

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment West/MSCS
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 9:20 pm
Browser:	Chrome 151.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	179.64.11.204
Unique ID:	1492553687
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Calvin Davis
Email	cdavis961@hotmail.com
Phone	(901) 644-4616
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Memphis
Written Comment	Letter is attached.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19990375241

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment West/MSCS
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 9:24 pm
Browser:	Chrome 151.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	179.64.11.204
Unique ID:	1492554412
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Portia Frost
Email	portiafrost@bellsouth.net
Phone	(901) 268-8142
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Memphis
Written Comment	Please see attached letter.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19990385001

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment West/MSCS
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 9:26 pm
Browser:	Chrome 151.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	179.64.11.204
Unique ID:	1492554776
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Gavin Parker
Email	gavinparker@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 485-7743
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Memphis
Written Comment	Letter attached.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19990390529

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment West/MSCS
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 10:03 pm
Browser:	Chrome 151.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	179.64.11.204
Unique ID:	1492560220
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Andre' Strong
Email	ajstrong83@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 268-3728
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Memphis
Written Comment	Please see the attached letter.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19990469247

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment West/MSCS
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 11:00 pm
Browser:	Chrome 151.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	179.64.11.204
Unique ID:	1492567332
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Linda Hilton
Email	designsbyfaye@aol.com
Phone	(901) 246-7421
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Memphis
Written Comment	Please see attached letter of recommendation for the Empowerment Academy
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19990572670

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment West/MSCS
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 11:03 pm
Browser:	Chrome 151.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	179.64.11.204
Unique ID:	1492567635
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Dr. Milo Lumpkin
Email	malumpkin@gmail.com
Phone	(731) 377-4167
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Memphis
Written Comment	Please see attached.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19990576675

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment West/MSCS
Submission Time:	August 27, 2026 11:05 pm
Browser:	Chrome 151.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	179.64.11.204
Unique ID:	1492567889
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Patsy Brown
Email	ptbrown50@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 336-1843
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Memphis
Written Comment	File attached.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/19990580091

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment West/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2026 7:10 pm
Browser:	Chrome 153.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	67.187.77.201
Unique ID:	1497932904
Location:	36.3834, -86.4512

Name	Kelly T. Keisling
Email	rep.kelly.keisling@capitol.tn.gov
Phone	(615) 741-6852
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	Davidson County
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	State Representative
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Memphis
Written Comment	Attaching File.
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/20063897960

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment West/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2026 7:20 pm
Browser:	Chrome 153.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	67.187.77.201
Unique ID:	1497936720
Location:	36.3834, -86.4512

Name	Mark Pody
Email	sen.mark.pody@capitol.tn.gov
Phone	(615) 741-2421
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	State Senator
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Memphis
Written Comment	Attaching File
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/20063943651

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment West/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 21, 2026 7:40 pm
Browser:	Chrome 153.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	67.187.77.201
Unique ID:	1499690873
Location:	36.3834, -86.4512

Name	Randy McNally
Email	lt.gov.randy.mcnally@capitol.tn.gov
Phone	(615) 741-6806
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	STATE OF TENNESSEE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SPEAKER OF THE SENATE
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Memphis
Written Comment	Attaching file from Lt.Governor's Office
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/20086519716

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Empowerment West/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 24, 2026 9:37 pm
Browser:	Chrome 153.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	67.187.77.201
Unique ID:	1500797354
Location:	36.3834, -86.4512

Name	Paul Bailey
Email	sen.paul.bailey@capitol.tn.gov
Phone	(615) 741-3978
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	White County
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	Tennessee State Senator & Chairman of Commerce and Labor Transportation
I wish to comment in support of	Empowerment Academy Memphis
Written Comment	Attached is the File from Senator Paul Bailey's Office
Written Comment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/20101042942

RANDY MCNALLY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

CORDELL HULL BUILDING, SUITE 700
425 REP. JOHN LEWIS WAY NORTH
NASHVILLE, TN 37243
(615) 741-6806



94 ROYAL TROON CIRCLE
OAK RIDGE, TN 37830
(865) 483-5544

STATE OF TENNESSEE
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

September 21, 2026

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission
500 James Robertson Parkway
8th Floor, Davy Crockett Tower
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

RE: SUPPORT FOR EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY

Dear Members of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

I am pleased to offer my strong support for Empowerment Academy and its vision to establish a high-quality public charter school serving Tennessee students and families.

Tennessee benefits when parents have meaningful educational choices and schools are encouraged to pursue innovative approaches while remaining accountable for student achievement. Empowerment Academy's proposed model reflects those principles.

The Academy's focus on strong literacy and mathematics instruction, rigorous academics, leadership and character development, and whole-child support provides a strong foundation for student success. Its agricultural and hands-on learning opportunities would further connect classroom instruction to real-world experiences while developing critical thinking, responsibility, collaboration, and leadership.

I am also encouraged by Empowerment Academy's commitment to family and community partnership and to creating an environment where students are challenged academically, supported personally, and prepared to become productive and responsible members of their communities.

I respectfully encourage the Commission to give careful and favorable consideration to Empowerment Academy's application and the evidence it has presented regarding its academic model, leadership, governance, operational readiness, financial planning, and commitment to measurable student achievement.

I commend the founders, educators, families, and community partners who have invested in developing this proposed school. Tennessee is strongest when we give students high expectations, give parents meaningful choices, and hold our schools accountable for results. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to Tennessee's students and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy McNally". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Randy McNally
Lieutenant Governor
State of Tennessee

SENATOR PAUL BAILEY

State of Tennessee
NASHVILLE

CORDELL HULL BUILDING
425 REP JOHN LEWIS WAY N
SUITE 736
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
37243
(615) 741-3978

MEMBER OF COMMITTEES
Chairman of Commerce and Labor
Transportation

September 21, 2026

Dear Executive Director Stovall and Members of the Commission:

I write in support of Empowerment Academy and respectfully request that the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission give its applications full and fair consideration. Tennessee families benefit when they have access to high-quality public education options that combine strong academics with personal responsibility, practical learning, and clear accountability for student outcomes.

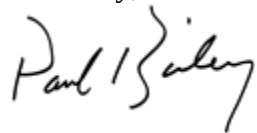
Empowerment Academy proposes an all-boys elementary model built around small learning environments, early literacy, mathematics, individualized instruction, mentorship, leadership, and character development. The model also incorporates STEAM, technology, agriculture, and experiential learning, offering students opportunities to connect core academic skills with real-world problem solving and future pathways.

That emphasis is especially meaningful for communities seeking to help boys become capable readers, confident learners, responsible citizens, and future leaders. Close relationships among students, educators, families, and mentors can create the consistency and encouragement children need while maintaining high expectations for achievement and conduct.

Empowerment Academy should be expected to demonstrate strong governance, fiscal discipline, qualified leadership, measurable academic goals, and meaningful engagement with the families and communities it proposes to serve. I understand that the organization has participated in Tennessee's charter review process and continued refining its proposal in response to feedback.

I therefore, respectfully support the Commission's full and fair review of Empowerment Academy's proposed locations in Davidson, Hamilton, and Shelby Counties. I appreciate the Commission's responsibility to evaluate each application carefully and thank you for your service to Tennessee students and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Bailey

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

August 22, 2026

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission

Attn: Executive Director and Members of the Commission

500 James Robertson Parkway

Nashville, Tennessee 37243

RE: Letter of Support for Empowerment Academy

Dear Members of the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission:

I am writing in support of Empowerment Academy and its efforts to provide Tennessee students and families with an additional high-quality public education option.

As a member of the Tennessee General Assembly, I believe strongly that our state's continued success depends upon our willingness to invest in children, strengthen families, support educational innovation, and ensure that students have access to learning environments capable of meeting their individual needs.

Empowerment Academy's proposal reflects those priorities.

The school's vision extends beyond traditional classroom instruction. Its educational model emphasizes strong foundations in literacy and mathematics while incorporating individualized learning, character and leadership development, mentorship, technology, experiential education, family engagement, and meaningful connections between students and their communities.

These priorities are particularly important as Tennessee continues working to improve academic achievement and ensure that every student—regardless of ZIP code or economic circumstance—has an opportunity to succeed.

I am also encouraged by Empowerment Academy's willingness to engage in Tennessee's charter authorization process, respond to feedback, and continue strengthening its proposal. Effective leadership requires both vision and the

willingness to listen, improve, and remain accountable for results. The governing board's continued commitment to this process demonstrates its determination to bring its educational vision to fruition.

Public charter schools have an important responsibility. They must provide families with meaningful educational opportunities while maintaining high standards for academic performance, fiscal responsibility, governance, and accountability. Empowerment Academy should be held to those expectations, and its application should receive full and fair consideration based upon the strength of its educational model, organizational readiness, and potential benefit to the students and communities it proposes to serve.

At its core, this effort is about opportunity.

Families should have access to educational environments where children are known, challenged, supported, and prepared not simply to complete school, but to become capable students, responsible citizens, and future leaders.

For these reasons, I respectfully support Empowerment Academy's application and encourage the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission to give thoughtful consideration to its proposal and the educational opportunities it seeks to provide Tennessee families.

Thank you for your service to the students of our state and for your careful consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Senator Mark Pody

Tennessee State Senate

District 17



BILL POWERS

STATE SENATOR
22ND DISTRICT

Tennessee State Senate

NASHVILLE

LEGISLATIVE ADDRESS:
425 Rep. John Lewis Way, Suite 772
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243
PHONE: (615) 741-2374
sen.bill.powers@capitol.tn.gov

September 24, 2026

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

RE: Letter of Support for Empowerment Academy

Dear Executive Director Stovall and Members of the Commission:

I write in support of Empowerment Academy's public charter school appeal and respectfully ask the Commission to approve all three proposed locations to open simultaneously for the 2027 academic year.

Tennessee families deserve access to strong public schools that respond to their children's needs and prepare them for success. Empowerment Academy proposes a focused approach to literacy and mathematics alongside mentorship, character development, family engagement, and hands-on learning. Its plans to connect classroom instruction with agriculture, technology, and practical experiences that offer students meaningful opportunities to apply what they learn.

I recognize that opening public charter schools requires more than a compelling mission. The Commission must carefully assess the applicant's academic plan, governance, staffing, finances, and ability to serve students well. I encourage the Commission to consider Empowerment Academy's application and responses to feedback in their entirety, with particular attention to the opportunities its proposed schools could provide for families seeking a public-school option that meets their children's needs across all three locations.

I support Empowerment Academy's request to open all three proposed locations simultaneously for the 2027 academic year. I believe each location should have the opportunity to serve students and families from the outset, and I respectfully ask the Commission to approve the application for all three locations. Thank you for your careful consideration of this appeal and for your service to Tennessee's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Powers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "P".

Senator Bill Powers
Tennessee Senate



Joey Hensley, MD
Deputy Speaker
State Senator District 28
Maury, Marshall, Giles, Lewis and
part of Williamson Counties

Legislative Address
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N.
Suite 742 Cordell Hull Bldg.
Nashville, TN 37243

Home address
855 Summertown Highway
Hohenwald, TN. 38462

Senate
State of Tennessee
Nashville

Committees
Finance, Ways and Means
2nd Vice Chairman
Revenue Sub Committee
Chairman
Member
Education Committee
Health and Welfare Committee
Council on Pensions and Insurance

Office: (615) 741-3100
Cell: (931) 212-8823
Fax: (615) 253-023
sen.joey.hensley@capitol.tn.gov

September 16, 2026

Tennessee Public Charter School Commission
500 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

RE: Support for Empowerment Academy

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am happy to offer my support for Empowerment Academy's application to provide Tennessee families with an additional public education option.

As someone who understands the importance of education, I feel Empowerment Academy would be a great addition to the people of TN. The schools vision extends beyond traditional classroom instruction, with a strong emphasizes in literacy and mathematics. These priorities are particularly important as TN continues working to improve academic achievement.

Families should have access to education environments where children are known, challenged, supported, and prepared not simply to complete school, but to become capable students, responsible citizens and future leaders.

Please reach out to me at 615-741-3100 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Joey Hensley, MD
State Senator
Deputy Speaker

PARENT LETTER OF SUPPORT-Proposed All-Boys Charter Elementary School

[Date]

To the Charter Authorizer, Education Officials, and Community Leaders:

I am writing as a parent and member of the Memphis and Shelby County community to express my strong support for the establishment of an all-boys charter elementary school serving students and families in our community.

Memphis is a city filled with talented, intelligent, creative, and promising young boys. Our responsibility is to ensure that they have access to educational environments that recognize their potential and give them the academic foundation, discipline, encouragement, mentoring, and opportunities necessary to succeed. I believe an all-boys charter elementary school would provide Memphis and Shelby County families with an important educational choice.

The proposed school should be built upon a culture of **Scholarship, Leadership, Character, Discipline, Service, and Excellence** and I am confident that Empowerment Academy is that school.

Students should receive rigorous instruction in reading, mathematics, science, technology, social studies, and the arts while also benefiting from programs that develop the whole child.

I strongly support this school model because I believe it includes:

- Intensive reading and literacy development.
- Strong mathematics instruction.
- Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities.
- Small-group instruction and individualized intervention.
- Leadership development.
- Character education.
- Positive male mentoring.
- Financial literacy and entrepreneurship.
- Agriculture and environmental education.
- Music, visual arts, and cultural enrichment.
- Athletics, physical fitness, and wellness.
- Conflict resolution and communication skills.
- Social-emotional learning.
- College and career exposure.
- Community service.
- Family engagement and parent education.
- Partnerships with businesses, churches, nonprofits, colleges, universities, and community organizations.

The elementary years are critical. We should not wait until boys reach middle school or high school before providing intensive academic intervention, leadership development, mentoring,

and career exposure. We must begin very early. An all-boys elementary school would have the opportunity to establish a culture where boys are taught that being intelligent is honorable, reading is powerful, discipline creates opportunity, leadership requires responsibility, and education can transform their future. I also believe Memphis parents deserve meaningful choices. Families know their children and should have the opportunity to select an educational environment they believe will help their sons thrive.

This proposed school can become much more than another educational institution. It can become a community-centered school that connects education with families, churches, neighborhood organizations, businesses, colleges, mentors, and other community resources. The goal should not simply be to help boys pass standardized tests. The goal should be to develop boys who can **read, reason, communicate, create, lead, serve, and succeed.**

When we educate a boy, we are preparing a future man. We are preparing future fathers, husbands, educators, ministers, physicians, attorneys, engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, craftsmen, artists, public servants, business owners, and community leaders. Memphis has an opportunity to intentionally invest in that future.

For these reasons, I ask the appropriate charter authorizer and educational officials to approve and support establishing this proposed all-boys charter elementary school in Memphis and Shelby County. I believe this school has the potential to provide an innovative and transformative educational opportunity for boys and their families while contributing to stronger neighborhoods and a stronger Memphis. I proudly support this effort.

Sincerely,

Parent/Guardian Name: Dr. Milo Lumpkin

E-Signature: *Dr. Milo Lumpkin*

Memphis/Shelby County ZIP Code: _____

Telephone: 731-377-4167

Email: malumpkin@gmail.com

Parent Letter of Recommendation and Support for The Empowerment Academy Charter School

August 27, 2026

Hello School Board Members,

I am writing as a parent to express my support for the Empowerment Academy charter school in Shelby County. My son Kale attended the all-boys Summer Enrichment Program sponsored by the Empowerment Academy. He loved it so much that he did not want it to end. I have to admit I had allowed him to be a couch potato playing his video game and did not realize how it affected him socially. When he first went to the summer camp I was told by the Site Director that kale initially was not adjusting well with coming to the camp nor interacting with the other boys and that he would be given special attention to help with his adjustment.

By the end of the camp Kale had not only made improvements in his learning of math and reading but also in the social skills of taking turns in sports, being still during lesson time and practicing self-control. He was even helped in his occasional accident in wetting his clothing.

I am most proud of the fact that on his first day of school he was so well adjusted that when I took him to his class he just said “bye dad”. That let me know that what he experienced in the summer camp helped him to adjust and prepare for real school.

For these reasons, I highly recommend the approval and establishment of this charter school. I believe it has the potential to provide families like mine with an important educational choice. I encourage the appropriate authorities to give this charter school the strongest consideration and support. Thank you for your commitment to improving educational opportunities for children like my son.

Sincerely,

Gavin Parker

Gavin Parker
Memphis, TN
[901-485-7443]

Parent Letter of Recommendation and Support for an All-Boys Charter Elementary School

August 26, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Dr. Andre' Strong and I am writing as a parent and community member to express my strong support for the establishment of an all-boys charter elementary school designed to meet the academic, social, emotional, and developmental needs of young boys.

I am the father of one son and as a parent, I want mine and other boys to receive an education that not only prepares them academically but also teaches them discipline, responsibility, confidence, leadership, respect, and perseverance. I believe an all-boys charter elementary school can provide a focused learning environment where boys are encouraged to excel and where their unique educational and developmental needs are intentionally addressed.

Too many boys enter school with tremendous potential but do not always receive the individualized attention, mentorship, structure, and encouragement necessary to help them reach that potential. I was blessed to have people whose paths I crossed pour wisdom and encouragement into me. My middle school teacher encouraged me to go to college and major in Mathematics and that is just what I did. An all-boys charter school can create a culture where academic achievement is expected, positive behavior is reinforced, and young men are consistently surrounded by adults who believe in their ability to succeed.

I strongly support a school model that will provide rigorous instruction in reading, mathematics, science, technology, social studies, the arts, and physical education while also incorporating leadership development, character education, mentoring, financial literacy, life skills, entrepreneurship, and college and career awareness.

I believe this school can be especially effective by providing:

- High academic expectations for every student.
- Small-group and individualized academic intervention.
- Strong literacy and mathematics instruction beginning in the elementary grades.
- Male mentors and positive role models.
- Character education centered on integrity, responsibility, respect, discipline, and service.
- Leadership opportunities that teach boys how to become responsible young men.
- A structured, safe, and nurturing school environment.
- Social and emotional learning that helps students develop healthy communication and decision-making skills.
- Opportunities in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, agriculture, music, arts, athletics, and enrichment activities.
- Strong partnerships among parents, teachers, administrators, businesses, churches, nonprofits, colleges, and community organizations.

- Meaningful parent involvement and regular communication between families and the school.

An all-boys educational environment can also provide teachers with the opportunity to develop instructional approaches that recognize how boys learn, communicate, compete, collaborate, and respond to movement, hands-on activities, mentorship, and positive reinforcement.

I believe this school will not simply focus on correcting problems after they occur but rather be designed to prevent academic failure by identifying students' strengths and needs early and providing them with the support necessary to succeed. From my own educational experience, I believe that educating boys successfully requires more than textbooks and testing. I made a 13 on the ACT but the college counselor gave me a chance and I succeeded in spite of the failed testing. Boys need adults who will challenge them, guide them, encourage them, hold them accountable, and help them envision a future greater than their present circumstances.

Our sons should be taught that academic achievement is something to be proud of. They should learn that intelligence, discipline, kindness, responsibility, and leadership are strengths and not weaknesses. When we invest in the education of young boys, we are investing in future fathers, husbands, educators, entrepreneurs, ministers, doctors, attorneys, scientists, engineers, skilled professionals, public servants, and community leaders. Strong boys can become strong men, and strong men can help build strong families and strong communities. The creation of an all-boys charter elementary school would provide parents with an additional educational choice and would allow families to select an environment they believe will best support the development of their sons.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly recommend and support the approval and establishment of this all-boys charter elementary school. I believe this school can become an innovative and transformative educational institution that helps young boys recognize their potential, develop their gifts, achieve academically, and become responsible leaders. I am looking forward to my son who is 1 ½ entering the doors of Empowerment Academy.

I respectfully ask the appropriate charter authorizer to give this charter school their strongest consideration and support. Our boys deserve an educational environment that believes in them, challenges them, develops them, and prepares them to succeed. Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to expanding educational opportunities for children and families.

Sincerely,

E-signature: *Dr. Andre' J. Strong*

Dr. Andre Strong, PhD
Applied Mathematics
Memphis, TN
901-268-3728
ajstrong83@gmail.com

Proposed All-Boys Charter Elementary School

Statement of Support

I am a retired educator from the Shelby County Schools. I am not only an educator but also a parent of four adult children, two being men. As both the educator and parent, I would respectfully express my support for the establishment of an all-boys charter elementary school.

I believe families should have access to high-quality educational choices that meet the individual academic, social, and developmental needs of their children. The reason I support the creation of this school is because I believe it will provide boys with:

- Rigorous academic instruction.
- Strong reading and mathematics foundations.
- STEM and technology opportunities.
- Leadership and character development.
- Positive mentoring and role models.
- Structured and safe classrooms.
- Individualized academic intervention.
- Financial literacy and entrepreneurship.
- Arts, music, agriculture, physical education, and enrichment.
- Social-emotional learning and life skills.
- College and career awareness.
- Strong parental involvement.
- Community partnerships.
- High expectations for academic achievement and behavior.

I believe that an all-boys charter elementary school can provide an innovative learning environment where boys are challenged to become scholars, leaders, responsible citizens, and productive members of their communities. I respectfully request that the appropriate decision makers support the approval and establishment of this school.

Sincerely,

Parent/Guardian Name: Patsy Brown

E:Signature: *Patsy J. Brown*

Address: Brownlee Rd.

City/State/ZIP: Memphis, TN 38116

Telephone: 901-336-1843

Email: ptbrown50@yahoo.com

Number of School-Age Children: N/A

I would consider enrolling my child: X Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

Parent Letter of Recommendation and Support for The Empowerment Academy Charter School

August 27, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a grandparent to express my support for the establishment of the Empowerment Academy charter school in Shelby County. My grandson attended the all-boys Summer Enrichment Program sponsored by the Empowerment Academy. He loved it so much that he did not want it to end. He suggested that the boys stay in contact with one another and be friends. What I liked about it is the content and quality of the math, literacy and hands-on work the boys did in agricultural activities and playing golf. These were activities I have not seen in any all-boys school setting.

My grandson had never experienced an all-boys setting and he loved it. Its as if he found a new group of friends that he could relate to and not compete with for any girl's attention. Also, the camp was held at a local church which shared moral principles with the boys.

As a schoolteacher myself, I believe parents should have a variety of choices when choosing what best meets the needs of their children because some children learn differently from others.

I am especially encouraged by the model because I think the school will:

- Maintain high academic expectations for every young man.
- Have strong instruction in reading, mathematics, science, technology, and the unique extracurricular.
- Offer individualized academic support for students who need additional assistance. My grandson really needs this.
- Develop leadership, responsibility, character, and respect.
- Maintain a safe, structured, and nurturing learning environment.
- Encourage close family involvement.
- Provide enrichment opportunities that prepare students for college, careers, entrepreneurship, and life.
- Employ qualified educators who believe that every child is capable of achievement.
- Establish partnerships with churches, businesses, nonprofit organizations, colleges, and other community institutions.

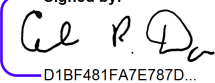
I think young students deserve more than simply being promoted from grade to grade. They deserve an education that develops their minds, builds their confidence, strengthens their character, and prepares them to compete successfully in a society that is ever-changing.

When parents, educators, community organizations, and school leaders work together, children benefit. This is what I saw from the summer camp experience my grandson had.

For these reasons, I respectfully recommend and support the approval and establishment of this charter school. I believe it has the potential to provide families with an important educational choice and to make a lasting difference in the lives of children for generations to come.

I encourage the appropriate educational authorities and community leaders to give this charter school proposal their strongest consideration and support. Thank you for your commitment to improving educational opportunities for children like my grandson.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Calvin Davis, Grandfather
Memphis, TN
[901-644-4616
cdavis961@hotmail.com

Parent Letter of Recommendation and Support for a Charter School

August 27, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a parent and concerned member of the community to express my strong support for the establishment of a charter school that will provide boys with a high-quality, innovative, and supportive educational environment.

As parents, we want our children to attend schools where they are challenged academically, encouraged personally, and prepared to become responsible and productive members of society. A charter school can provide families with an important educational option while creating an environment that emphasizes academic excellence, strong character, discipline, leadership, and accountability.

I believe parents should have meaningful choices when determining the educational setting that best meets the needs of their children. Every child learns differently, and families deserve access to schools that recognize students' individual strengths while providing the structure and resources necessary for them to succeed.

I am especially encouraged by a school model that will:

- Maintain high academic expectations for every student.
- Provide strong instruction in reading, mathematics, science, technology, and the arts.
- Offer individualized academic support for students who need additional assistance.
- Develop leadership, responsibility, character, and respect.
- Maintain a safe, structured, and nurturing learning environment.
- Encourage meaningful parental and family involvement.
- Provide enrichment opportunities that prepare students for college, careers, entrepreneurship, and life.
- Employ qualified educators who believe that every child is capable of achievement.
- Establish partnerships with churches, businesses, nonprofit organizations, colleges, and other community institutions.
- Hold students, teachers, administrators, and families accountable for educational success.

Our community needs educational institutions that are willing to address achievement gaps while inspiring children to recognize their potential. Students deserve more than simply being promoted from grade to grade. They deserve an education that develops their minds, builds their confidence, strengthens their character, and prepares them to compete successfully in an ever-changing world.

A successful charter school can also become a valuable community resource. When parents, educators, community organizations, and school leaders work together, children benefit. Strong schools contribute to stronger families, stronger neighborhoods, and ultimately a stronger community.

For these reasons, I respectfully recommend and support the approval and establishment of this charter school. I believe it has the potential to provide families with an important educational choice and to make a lasting difference in the lives of children for generations to come.

I encourage the appropriate educational authorities to give this charter school proposal their strongest consideration and support. Thank you for your commitment to improving educational opportunities for our children.

Sincerely,

E-signature: *Mrs. Linda Hilton*

Mrs. Linda Hilton

Memphis, TN

901-246-7421

designsbyfaye@aol.com

PARENT LETTER OF SUPPORT Proposed All-Boys Charter Elementary School

August 27, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a guardian grandparent to express my strong support for the establishment of an all-boys charter elementary school that will provide families with an additional high-quality educational option for their sons. As a retired professional for over 40 years, I believe boys benefit from an educational environment that combines strong academics with structure, discipline, mentoring, leadership development, character education, and meaningful family involvement.

I believe this school will emphasize:

- Academic excellence in reading, mathematics, science, technology, social studies, and the arts.
- Early intervention and individualized academic support.
- Leadership, responsibility, discipline, integrity, and respect.
- Positive male mentors and community role models.
- STEM, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, agriculture, music, athletics, and enrichment opportunities.
- Social-emotional development and healthy decision-making.
- Safe, structured, and nurturing classrooms.
- Strong parent and family engagement.
- College, career, and life preparation beginning in the elementary grades.
- Accountability for students, educators, administrators, and families.

I believe that investing in our boys today will help develop the leaders, fathers, professionals, entrepreneurs, educators, public servants, and community builders of tomorrow. For these reasons, I strongly support the approval and opening of this proposed all-boys charter elementary school.

Sincerely,

Parent/Guardian Name: Portia Frost

E-Signature: Portia Frost

Address: 3677 Tiffany Oaks Lane

City/State/ZIP: Bartlett, TN 38135

Telephone: 901-268-8142

Email: _____

Number of School-Age Children: 2 grandsons

I would consider enrolling my child: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Undecided

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JOHNROSE.HOUSE.GOV

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Congress of the United States
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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