



**HAMILTON  
COUNTY  
SCHOOLS**



# Annual Authorizer Report

Hamilton County Schools 2022-2023

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# Introduction

Hamilton County Schools has approved and authorizes nine charter schools in the district. Each school has a unique approach and strives to educate some of the district's most vulnerable students. The Charter School Coordinator works under the direction of the Office of Opportunity and Access, Department of Access and School Choice. Through open communication and transparency, there is a clear line from each charter to the support they need in the various district departments.

In 22-23

- Four charter schools Received Level 5 TVAAS scores for the 22-23 school year; Chattanooga Prep, CGLA, CCSE Elementary and CCSE Middle.
- Chatt Prep expanded to a CMO with the approval of Knox Prep.
- Ivy's Skillern Elementary opened their new campus, housing grades 1-2.
- Chatt Academy Community School requested a one-year deferral due to location issues and will enroll students for the 24-25 school year.
- In 2022-2023, several charter schools joined the HCS School Choice lottery process for the first time.

## ***Office of Access and School Choice – Charter Schools Office Mission Statement***

*The HCS Charter Schools Office will practice rigorous charter school authorization, provide meaningful support, and protect school choice in order to uphold high academic standards, create fair and equitable opportunities, and improve outcomes for students and families in Hamilton County.*

## Section 2 Authorized School Data

### *Chatt Academy Community School*

Address:	Not Available
Telephone:	(423) 258 - 5595
School Leader(s):	Nolan McDaniel, Founder/CEO
School Leader(s) Email Address:	<a href="mailto:nolan.mcdaniel@chattacademy.org">nolan.mcdaniel@chattacademy.org</a>
Operating Status:	(A) Approved but not yet open, Deferred 1 year
Contracted Services:	None

### *Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence Elementary*

Address:	2029 E. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Street Chattanooga, TN 37404
Telephone:	(423) 710-1121
Fax:	(423) 710-3180
School Leader(s):	Marcia Griffin, Founder/CEO Dr. Jennifer Huskins, Principal Renee Krehl, Chief of Staff
School Leader(s) Email Address:	<a href="mailto:mgriffin@chattanooga charter.com">mgriffin@chattanooga charter.com</a> <a href="mailto:jhuskins@chattanooga charter.com">jhuskins@chattanooga charter.com</a> <a href="mailto:rkrehl@chattanooga charter.com">rkrehl@chattanooga charter.com</a>
Operating Status:	(B) Open and operating
Contracted Services:	None

### *Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence Middle*

Address:	1912 S. Willow Street Chattanooga, TN 37404
Telephone:	(423) 777-4603
Fax:	(423) 777-4075
School Leader(s):	Marcia Griffin, Founder/CEO Arianna Gladney, Principal Renee Krehl, Chief of Staff
School Leader(s) Email Address:	<a href="mailto:mgriffin@chattanooga charter.com">mgriffin@chattanooga charter.com</a> <a href="mailto:agladney@chattanooga charter.com">agladney@chattanooga charter.com</a> <a href="mailto:rkrehl@chattanooga charter.com">rkrehl@chattanooga charter.com</a>
Operating Status:	(B) Open and operating
Contracted Services:	None

### ***Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence High***

Address:	1912 S. Willow Street Chattanooga, TN 37404
Telephone:	(423) 777-4603
Fax:	(423) 777-4075
School Leader(s):	Marcia Griffin, Founder/CEO Dr. Alexine Boochie, Principal Rene Krehl, Chief of Staff
School Leader(s) Email Address:	<a href="mailto:mgriffin@chattanooga charter.com">mgriffin@chattanooga charter.com</a> <a href="mailto:aboochie@chattanooga charter.com">aboochie@chattanooga charter.com</a> <a href="mailto:rkrehl@chattanooga charter.com">rkrehl@chattanooga charter.com</a>
Operating Status:	(B) Open and operating First Enrollment Year 22-23, Grade 9
Contracted Services:	None

### ***Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy***

Address:	1802 Bailey Avenue Chattanooga, TN 37404
Telephone:	(423) 702-7230
Fax:	(423) 386-3005
School Leader(s):	Dr. Elaine Swafford, Executive Director Sylvia Davis, Principal
School Leader(s) Email Address:	<a href="mailto:elainewafford@cglonline.com">elainewafford@cglonline.com</a> <a href="mailto:sylviadavis@cglonline.com">sylviadavis@cglonline.com</a>
Operating Status:	(B) Open and operating
Contracted Services:	None

### ***Chattanooga Preparatory School***

Address:	1849 Union Ave Chattanooga, TN 37404
Telephone:	(423) 602-7737
Fax:	(423) 541-6003
School Leader(s):	Brad Scott, Chief Executive Officer Diamond Kelley, Principal
School Leader(s) Email Address:	<a href="mailto:bradscott@chattanoogaprep.com">bradscott@chattanoogaprep.com</a> <a href="mailto:diamondkelley@chattanoogaprep.com">diamondkelley@chattanoogaprep.com</a>
Operating Status:	(B) Open and operating
Contracted Services:	None

### ***Ivy Academy***

Address:	8520 Dayton Pike Soddy Daisy, TN 37379
Telephone:	(423) 305-7494
School Leader(s):	Holly Slater, Executive Director Matt Raper, Principal
School Leader(s) Email Address:	<a href="mailto:hslater@ivyacademychattanooga.com">hslater@ivyacademychattanooga.com</a> <a href="mailto:mraper@ivyacademychattanooga.com">mraper@ivyacademychattanooga.com</a>
Operating Status:	(B) Open and operating
Contracted Services:	None

### ***Montessori School at Highland Park***

Address:	700 S. Hawthorne Street Chattanooga, TN 37404
Telephone:	(423) 541-9822
School Leader(s):	Dr. Elaine Swafford, Executive Director Lawonda Reeves, Principal
School Leader(s) Email Address:	<a href="mailto:elaineswafford@cglonline.com">elaineswafford@cglonline.com</a> <a href="mailto:lawondareeves@cglonline.com">lawondareeves@cglonline.com</a>
Operating Status:	(B) Open and operating
Contracted Services:	None

### ***Ivy Academy's Skillern Elementary***

Address:	P.O. Box 39 Soddy Daisy, TN 37384
Telephone:	(423) 654-7308
School Leader(s):	Angie Markum, Founder and CEO Laura Day, Head of School
School Leader(s) Email Address:	<a href="mailto:amarkum@skillernelementary.com">amarkum@skillernelementary.com</a> <a href="mailto:lday@skillernelementary.com">lday@skillernelementary.com</a>
Operating Status:	(B) Open and operating First Enrollment Year 22-23, Grades K-1
Contracted Services:	None

# Section 3 Authorized School Waivers

No Waivers have been approved for charter schools operating in Hamilton County.

## Section 4 Portfolio

### Academic Performance

Using the scoring rubric from the Tennessee Charter School Performance Framework, the school scores in academic performance are in the table below. The table demonstrates comparison with the district.

Following the adopted HCS Framework for Evaluation, the following data is ranked with the scoring scale:

1. Falls Far Below Standard
2. Does Not Meet Standard
3. Meets Standard
4. Exceeds Standards

School	English	Math	Science	School-Wide TVAAS	Chronic Absenteeism	State Report Card Grade
CCSE Elem	1	1	1	4	2	C
CCSE Middle	1	1	1	4	2	C
CCSE High Grade 9	Not Eligible	N/E	N/E	N/E	N/E	Not Eligible
CGLA 6-12	2	2	3	4	4	B
Chatt Prep 6-10	1	2	1	4	4	B
Ivy Academy 6-12	3	2	3	2	2	C
Ivy Academy's Skillern Elementary K-1	Not Eligible	N/E	N/E	N/E	N/E	Not Eligible
Montessori Elementary	2	1	1	4	4	Not Eligible
<b>HCS District All Students</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	

Color Key: Orange - performed below authorizing district. Green - performed at or above authorizing district

## School Culture

School	Suspension Rate	Student Attrition Rate	Teacher Retention Rate
<b>CCSE Elem</b>	14%	3%	90.4%
<b>Score</b>	1	4	4
<b>CCSE Middle</b>	38%	5.1%	80.6%
<b>Score</b>	1	4	4
<b>CCSE High</b>	25%	19.35%	84%
<b>Score</b>	1	3	3
<b>CGLA 6-12</b>	0.0*	5.2%	80%
<b>Score</b>	4*	4	3
<b>Chatt Prep 6-10</b>	3.4%	10%	85%
<b>Score</b>	4	4	4
<b>Ivy Academy 6-12</b>	13.3%	6%	82%
<b>Score</b>	2	4	3
<b>Ivy Academy's Skillern Elementary</b>	11.8%	7.5%	100%
<b>Score</b>	1	4	4
<b>Montessori Elementary</b>	0.0*	6.7%	78%
<b>Score</b>	4*	4	3

\*CGLA and Montessori both utilize an evening school where students are remanded for serious disciplinary infractions in lieu of Out of School Suspension.

### Summary of Results

Using the same framework scale from page 6, the green areas (4) indicate where the charter school is doing an outstanding job of creating a culture that keeps teachers and students returning, exceeding standards set by the state and in the HCS Framework. Blue areas (3) meet the set standard, while orange (2) indicates the score falls below the standard. A yellow score (1) indicates an area that needs improvement as the school falls far below the standard in that area. Table does not compare scores to district.

## Finance and Operations Performance

### Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence Elementary

#### Financial Performance

Information for the financial standing is drawn from the annual audit results submitted by the charter school at the completion of the fiscal year.

**FY23 Audit Information has not been received and will be entered at a later date.**

Near Term Indicators	Performance
a. Current Ratio	
b. Unrestricted Days Cash	
c. Enrollment Variance	
E. Default	
Sustainability Indicators	Performance
a. Total Margin	
b. Debt to Asset Ratio	
c. Cash Flow	
d. Debt to Service Coverage Ratio	

#### Organizational Performance

Through site visits and interviews with students, staff, parents and board members, the health of the operational aspects of the charter school can be ascertained. These visits along with performance oversight are considered below.

<b>1. Education Program</b> -Students with Disabilities Rights -English Language Learner Rights	Meets Standards
<b>2. Financial Management and Oversight</b>	Meets Standards
<b>3. Governance and Reporting</b>	Meets Standards
<b>4. Students and Employees</b>	Meets Standards
<b>5. School Environment</b>	Meets Standards
<b>6. Additional Obligations</b>	Meets Standards



# Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence Middle

## Financial Performance

Information for the financial standing is drawn from the annual audit results submitted by the charter school at the completion of the fiscal year.

**FY23 Audit Information has not been received and will be entered at a later date.**

Near Term Indicators	Performance
a. Current Ratio	
c. Unrestricted Days Cash	
b. Enrollment Variance	
E. Default	
Sustainability Indicators	Performance
a. Total Margin	
c. Debt to Asset Ratio	
d. Cash Flow	
e. Debt to Service Coverage Ratio	

## Organizational Performance

Through site visits and interviews with students, staff, parents and board members, the health of the operational aspects of the charter school can be ascertained. These visits along with performance oversight are considered below.

<b>2. Education Program</b> -Students with Disabilities Rights -English Language Learner Rights	Meets Standards
<b>3. Financial Management and Oversight</b>	Meets Standards
<b>4. Governance and Reporting</b>	Meets Standards
<b>5. Students and Employees</b>	Meets Standards
<b>6. School Environment</b>	Meets Standards
<b>7. Additional Obligations</b>	Meets Standards

# Chattanooga Girls' Leadership Academy

## Financial Performance

Information for the financial standing is drawn from the annual audit results submitted by the charter school at the completion of the fiscal year.

**FY23 Audit Information has not been received and will be entered at a later date.**

Near Term Indicators	Performance
b. Current Ratio	
d. Unrestricted Days Cash	
c. Enrollment Variance	
E. Default	
Sustainability Indicators	Performance
b. Total Margin	
d. Debt to Asset Ratio	
e. Cash Flow	
f. Debt to Service Coverage Ratio	

## Organizational Performance

Through site visits and interviews with students, staff, parents and board members, the health of the operational aspects of the charter school can be ascertained. These visits along with performance oversight are considered below.

<b>3. Education Program</b> -Students with Disabilities Rights -English Language Learner Rights	Meets Standards
<b>4. Financial Management and Oversight</b>	Meets Standards
<b>5. Governance and Reporting</b>	Meets Standards
<b>6. Students and Employees</b>	Meets Standards
<b>7. School Environment</b>	Meets Standards
<b>8. Additional Obligations</b>	Meets Standards

# Chattanooga Preparatory School

## Financial Performance

Information for the financial standing is drawn from the annual audit results submitted by the charter school at the completion of the fiscal year.

**FY23 Audit Information has not been received and will be entered at a later date.**

Near Term Indicators	Performance
d. Current Ratio	Meets Standards
e. Unrestricted Days Cash	Meets Standards
e. Enrollment Variance	Meets Standards
E. Default	Meets Standards
Sustainability Indicators	Performance
f. Total Margin	Meets Standards
e. Debt to Asset Ratio	Meets Standards
f. Cash Flow	Meets Standards
g. Debt to Service Coverage Ratio	Meets Standards

## Organizational Performance

Through site visits and interviews with students, staff, parents and board members, the health of the operational aspects of the charter school can be ascertained. These visits along with performance oversight are considered below.

<b>4. Education Program</b> -Students with Disabilities Rights -English Language Learner Rights	Meets Standards
<b>5. Financial Management and Oversight</b>	Meets Standards
<b>6. Governance and Reporting</b>	Meets Standards
<b>7. Students and Employees</b>	Meets Standards
<b>8. School Environment</b>	Meets Standards
<b>9. Additional Obligations</b>	Meets Standards

# Ivy Academy

## Financial Performance

Information for the financial standing is drawn from the annual audit results submitted by the charter school at the completion of the fiscal year.

**FY23 Audit Information has not been received and will be entered at a later date.**

Near Term Indicators	Performance
g. Current Ratio	
f. Unrestricted Days Cash	
h. Enrollment Variance	
E. Default	
Sustainability Indicators	Performance
i. Total Margin	
f. Debt to Asset Ratio	
g. Cash Flow	
h. Debt to Service Coverage Ratio	

## Organizational Performance

Through site visits and interviews with students, staff, parents and board members, the health of the operational aspects of the charter school can be ascertained. These visits along with performance oversight are considered below.

<b>5. Education Program</b> -Students with Disabilities Rights -English Language Learner Rights	Meets Standards
<b>6. Financial Management and Oversight</b>	Meets Standards
<b>7. Governance and Reporting</b>	Meets Standards
<b>8. Students and Employees</b>	Meets Standards
<b>9. School Environment</b>	Meets Standards
<b>10. Additional Obligations</b>	Meets Standards

## Montessori School at Highland Park

### Financial Performance

Information for the financial standing is drawn from the annual audit results submitted by the charter school at the completion of the fiscal year.

**FY23 Audit Information has not been received and will be entered at a later date.**

Near Term Indicators	Performance
j. Current Ratio	
g. Unrestricted Days Cash	
k. Enrollment Variance	
E. Default	
Sustainability Indicators	Performance
l. Total Margin	
g. Debt to Asset Ratio	
h. Cash Flow	
i. Debt to Service Coverage Ratio	

### Organizational Performance

Through site visits and interviews with students, staff, parents and board members, the health of the operational aspects of the charter school can be ascertained. These visits along with performance oversight are considered below.

<b>6. Education Program</b> -Students with Disabilities Rights -English Language Learner Rights	Meets Standards
<b>7. Financial Management and Oversight</b>	Meets Standards
<b>8. Governance and Reporting</b>	Meets Standards
<b>9. Students and Employees</b>	Meets Standards
<b>10. School Environment</b>	Meets Standards
<b>11. Additional Obligations</b>	Meets Standards

## Section 5 Performance

Hamilton County Schools continues to grow and mature as a charter school authorizer in the state of Tennessee. The district is currently a mid-sized authorizer with 9 approved charter schools. Over the past year, there have been many improvements in the office of Access and School Choice regarding charter school policy and procedures.

- HCS maintained exacting standards by fairly and completely evaluating each charter school it oversees using the adopted HCS Framework for Evaluation. There were no new applications to review in 22-23. No school closures were necessary.
- HCS upheld school autonomy by allowing the schools freedom in all areas of charter administration, while providing specific support and accountability where necessary.
- HCS protected student and public interests by holding schools accountable for their admissions policies and processes, disciplinary procedures, and for services provided to students under state and federal law, including ELL and those with disabilities. As an authorizer, all state laws were followed, and the district followed all state requirements. The district includes information regarding choice of charter schools on public sites and publications.
- The HCS school board is educated annually regarding charter law and obligations as a charter authorizer. Amendments and board policy were implemented in 22-23 to strengthen the work of the charter office in Access and School Choice, including the adoption of the HCS Framework for Evaluation, the Policy for School Intervention, and the Policy for Renewal of a Charter School. Each department that serves charter schools (finance, data & accountability, operations & safety, federal programs) is committed to serving effectively and with transparency.
- HCS did not have a new applicant in 22-23, but two existing schools expanded and welcomed Hamilton County students. The newest charter school, serving students whose primary language is not English, deferred for a year and is planning to open in 2024.
- The first Authorizer Evaluation conducted by the state in 2021 resulted in a Plan of Improvement for HCS. The second Authorizer Evaluation just completed in 2023 and that will be finalized in February 2024, showed marked progress and no plan of improvement is necessary.