

**LEA Impact Statement Template
for Proposed Charter School Growth or Grade Expansion**

G.S.115C-238.29D(d)(3) outlines that LEAs are to be given an opportunity to be heard by the State Board of Education regarding “any adverse impact the proposed growth [of a charter school] would have on the unit’s ability to provide a sound basic education to its students.” While the impact statement is optional, this template may be used to help shape the presentation of the information to the State Board of Education.

1. What is the name of the charter school for which this information is being provided? Providence Charter High School

2. Does your LEA support or oppose the approval of this charter school and why?

Rockingham County supports innovation and opening educational opportunities for students. However, we do oppose the prospective charter high school since it will be a duplication of current programs and will impact the implementation of two new high school academies that began this school year and the opening of two additional high school academies that start operating in the fall of 2013. In addition, we are expanding the enrollment at our Early College High School to reach the maximum capacity of 400 students. Rockingham County is a rural county fighting high unemployment, and being designated as the only Tier I county in the Piedmont Triad Educational Consortium Region (15 LEAs). The district has experienced a loss of student enrollment for the last ten years and we have seen the enrollment drop with all of our high schools.

3. Estimated financial impact to the LEA:

Enrollment x (State per pupil and local per pupil allocations)

Total: PCHS 500 \$ \$3,286,000 (\$5,415 state and \$1,157 local)

4. What will be the projected enrollment growth or grade expansion at the charter school and what percentage of the Average Daily Membership (ADM) does that reflect for your LEA.

The projected enrollment of 500 students grades 9-12 represents approximately 12% of our current high school enrollment of 4,160 students.

5. Does the charter’s proposed growth duplicate an existing program or service in the LEA?

Yes X No _____

If yes, then describe the program or service that would be duplicated.

PCHS mission:

“Providence Charter High School will cultivate in students a desire to learn with intensity and live with integrity. PCHS’s purpose is to graduate students who are prepared to be future leaders by completing a challenging curriculum, serving our community, and participating in team building extra curricular activities.”

Rockingham County Schools (RCS) offers a variety of educational programs for our student population. Each of the four high schools offers academic programs or extra curricular activities to promote leadership, integrity and academic rigor.

Our academic rigor includes offering Advanced Placement courses at three high schools and International Baccalaureate courses at another. RCS also offers an Early College Program at Rockingham Community College for students to receive two years of college and a high school diploma simultaneously. The Early College Program targets students who are seeking academic rigor in a nontraditional high school setting. RCS offers 80 slots to our Early College program which represents 8% of the incoming high school freshmen in our five high schools. RCS offers leadership opportunities through our JROTC courses to promote leadership development, self-discipline, integrity, community service, and extracurricular activities for students to excel. Our programs have received the highest honors bestowed to high school JROTC programs and rank in the top ten percent of the JROTC programs nationally.

The need to prepare our students for the future, including post secondary opportunities, and career readiness for the job market are in the forefront of our academic programs now and in the future. We realize that Rockingham County has gone from a Tier III economic designation to Tier I due in large part from the loss of over 7,000 jobs in the last eight years. RCS has been able to accomplish a mobile learning initiative on a scale that has not been replicated by any other district in the Piedmont Triad Region. This initiative provides each student in grades 9-12 with a mobile learning device. During the past seven years we have outfitted over 1100 classrooms with interactive whiteboards, document cameras, data projectors, teacher laptops, wireless connectivity, and this past fall successfully distributed almost 4300 Chromebooks to all our students in grades 9-12.

Creating a technology rich classroom environment both at school and at home has led to high school innovations - these are programs/academies we either currently offer our high school students or will be offering the fall of 2013. Please review the following link which describes some of our programs and academies:

www.rock.k12.nc.us/hsoptions. It is critical that transportation is provided for our students to explore these high school options. Our county has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state and the ability for our parents to provide transportation to a high school outside of their attendance zone is difficult. As part of the high school options, we have planned for providing transportation through a series of pick up points within each attendance zone which will transport any student to any of the other three high schools to attend one of the specialized

academies. Students attending the Early College use the existing bus routes in their home attendance zone and pick up a shuttle bus to the community college. School district transportation funding is allotted based on the district's efficiency rating. Rockingham County covers 572 square miles and the majority of the space is rural. Due to the county's size, RCS will not be able to operate buses like urban districts, which are able to run bus routes for magnet programs and not reduce their state transportation efficiency rating. To maintain a high state transportation efficiency rating, RCS will utilize yellow buses sold by the state surplus list and transportation for the academies will be solely funded by local funds in excess of \$170,000 per year. It is imperative that the local funding designated for our high school options remain intact in order to provide access to educational opportunities regardless of the income level of the student's household.

6. Describe the specific impact that you expect the charter school's proposed growth may have on your LEA for each of the following areas:

a. Funding (from all sources to include local, state and federal)

Over the past seven years, our middle and high schools have felt the impact of the recession on the state budget. We have eliminated over 240 positions district wide. There have been close to 68 teaching positions left vacant due to the discretionary reductions from our state budget. Our K-3 classrooms have been spared the loss of teaching positions due to class size restrictions and the funding formula assigned to the primary aged children. Our high schools and middle schools have lost on average seven to nine teaching positions that have impacted our class size for our teachers and students. However, we wanted to maintain our level of challenging courses for our gifted students as well as maintaining those preparatory courses for students who struggle academically. Even addressing the two ends of the continuum of learning, our students who are in college prep and honors are still able to take a variety of academic electives in addition to Career Technical courses. We have been expanding CTE opportunities by adding graphic arts at Reidsville High School and adding more equipment to support our technology classrooms at McMichael High and Morehead High schools. A Fire Academy began operations at Rockingham County High School that now is expanding into a Public Safety Academy to support our job market in the areas of fire fighting, EMS, EMT and law enforcement.

The funding for the high school options will come from local funding and state funding, through our teacher allotment, and from low wealth funding. We will be adding one additional teaching position to each of the academies for the 2013-14 school year. There will be additional teaching needs as the students matriculate through the four-year program. Each academy will need at least one or two more teachers/instructors.

Over the past seven years we have reduced our staffing by over 240 employees due to increased discretionary cuts and maintaining the local funding at the same

dollar amount for six of the last seven years. Coupled with declining enrollment for the last ten years, we are strategically planning to maximize the limited resources that we do receive to run our 26 schools in Rockingham County. We have a projection that our enrollment be leveling off and may have a modest gain for the next school year.

b. Programming and Student Services

Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Programs:

The new high school will have an effect on some of the programs currently offered in our schools along with the expansion of our academic offerings within the four academies and our Early College. Personnel necessary to run our academies will be impacted by the loss of student enrollment when PCHS is at its full capacity of 500 students. There will be a duplication of Advanced Placement (AP) courses that are currently provided at three of the four traditional high schools and the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Reidsville High School. Often times even in a high school of 800 to 1200 students, it is a difficult task to offer a single time slot for an AP or IB course and it not interfere with other academic opportunities. The number of AP/IB courses is driven by enrollment and a loss of 14% of your senior class (PCHS 125 students versus our projected senior class numbers of 900 six years from now) would close some AP courses in some schools due to low enrollment numbers. Virtual AP courses would be the only alternative for those students seeking a broad challenging curriculum during their last year in school.

High School Options/Academies

Rockingham County Schools has been a leader in the area of technology and placing it in our classrooms to prepare students for future educational opportunities and job placement is crucial. Therefore, creating the academies for our high school options was the next logical step to meet the diverse needs of our student population. We piloted two of the academies this school year with the STEM academy (initial funding through a grant from Golden Leaf Foundation and Race to the Top) at McMichael High School and the Fire Fighter Academy at Rockingham County High School. Both of these programs garnered a lot of interest from our students and parents. The major barrier has been the lack of transportation for those students who cannot afford their own means to travel to another school to participate in an academic program not currently offered at the student's assigned high school. It would be costly to replicate the program at each of our four traditional high schools. We looked at our options and providing several pick up and drop off locations in each of our four attendance zones will allow RCS to provide transportation to our economically disadvantaged students and other students who do not possess the means to provide daily transportation to one of the academies outside of their high school attendance zone. Please review the chart below to see what each program offers and we are providing transportation regardless of a student's home address:

	International Baccalaureate Program	Health Sciences Academy	Phoenix STEM Academy	Rockingham Early College High School (RECHS)	Public Safety Academy
Program Description	The IB program offers a quality curriculum that encourages critical thinking by the study of traditional disciplines while encouraging a global perspective. It is designed for the academically motivated student who can function independently and has learned to manage time well.	The Health Sciences Academy at Morehead High School seeks to meet the needs of a quickly expanding and evolving health care system. It is a program that recruits qualified and motivated students and prepares them for high wage and high skill health care careers.	The Phoenix STEM Academy uses rigorous and relevant curriculum to help students realize their potential for STEM careers. STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and math. The Phoenix STEM Academy fosters development of 21 st Century skills and provides a foundation for post-secondary education.	Early College Students receive instruction from both high school and college faculty and all classes are held on the Rockingham Community College campus. Students have an opportunity to earn an Associates degree and high school diploma in this five year program.	Designed to prepare students with the skills and knowledge necessary for entry into a post-secondary Fire Science or Emergency Medical Technician program and relatively immediate employment in those fields. Students will also be prepared to serve as volunteers in the community.
Primary Location	Reidsville High	Morehead High	McMichael High	Rockingham Community College	Rockingham County High
Is transportation provided?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Application Requirements	Application, Essay, Academic Standing, Recommendation	Application, Essay, Recommendation	Application, Essay, Recommendation	Application, Interview, Recommendation	Application
Application Due Date	April 19	April 19	April 19	April 19	April 19
Selection Status Notification	July 12	July 12	July 12	July 12	July 12
9th Grade Enrollment Numbers	70	40	40	80	30
Program Benefits	Special diploma and recognition	Graduates may gain credentials as a Certified Nurses Assistant	STEM Program of Study Special Recognition Technology Student Association	Opportunity to earn an Associates degree free of charge	Fire Fighter I & II Certification
Athletics	Eligible for athletic programs at RHS	Eligible for athletic programs at MHS	Eligible for athletic programs at DMHS	Eligible for athletic programs at attendance zoned school	Eligible for athletic programs at RCHS

c. Staffing

The staffing structure will impact the academies and the general education classes in our four traditional high schools. The growth structure for our academies will be a minimum of four additional teachers at the four traditional high schools once the freshman class of 2013-14 begins their enrollment in these four specialized academies. Each incoming class will be approximately 40 students which will become a cohort of students working through the curricula prescribed in each of the academies. There will be a minimum of 16 additional teachers needed over the next four years to support these programs. RCS will be using local and state funding sources to support the additional teaching positions.

Our regular/college prep/honors student population at the respective high schools will be allowed to take some of the courses offered for the academy students.

Conversely, the upper level AP/IB courses will be available for the academy students to enroll and gain weighted credit towards their overall GPA. We have a system of maximizing the current levels of staffing, along with the additional teaching positions needed for our four academies to grow, and meet the needs of our students this fall and in the future years as we add a new group of freshmen each year.

Rockingham Early College High School's (RECHS) capacity will be growing as we are now adding 80 per year for a five year program. We currently have 297 students enrolled. There will be 40 students graduating and 80 students will enroll as freshmen in the fall. Our application pool includes students from all four RCS middle schools, Bethany Charter Middle School, and home schooled students who are interested in participating in this program. The enrollment for RECHS will be 337 for the 2013-14 school year. The staffing at the early college will not change as a result of the increased student enrollment. We provide the following to address the staffing needs of the early college:

- 11 classroom teachers
- 1 foreign language teacher
- 1 counselor
- 1 office support position
- 1 principal

RECHS will be graduating its first five-year class of students this May. The outstanding academic achievement is evident by the designation from the State Board of Education honoring RECHS as an Honor School of Excellence for four years in a row. One of the graduating seniors from RECHS was recognized as the top academic student for Rockingham Community College 2012-13 and is now competing for the state-wide honor against the other 53 community college winners. RECHS is the first early college to have a student receive this honor in North Carolina.

Rockingham County Schools has strived to offer our students academic

opportunities that are not always available in rural school districts. Our commitment is to stretch each dollar received to provide a challenging and appropriate delivery of instruction to meet the diverse needs of our school district.

d. School Size and Related Extra-Curricular

Rockingham County Schools believes that “one size fits all” model cannot work and address the needs of our diverse student population. It does not matter if the student is in the top 1% of our academically gifted program, in the college prep program of study, career technical education student, and/or is identified within the exceptional children's' program of support. We strive hard to offer academic and extracurricular programs that allow students to discover and grow the potential each of our students possess. We have offered course recovery credits, the Diploma 21 program, a variety of academic/career technical programs to engage students and allow them to explore and discover their own individualized journey.

The high school academies and early college are some examples of how we are expanding our academic offerings to meet the needs of a variety of students in Rockingham County. Rockingham Early College High attracts students with the small school environment and academic rigor. The design behind the creation of the four high school academies has been to recreate a small school feeling within a traditional high school. The cohort of students will create a sense of community and support as they matriculate through the four years of this specialized academy. In addition, the students still have the opportunity to take rigorous courses such as AP/IB courses offered as a portion of their course of study or as an elective. The loss of 125 students in each grade level will impact the ability of the district to maintain the variety of graduation pathways offered with the high school options.

The extracurricular opportunities such as marching band will be impacted by the proposed high school. Morehead High school's marching band had 25 to 30 playing members in 2006-07 and on the verge of slowly eliminating the program.

During the marching season this past fall, there were roughly 93 playing members and the band competed at several marching competitions winning top honors. Our funding model allowed the district to maintain a middle school band director and a high school band director. As a result we are anticipating nearly 120 playing members on the field this coming fall at Morehead High School. Our choral programs at the each of our high schools are thriving and allowing more students the opportunity to see the world through music outside of Rockingham County.

McMichael High School choral ensemble will perform in San Diego as the only choral entertainment for the National School Board Association. They were selected from over a thousand entries across the United States. Our choral programs have directors at the middle school and high schools because of the student enrollment currently in all four high school attendance zones.

Other extracurricular programs will feel the loss of student enrollment. The robotics program at Reidsville High School finished in the top 48 robotic teams in the world and placed first in the southern regionals during the 2011-12 school

year. Funding for the program is a combination of district support and strong parental involvement. The instructor for Reidsville High School's JROTC program, a math teacher and a science teacher are the coaches for the team. Our JROTC programs at all four high schools have received honor units of distinction from the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corp. JROTC drill teams and rifle teams compete in regional and national finals with a high degree of success each year. The JROTC programs promote character development, leadership and are actively involved in community service projects to assist families of students in their respective high schools or in the community. Morehead's JROTC cadets go weekly to the neighboring elementary school and read with the elementary students and give our K-5 students excellent examples of character development and leadership.

Our athletic programs could drop a classification depending on the loss of student enrollment at any of the four high schools. Even with the early college and the four high school academies, we allow the students to participate in our athletic programs. A student at the early college competes for the high school attendance zone in which they reside. Our early college does not have an athletic program to allow students to participate on more JV and varsity teams that could be offered at a small high school. Students accepted into the respective academies will participate in that high school's athletic program. We try to have our four high schools in the same athletic classification. If we had a shift in enrollment, we could be competing in three different athletic classifications and conferences which would result in traveling more than we do now with two classifications.

e. Student Demographics

It is hard to determine what the demographic makeup of the charter high school would look like at this point, since there is not another one to reference in surrounding rural counties. The only point of reference to use would be the demographic makeup of the charter middle school in our county. This charter middle school has been in operation for 13 years and could represent a similar interest level/enrollment percentage for the proposed charter high school. Below is a comparison of demographics of the proposed charter high school (using the demographics from our current charter middle school) and Rockingham County Schools:

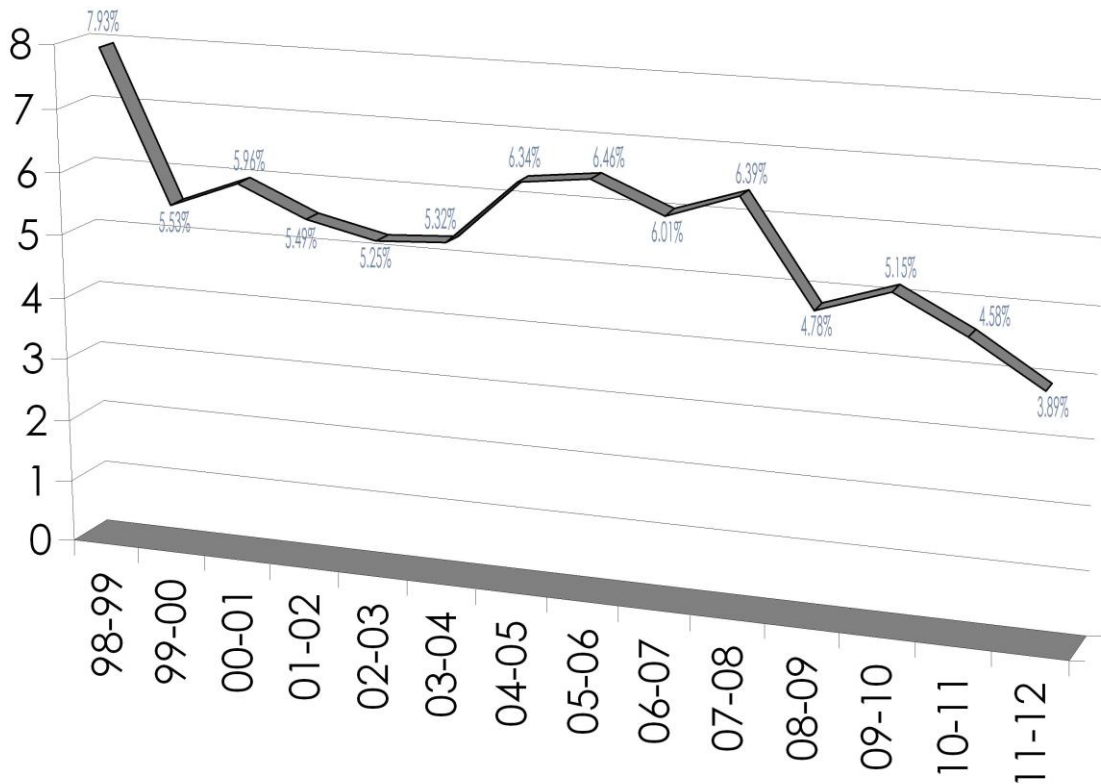
Subgroup	Proposed Charter	RCS Demographics
White	79.7%	63.2
Black	11.6%	20.4
Multi-Racial	6%	4.9%
Hispanic	2.5%	10.7%
Exceptional Children	10.6%	15.1%
Economically Disadvantaged	17.6%	58.9%

Given Rockingham County's high economically disadvantaged student population, we are concerned that not providing the national school lunch program in the proposed charter high school, in addition to the transportation concerns expressed previously, will prevent a large percentage of students from applying because they are unable to pay for the lunch plan offered by PCHS and cannot find reliable transportation.

Economically Disadvantaged Students by High Schools in Rockingham County	
	Percent of the school enrollment
Dalton McMichael High School	57.09%
John Motley Morehead High School	54.14%
Reidsville High School	61.74%
Rockingham County High School	32%
Rockingham County Early College	38.70%

Rockingham County has one of the highest unemployment figures in the state at 10.6%. The county manager recently reported in an article in the Greensboro News and Record, if you count the unemployed workers whose benefits have expired, the unemployment rate would be closer to 23%. There are many children living in a different economic level than they did prior to this last recession and it is hitting families who survived previous economic downturns. The number of students classified as economically disadvantaged is at the highest percentage in the last seven years. As a school system, we felt it was imperative to offer more academic opportunities for our students to ensure more children graduate from our schools and be productive citizens in our county, state and nation. As a result you will see from the two charts below, we have not only improved our graduation rate, but we made huge strides in many of our subgroups. Additionally, RCS has lowered the drop out rate for our students to the lowest levels ever in the history of the consolidated school district.

4 Year Cohort Graduation Rates								
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	7 year difference
All Students	66.9	70.3	65.8	68	72.9	72.4	76	9.1
Male	60.6	66.3	60	64.4	69.6	67.4	70.4	9.8
Female	72.9	74.5	72	72.4	76.2	77.9	82.2	9.3
Asian	83.3	*	*	*	60	>95	>95	11.7
Black	62.6	67.3	64.6	68.4	71.7	74.8	74.7	12.1
Hispanic	47.9	48.6	61.5	54	60	54.1	71.9	24
Multi-Racial	45.5	64	54.5	64	76.2	64.9	69	23.5
White	69.4	72.7	66.9	68.8	74.8	73	77	7.6
Economically Disadvantaged	41.9	64.2	55.2	60.5	63.7	65.6	70	28.1
Limited English Proficient	*	37.5	47.4	56.5	30.8	50	53.3	15.8
Students with Disabilities	45.6	43.9	52.3	54	52.2	52.3	60	14.4



Rockingham County Schools Drop Out Rate Grades 9-12

7. Provide any additional information or comments that you think should be considered as justification for your viewpoint on the expected impact from the proposed charter school.

Rockingham County Schools is committed to meeting the needs of all our students academically, while providing a safe environment to learn and grow. We have added programs of study that students have requested with the development of the Early College and the four academies located at the four traditional high schools. There are future plans to add a fine arts academy for our high school students. There will be a LEAP academy for rising sixth graders to enter a small dedicated school designed to put students back on grade level and enter the ninth grade either already passing Algebra I or taking it in the first semester of high school. Finally we are considering a language immersion school for one or two elementary schools in the county, which would allow students from other areas of the county to attend. It is our goal to possibly open these additional educational opportunities in the fall of 2014. It is the belief of the Board of Education and the district leadership team that we provide a quality education to our students regardless of their home address.

We have turned around several schools in the last seven years. The two high schools that come to mind are Reidsville High School (RHS) and Dalton McMichael High School (DMHS). Reidsville High School was on Judge Manning's list in 2006, this is after having a state turnaround team two years prior. RHS needed quality teachers, more specifically quality math and science teachers. Senator Phil Berger was instrumental in helping change the eligibility requirements for the Math/Science Pilot awarded to Rockingham, Bertie, and Columbus County Schools to attract math and science teachers to the under performing schools. There was a dramatic turnaround beginning with the 2007-08 school year and we have continued to assist RHS with creating an environment that all students can learn and grow. The increase in our graduation rates among our various subgroups is due in a large part to Reidsville High School's about face and moving in the right direction. McMichael High School has refocused their efforts in the past two years to focus on classroom instruction and evaluate data much like RHS. After several years of declining scores, McMichael has improved to where they could be the highest performing high school among the four traditional high schools this school year. Last year's schools were only single digits behind Rockingham County High School who has led in state academic achievement for many years in the county. Each high school is pushing the other sister school to do more for our students and the resulting outcomes will be better student achievement among all students. We have been working on closing the achievement gap of our minority students.

Morehead High School, which is referenced in the application, is working on a comprehensive plan to turn the school around both academically and with a sense of community. This year alone we have seen the number of classroom tardies drop dramatically. The third six weeks 866 students out of 1050 had two or less tardies to class. We are placing a large amount of energy evaluating the strengths and weakness of our classroom instruction. The successes we have experienced with McMichael and Reidsville High School are being applied to Morehead High School. Morehead High is an excellent school which in recent years has produced a Morehead-Cain Scholar to UNC, several academic/athletic scholarships to Duke University and other prestigious colleges and universities. Morehead High School has a long tradition of excellence and in the past few years we have lost experienced faculty members that maintained and monitored the traditions. As we have made the transition with the new faculty we are working hard to continue the faculty bond that Morehead is known for not only in Rockingham County, but also across the state.

Our End Of Course testing results have demonstrated how as a district we have improved in our three tested areas: Algebra I, Biology, and English 9. The increased scores are due to the improved instruction, additional resources allocated for professional development, improved technology in our classrooms, and offering more academic opportunities for our students that are typically found

in urban school districts or districts with only one high school in their attendance zone. Please review the chart below and see that we have made a strong commitment to our high schools.

EOC testing data for Rockingham County Schools					
Subject	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
English 9	65.2 %	71.7 %	75.9 %	72.5 %	74.2 %
Biology	72% %	69.8 %	76.9 %	77.1 %	78.3 %
Algebra I	47.2 %	72.2 %	74.2 %	67.3 %	69.6 %