

# **ALABAMA NEW CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION EVALUATION REPORT**

Reviewed By:

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**Alabama Public Charter School Commission**

**ALABAMA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION  
Spring 2022 Charter Application Evaluation  
Executive Summary**

**Freedom Preparatory Academy Birmingham Campus**

<b>Non-Profit Information</b>			
Non-Profit:		Education Service Provider (ESP)	
		Name (# of ESP schools)	
<b>School Information</b>			
School:	Freedom Preparatory Academy Birmingham Campus	Home District:	Memphis, Tennessee
Grade Configuration at Start:	K-2	Districts Served:	Birmingham, AL
Grade Configuration at Scale:	K-8	Year Opening:	2022-2023
Enrollment at Start:	345	Enrollment at Scale:	1,182
<b>Proposal Summary</b>			
<p><b>Academy Model:</b> Freedom Prep has successfully operated charter schools in Memphis, Tennessee, and plans to open a new school in the Birmingham, AL, area. The school plans to open by 2022 as a K-2 provider and adding an additional grade each year, becoming a K-8 program by 2026. The curriculum and instruction plan are strategic, culturally responsive, and proven to be effective with similar populations.</p> <p><b>Financial Model:</b> The school has a strong financial plan and demonstrated success in fund raising in the past.</p> <p><b>Organizational Model:</b> The school has an excellent organizational structure that shows strong individual and organizational capacity for developing and sustaining the school. The leadership team is impressively experienced and credentialed.</p>			
Statement of Assurances Included:			Yes
Potential conflicts of Interest Identified:			Yes



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Section	Points Possible	Points Awarded
<b>Educational Program</b>	103	100
<b>Operations Plan</b>	69	67
<b>Financial Plan</b>	20	15
<b>Overall Alignment &amp; Viability</b>	15	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>Link to Rubric</b>	<a href="http://www.alchartercommission.com/media/qqzlnbkg/apsc-application-rubric-6-2020.pdf">http://www.alchartercommission.com/media/qqzlnbkg/apsc-application-rubric-6-2020.pdf</a>	

<b>Strengths of the Application</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong organizational structure and capacity.</li> <li>• Excellent leadership team.</li> <li>• Culturally responsive and excellent curriculum and design plan.</li> <li>• Strong culturally responsive plan to build school culture.</li> <li>• Proven record of operating successful charter schools for similar populations.</li> </ul>
<b>Areas Needing Further Attention</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive community engagement is still needed for success in this community.</li> </ul>



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**SECTION 1. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Evaluative Comments</b>
<b>Educational Program Overview</b>	4 (Excellent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well-organized and easy to follow; the educational environment and culture appear strong; experienced organization with good operation history and well thought through curriculum and instruction approach. While more discussion about the research support for their approach and their theory of education would have helped, their research into charter schools across the US have had success with similar populations was innovative and provides a sound framework for this population; while application did not strongly demonstrate local support or consultation, both the capacity interview and the public hearing showed more extensive community consultation and a responsiveness to input from the community.</li> </ul>
<b>Curriculum &amp; Instructional Design</b>	20 (Excellent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C&amp;I plan is strong and well thought through.</li> </ul>
<b>Student Performance Standards</b>	3 (Very Good)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standards are only stated in general terms; applicant states that they will meet Alabama standards yet never state what these standards are by grade.</li> </ul>
<b>HS Graduation Requirements (HS Only)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
<b>School Calendar and Schedule</b>	4 (Excellent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calendar and schedule are well thought through and adequate.</li> </ul>
<b>School Culture</b>	20 (Excellent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School culture is clearly described with focus on creating positive and inclusive environment that will promote student success.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplemental Programming</b>	4 (Excellent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear description of co-curricular activities, although applicant does not mention how the school pay for student participation in school district sponsored interscholastic programming.</li> <li>Strong mental, emotional, and social developmental supports are described.</li> </ul>
<b>Special Populations and At-Risk Students</b>	15 (Excellent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear and compelling plan to serve students with special needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Student Recruitment &amp; Enrollment</b>	3 (Very Good)	
<b>Student Discipline Policy &amp; Plan</b>	4 (Excellent)	
<b>Family &amp; Community Involvement</b>	3 (Very Good)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant has incorporated input from parents/guardians and community members in developing the proposed school model. Additional family/community involvement is planned.</li> </ul>



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<b>Educational Program Capacity</b>	20 (Excellent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant demonstrates strong individual and organizational capacity for developing and sustaining the school; leadership team has impressive experience and scope of knowledge.</li> </ul>
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### SECTION 2. OPERATIONS PLAN

Category	Score	Evaluative Comments
<b>Organization Structure &amp; Partnerships</b>	7 (Excellent)	
<b>Governing Board</b>	15 (Excellent)	
<b>Staffing Plans</b>	4 (Excellent)	
<b>Professional Development</b>	7 (Excellent)	
<b>Performance Management</b>	7 (Excellent)	
<b>Facilities</b>	8 (Very Good)	
<b>Startup &amp; Ongoing Operations</b>	15 (Excellent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The application detailed a strong startup plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Operations Capacity</b>	4 (Excellent)	

### SECTION 3. FINANCIAL PLAN

Category	Score	Evaluative Comments
<b>Financial Plan &amp; Financial Management Capacity</b>	15 (Excellent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant has described their past success with fund raising and discusses multiple ways they plan on funding their proposed school; however, additional local partnerships remain to be formed that would help with the school's sustainability.</li> </ul>

### SECTION 4. OVERALL ALIGNMENT AND VIABILITY

Category	Score	Evaluative Comments
<b>Overall Alignment &amp; Viability</b>	15 (Excellent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong curriculum and development plan.</li> <li>Excellent capacity to setup, manage, and sustain a strong school.</li> <li>Strong financial plan.</li> <li>All members of leadership appear knowledgeable and capable and demonstrated responsiveness to community input.</li> </ul>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent record in starting and sustaining positive charter schools where children can grow and learn.</li> </ul>
<b>Experienced Operators if Applicable</b>		N/A

<b>Conflict of Interest</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
The description of the board’s ethical standards and procedures for identifying and addressing conflicts of interest does not exist or is lacking sufficient detail (Attachment 16): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Code of Ethics Policy.</li> <li>▪ Conflict of Interest Policy.</li> </ul>	Yes
The applicant has provided a signed, conflict of interest statement for every: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Applicant team member</li> <li>▪ Identified board member</li> </ul>	No
The applicant has provided a statement of Assurances agreeing to requirements should approval be granted.	Yes