

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 12, 2026 8:31 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.6.1 / iOS
IP Address:	172.4.73.41
Unique ID:	1497022223
Location:	35.0848, -89.8014

Name	Terri Gaston
Email	terrilgaston@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 558-2008
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	Our students need as many opportunities as possible to succeed. We need schools like this that were created to support some of our kids when traditional school hasn't worked.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 13, 2026 2:42 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.6.1 / iOS
IP Address:	12.39.51.212
Unique ID:	1497143580
Location:	34.7561, -87.6304

Name	Vanessa Caswell-Rodgers
Email	iamshememphis@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 503-9388
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy

Written Comment

As the CEO/Founder of I Am She, I am writing in support of Opportunity Youth Academy's application to open an Opportunity Public Charter School in the Frayser community of Memphis. As an Opportunity Public Charter School, Opportunity Youth Academy will serve high school students who have not found success in traditional high school environments. The need for this type of school is great as schools that serve students who live in and around the Frayser community have seen chronic absenteeism rise and graduation rates drop.

Opportunity Youth Academy's model, which focuses on accelerated academics, leadership development, life skills, and career and technical education, is proven to effectively serve students who have not been successful in traditional high school environments. More specifically, for the past twenty years, this model has been implemented successfully across multiple campuses that serve similar populations of students in Newark, New Jersey. With the recent passage of the Opportunity School legislation, the leaders of these schools are seeking to bring the model to Memphis, which I wholeheartedly support.

The mission and model of Opportunity Youth Academy hinges on collaboration with the communities the school will serve. With support from the leadership of the existing schools, the leaders of Opportunity Youth Academy will leverage existing resources and community organizations in Memphis to bring the model to life, allowing students who have not yet found success in traditional high schools the opportunity to attend a school designed to meet their unique needs.

To this end, I lend my full support to Opportunity Youth Academy and the positive impact on students and the larger community the school will bring.

In partnership,

Dr. Vanessa Caswell- Rodgers

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 14, 2026 4:20 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 143.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	172.59.93.145
Unique ID:	1497482980
Location:	38.1866, -85.6529

Name	Brian Tillman
Email	Brian@hopebeyondbarrierstn.org
Phone	19015032981
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	I'm in full support of Opportunity Youth Academy. Our youth deserve an innovative option to educational & technical opportunities. The reality is that many of our youth require unique instructions that can only be given in an intimate environment where the instructor to student ratio is much lower. This affords our youth with the increased chance of obtaining success. This pathway provided by Oppprtjnity Youth Academy can also serve as a prevention tool to violence. Poverty is the root cause to violence. Once a technical skill is obtained the participant has now shifyfrom survival mode to thriving because of a career pathway & financial security.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 15, 2026 5:32 pm
Browser:	Chrome 152.0.0.0 / OS X
IP Address:	70.240.157.13
Unique ID:	1497893729
Location:	35.0644, -89.6759

Name	Kerrie Jackson
Email	kjackson@kindkunsultants.org
Phone	(901) 438-2808
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	Community Partner
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	I support the Opportunity Youth Academy application because its model goes beyond earning a diploma. OYA will provide young people with personalized learning, career preparation, counseling and case management, leadership development, and continued support toward graduate success. The proposed school will offer pathways such as Allied Health, Construction, and EMS that connect education to industry-recognized credentials and college or career opportunities. As a former Frayser resident and former Managing Director of K-12 SEL, DEI, and Belonging, I believe OYA can serve as a critical bridge in addressing gaps in truancy, academic achievement, scholar well-being, and engagement while creating meaningful pathways toward long-term success.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 1:51 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.6.1 / iOS
IP Address:	67.116.70.223
Unique ID:	1498186304
Location:	36.1671, -86.7861

Name	Moniqua Hudson
Email	moniquahudson@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 246-6202
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	I am proud to support the establishment of a new urban charter school designed to provide students with greater opportunities to achieve academic success, develop leadership skills, and prepare for their future.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 1:53 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.6.1 / iOS
IP Address:	172.226.81.193
Unique ID:	1498187121
Location:	35.1499, -90.0558

Name	FrankiETTia Godwin
Email	fgodwin@impactchaser.org
Phone	(703) 981-2955
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	This is a very necessary school. There is a high need for students to have the opportunity to walk away with a trade. This will also assist with crime decreasing.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 2:15 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 153.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	50.76.214.38
Unique ID:	1498195819
Location:	35.056, -89.8598

Name	Candace Tate
Email	candace.tate@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 299-9958
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	Tennessee should definitely support the work of OYA, to help support at risk youth across the state.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 2:33 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 152.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	174.221.220.119
Unique ID:	1498202569
Location:	35.056, -89.8598

Name	James Bacchus
Email	jquention@gmail.com
Phone	19018466136
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	I support the mission and vision of OYN

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 5:04 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.6 / iOS
IP Address:	96.4.165.4
Unique ID:	1498253698
Location:	35.0514, -89.9265

Name	Tamesha Butts
Email	tbutts@memphisalumni.org
Phone	(901) 337-9221
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	Desoto
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	No file attached

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 5:05 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.6.1 / iOS
IP Address:	174.202.192.208
Unique ID:	1498253968
Location:	35.0514, -89.9265

Name	Frederick Holmes
Email	holmes.frederick@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 628-8612
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	I believe this school is a great opportunity to put an end to generational poverty by providing the kinds of skills and credentials for those young people who need a second chance!

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 5:09 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.6.1 / iOS
IP Address:	73.2.153.5
Unique ID:	1498254913
Location:	35.0514, -89.9265

Name	Valencia Walker
Email	valenciarw@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 230-6047
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	Great opportunity for those in the community and the school is need to help individuals

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 8:23 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.6.1 / iOS
IP Address:	76.107.144.209
Unique ID:	1498296821
Location:	35.0452, -90.073

Name	Catrina Wright
Email	mcjwright@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 870-4251
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Prospective Parent
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	It is needed

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 16, 2026 8:26 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 153.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	172.59.89.205
Unique ID:	1498297263
Location:	38.1866, -85.6529

Name	Anne Thomas
Email	annethomas0470@gmail.com
Phone	19018969727
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	Germantown
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy

Written Comment	Opportunity Youth Academy is not only necessary but a moral imperative for Memphis. As an educational leader, parent, and community member, I have years of extensive experience working with at-risk students and at present, there is no effective, successful option in place. As a lifelong educator, with the last 20 years of my career in Memphis, I have seen firsthand what happens to at-risk youth in schools and in our local juvenile justice system - and kids deserve better. Opportunity Youth Academy will provide just that. All students are capable of greatness, regardless of their past - and as the adults in the community, it is our responsibility to ensure that we create meaningful, effective and appropriate educational options for all kids. This school would not only serve these students - and have a major impact on the community. It would give kids opportunities to thrive - a circumstance that is wholly untrue of existing alternative options. I have personally worked in this space and believe that Opportunity Youth Academy will be life-altering for students and incredibly beneficial to the community. I am happy to have an extensive conversation about this comment at any time, as it is my passion.
------------------------	---

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 18, 2026 6:19 am
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 152.0.0.0 / Android
IP Address:	73.59.165.2
Unique ID:	1498752611
Location:	35.0452, -90.073

Name	Brittany Jones
Email	chardelott28@gmail.com
Phone	19015629440
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Application Staff or Board Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy

Written Comment

I believe Opportunity Youth Academy is needed because every young person deserves an opportunity to succeed, even when the traditional education system hasn't worked for them.

There are young people in our community who have fallen behind, dropped out, been pushed out, or simply become disconnected from school. As a community, we cannot afford to look at those students and say, "They made their choice." We have to ask ourselves, "What happened to make them disconnect, and what can we do to help them reconnect?" Parents need a school that understands that these children are not all on the same path. Some students are dealing with family responsibilities, financial hardship, transportation issues, behavioral challenges, learning differences, or other circumstances that make a traditional high school environment difficult to navigate.

Opportunity Youth Academy can provide something incredibly important: a pathway back.

From a parent's perspective, I want to know that if my child struggles, there is someone willing to see beyond the behavior or the missed credits and recognize the potential that is still there. I want my child to have access to adults who will hold them accountable while also supporting them. I want them to know that being behind does not mean they are a failure and that their past does not have to determine their future. I also believe parents need an educational option that prepares students for life beyond the classroom. Our young people need opportunities to earn their diploma while developing workforce skills, exploring careers, building confidence, and understanding what their next step can look like. For me, Opportunity Youth Academy represents hope for families who may feel like they have run out of options.

As a parent representative, I want to make sure we never lose sight of the families behind the data. Every student who walks through those doors has a story. Some stories may include mistakes, setbacks, or difficult circumstances, but they should never be allowed to end there. Our children deserve a school that doesn't give up on them simply because the traditional system did not work for them. They deserve an opportunity to reconnect, recover, graduate, and believe in themselves again.

That is why I believe Opportunity Youth Academy is not just needed, it is necessary for our community.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 21, 2026 2:12 pm
Browser:	Chrome 153.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address:	70.240.152.89
Unique ID:	1499592427
Location:	35.0644, -89.6759

Name	William Overton
Email	runitconsulting24@gmail.com
Phone	16152945732
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Other
What is your relationship to the application?	Former long term Teacher and School administrator of the Frayser Community
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	Greetings, my name is William Overton. I worked in the Frayser Community Schools District for 10 years as Assistant Principal, Dean of Students, teacher and athletic coach. I've had countless meetings/conversations with students and parents during that time. One thing that was made clear was the need for things to be "relevant" to them whether I agreed or not. Priorities differ, and many of the students needed to see how things could positively affect them in real time to buy in. Often times that's how we end up losing students today. We are unable to show relevancy. All students are not on the college track. A program that allows them to finish the program with a HS diploma AND a certification in needed areas allowing them to go directly into the work force is "RELEVANT" to the population OYA is pursuing. That's what I've actually heard students say. Right now there are so many students at home that are in a bad position, looking for an answer to the question "What am I going to do"? Some did it to themselves and some are products of the environment. OYA needs and wants them. OYA can give them an opportunity that not only changes their situation but also changes the mindset of the community. The students OYA are currently recruiting are not in school, and we know what idle hands can do to a community. Allowing OYA to move forward has the potential to decrease crime, and increase employment within Frayser. Please allow OYA to be another positive resource moving in the direction of helping Frayser.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 22, 2026 12:19 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.5.2 / iOS
IP Address:	70.229.204.167
Unique ID:	1499902461
Location:	35.1063, -89.941

Name	Michael 1 Brown
Email	yungenterprises@yahoo.com
Phone	(901) 239-1482
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	I like the mission for this school me as a community active. This will do everything I can to help them and volunteer as much as I can to help them positive impact on the future.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 22, 2026 12:59 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.6.1 / iOS
IP Address:	208.184.79.219
Unique ID:	1499918108
Location:	37.1237, -80.553

Name	Jason Buford
Email	jbuford97@hotmail.com
Phone	(901) 230-6942
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	This program has been very important to our community. It has been instrumental in helping a lot of forgotten about youth reemergence back in society positively.

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 22, 2026 8:09 pm
Browser:	Mobile Safari 18.1.1 / iOS
IP Address:	146.75.234.49
Unique ID:	1500049267
Location:	33.5226, -86.8033

Name	Roy Spears
Email	lfspears@gmail.com
Phone	(901) 275-4584
Resident District Status	Non-district Resident
What is your resident district?	Highland/poplar area
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	Na

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 22, 2026 10:39 pm
Browser:	Chrome Mobile 153.0.8010.24 / iOS
IP Address:	172.59.91.109
Unique ID:	1500072768
Location:	38.1866, -85.6529

Name	Devirick Watson
Email	credit@credibleconcepts.com
Phone	(901) 406-2448
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	This needs to happen for the sake of the children in the area

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 23, 2026 9:52 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.6 / iOS
IP Address:	66.199.29.130
Unique ID:	1500182468
Location:	35.0324, -89.8145

Name	Alvin Davis
Email	ajdav812@yahoo.com
Phone	(601) 951-8936
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Other
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	I wish to support

Form Name:	New Start Public Hearing Form - Written - Opportunity Youth Academy/MSCS
Submission Time:	September 23, 2026 11:23 am
Browser:	Mobile Safari 26.6.1 / iOS
IP Address:	146.75.164.202
Unique ID:	1500223999
Location:	35.1499, -90.0558

Name	FrankiETTia Godwin
Email	impactchaser@gmail.com
Phone	(703) 981-2955
Resident District Status	District Resident
Relationship to Application/District	Community Member
I wish to comment in support of	Opportunity Youth Academy
Written Comment	This is beyond needed for this area. Students could benefit as well as the community.