand.

I believe Empowerment Charter School's mission reflects what our children need: high academic expectations, strong relationships, engaged families, consistent attendance, leadership opportunities, and support for the whole child. I am proud to offer my support for Empowerment Charter School and respectfully encourage the approval of its charter. I look forward to seeing the positive impact this school can have on students, families, and our community.

Sincerely,

JaMichael Heathington- Coach/Recruiter Motlow State Community College


931-846-2259

JOHN ROSE
6TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE
JOHNROSE.HOUSE.GOV

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2238 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4231
FAX: (202) 225-6887

COOKEVILLE OFFICE
321 EAST SPRING STREET, SUITE 306
COOKEVILLE, TN 38501
(931) 854-9430
FAX: (615) 206-8980

GALLATIN OFFICE
355 NORTH BELVEDERE DRIVE, SUITE 308
GALLATIN, TN 37066
(615) 206-8204
FAX: (615) 206-8980

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4206

**COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND MONETARY POLICY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DIGITAL ASSETS,
FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY AND INCLUSION

VICE-CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND INVESTIGATIONS

**COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
RISK MANAGEMENT, AND CREDIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION, FOREIGN,
AGRICULTURE, AND HORTICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMODITY MARKETS
DIGITAL ASSETS, AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

September 29, 2026

Ms. Tess Stovall, Executive Director
Tennessee Public Charter School Commission
500 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

In re: Empowerment Academy

Dear Executive Director Stovall and Members of the Commission:

I write in strong support of Empowerment Academy's public charter school appeals. I urge the Commission to approve its proposed schools in Davidson, Hamilton, and Shelby Counties so that all three locations can open for the 2027-2028 school year.

As a member of Congress representing Tennessee's 6th District and a former Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture, I recognize the value of connecting strong academic instruction to practical experience. Empowerment Academy's proposed focus on agriculture offers students an opportunity to apply reading, mathematics, science, and problem-solving skills to work they can see and understand. Combined with mentorship and high expectations, that approach can help students develop both academic confidence and a sense of purpose.

I am particularly encouraged by the school's stated commitment to serving students with disabilities. Families need public school options that recognize each child's strengths, provide appropriate support, and hold every student to meaningful goals. Empowerment Academy must be prepared to meet those responsibilities at each location, alongside the academic, operational, and financial standards required of every public charter school.

The Commission has the duty to examine each application carefully. I ask that it consider Empowerment Academy's full proposal, its responses to feedback, and the opportunity its model would offer families in Davidson, Hamilton, and Shelby Counties. I support approval of all three proposed locations for a simultaneous opening in the 2027-2028 school year.

Thank you for your service to Tennessee's students and families and for your consideration of Empowerment Academy's appeals.

Sincerely,



John Rose
Member of Congress