

BERTIE COUNTY SCHOOLS

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March 25, 2013

Educational Impact Statement

*The proposed location of Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy
within the attendance area of Bertie County Schools.*

The Board of Education and the administration of Bertie County Schools believe the establishment of a K-8 charter school within the current public schools attendance area will unfairly divert the already dwindling resources from the regular public school district. Argument against the establishment of such school is predicated upon the following findings:

Fact 1: Bertie County Schools has, according to NC State data, experienced a declining enrollment or average daily membership (ADM) for the past 10 years, data that results in a likewise declining annual fiscal allocation.

Fact 2: The state of North Carolina has required local school districts to revert a portion of their state funds for the past two years. Bertie County Schools reverted \$1.4M from the 2011-2012 budget and \$1.3M from the 2012-2013 budget. It is expected that Bertie County Schools will revert nearly \$1M in 2013-14. Further, all local school districts, Bertie County Schools included, have experienced a reduction on local and federal allocations for the past several years.

Fact 3: Bertie County Schools evidences both, a high teacher turnover rate and a low teacher retention rate, coupled with extreme difficulty in recruiting high-quality teachers to this rural, low performing, and high minority district.

Fact 4: Already Bertie County Schools competes with surrounding local districts, area private schools and home schools.

Fact 5: Despite budget reductions and reversions, teacher turnover, failed recruiting efforts and a reduction in force, Bertie County Schools evidenced significant growth in student academic achievement such that the state of North Carolina no longer recognizes the district as being in need of full transformation services from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Fact 6: The proposed plan for Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy fails to detail an instructional program that is significantly different from that offered by the local education agency.

Elaboration relevant to each fact follows:

Fact 1: Bertie County Schools has, according to NC State data, experienced a declining enrollment or average daily membership (ADM) for the past 10 years, data that results in a likewise declining annual fiscal allocation.

The Educational Directory and Demographical Information Exchange (EDDIE), an online application containing LEA and school information reports the following declining ADM trend for Bertie County Schools:

YEAR	STUDENT COUNT	DIFFERENCE OVER TEN YEARS
2003-2004	3,410	676 STUDENTS
2004-2005	3,349	
2005-2006	3,240	
2006-2007	3,148	
2007-2008	3,044	
2008-2009	2,974	
2009-2010	2,866	
2010-2011	2,817	
2011-2012	2,730	
2012-2013	2,810	

Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy proposes to enroll 240 students in year one graduating to 540 in year 10. The exit of this number ADM would drastically affect the revenue available to operate present Bertie County Schools. (page 4-5, application)

Fact 2: The state of North Carolina has required local school districts to revert a portion of their state funds for the past two years. Bertie County Schools reverted \$1.4M from the 2011-2012 budget and \$1.3M from the 2012-2013 budget. Further, all local school districts, Bertie County Schools included, have experienced a reduction on local and federal allocations for the past several years and expect to revert \$1M in the coming year.

YEAR	OPERATING BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
2008-2009	\$38,722,017.00	-----
2009-2010	\$35,165,690.00	<\$ 3,556,327.00
2010-2011	\$35,618,175.00	>\$452,485.00
2011-2012	\$32,388,219.00	<\$3,229,956.00
2012-2013	\$29,646,270.90	<2,741,948.00

Fact 3: Bertie County Schools evidences both, a high teacher turnover rate and low teacher retention rate, coupled with extreme difficulty in recruiting high-quality teachers to this rural, low performing, and high-minority district.

The 2011-2012 school report card for Bertie County Schools relates the following teacher turnover data:

	ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE	HIGH
DISTRICT	9%	23%	30%
STATE	12%	14%	14%

Bertie County Schools, unable to recruit and retain an adequate population of highly-qualified teachers, has sought service and support from other employing agencies during the past year. These have included, but have not been limited, to Visiting International Faculty (VIF) and Teach for America (TFA). Both work to provide the district a cohort of effective teachers. However, both place service limitations on the district and teachers (<4years) with a high service fee. Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy reports that they will maintain a staff in the first year of 12 core teachers and 2 specialty (4 part-time) teachers (Appendix K of application) If Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy were to recruit from Bertie County's current pool of teachers (allowed by General Statute § 115-C-238.29F) a significant threat would be imposed upon a district which already struggles to recruit and maintain a highly qualified staff.

Fact 4: Already Bertie County Schools competes with surrounding local districts, area private schools and home schools. With the expected reversions that the state continues to exact, the loss of additional revenue would adversely impact Bertie County Schools system's ability to operate effectively. Approximately, 26 students residing in the Bertie County Schools attendance area do not attend the local public schools. Rather, these students are served through private and home schools or have because of family need, been released to attend surrounding school districts. Heritage expects to enroll **240** students in 2014-15 which could result in a loss of up to **\$1,243,680.00** in state and **\$280,800.00** in local funds to Bertie County Schools!

Fact 5: Despite budget reductions and reversion, teacher turnover, failed recruiting efforts and a reduction in force, Bertie County Schools evidenced significant growth in student academic achievement such that the state of North Carolina no longer recognizes the district as being in need of full transformation services from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

The 2011-12 North Carolina School Report Card documents significant growth in most academic areas and across most subgroups enrolled in the district. While much work remains to be done and more growth is desired by district leadership, the district has, with limited resources, high teacher turnover rates and reduction in force, evidenced tremendous growth as measured by the state's mandatory annual assessments.

Fact 6: The proposed plan for Heritage Collegiate leaders fails to detail an instructional program that is significantly different from that offered by the local education agency.

Bertie County Schools, a public school in the North Carolina system of public schools, embraces and adheres to the mission of the North Carolina State Board of Education, a mission which states:

The guiding mission of the North Carolina State Board of Education is that every public school student will graduate from high school, globally competitive for work and postsecondary education and prepared for life in the 21st Century.

Additionally, Bertie County Public Schools is a progressive district. The plan for the 2013-2014 school year is to open a year round elementary school (K-5) in Bertie County (Aulander, NC) which will offer a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) focus A+ School model, 1:1 technology initiative for fifth graders, a technology infused curriculum and cutting edge instructional strategies and practices. This school will be a school of choice for Bertie County parents and students as Heritage Collegiate promises to be.

Instruction is differentiated and personalized for Bertie County Schools students in accordance with best practices research of Carol Tomlinson and mandates relevant to the development of personalized education plans (PEPs) by the State Board of Education and individualized education plans (IEPs) by the tenets of federal law known as IDEIA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act).

Finally, Bertie County Schools employs techniques and strategies following the PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) model. Consultants from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction have provided training for teachers and administrators. The system employs a behavioral specialist and contracts with an area behavioral intervention and mental health services provider, Integrated Family Services. This year (2012-2013) Integrated Family Services expanded its services by housing a full time service provider within a centrally located school. This individual provides immediate intervention to students as well as follow-up services without significant interruption to the academic day. Bertie County exceeds what Heritage Leadership Academy only promises to deliver.

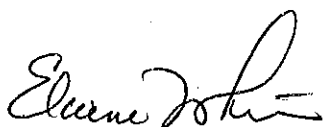
Conclusion

The Board and administration of Bertie County Schools believe the establishment of a charter school within the current public school's local attendance area will unfairly divert resources and policy attention from the regular public school district, a district that struggles fiscally but evidences significant academic growth and improvement.

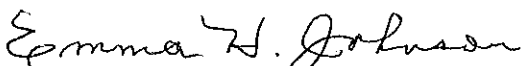
The findings stated, support this position and the district's request for denial of the application submitted on behalf of the Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy, Inc.

While all findings of fact are significant, we believe most significant is the fiscal impact on the current school district coupled with the fact that proposed academic program of Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy, Inc. is not significantly different from what the state mandates and expects from Bertie County Schools and what Bertie County Schools is successfully offering.

We ask that the North Carolina Public Charter School Advisory Committee deny the recommendation of the Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy, Inc. application and proposal to the North Carolina State Board of Education for preliminary charter approval. We further ask that the North Carolina State Board of Education deny approval for Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy, Inc. to begin a preliminary year of planning and training.



Elaine White, Superintendent



Emma Johnson, Bertie County Schools Board of Education