



Hapeville Charter Schools

Hapeville Charter Middle School
6th/7th Grade Campus
3535 South Fulton Avenue
Hapeville, GA 30354
404-767-7730

Hapeville Charter Middle School
8th Grade Academy
6045 Buffington Road
College Park, GA 30349
404-941-1041

Hapeville Charter Career Academy
6045 Buffington Road – Building A
College Park, GA 30349
404-766-0101

www.hapevillems.org www.hapevillecharter.org

October 4, 2017

To: Hapeville Charter Community

From: Diane Terry, Ed.S.
CEO, Hapeville Charter Foundation and Hapeville Charter School Boards

Re: Letter from Janelle Cornwall, Esq.
Director, District Flexibility and Charter Schools Division
Georgia Department of Education

The purpose of my letter to our community is to advise every one about a letter from the Georgia Department of Education and to outline the HCS Board’s approved response to that letter.

For the past 13 years, Hapeville Middle School (HMS) has been privileged to serve South Fulton students, parents, and community. During this time, we have consistently achieved higher academic performance than our surrounding schools. Additionally, we have always provided a safe and supportive learning environment for our students that have overwhelmingly been sustained by our entire community.

However, on July 20, 2017, I received a letter from Janelle Cornwall, the Director of the District Flexibility and Charter Schools Division at the Georgia Department of Education, regarding the academic performance of Hapeville Charter Middle School. Ms. Cornwall’s letter includes the following chart which contains the weighted score results of HMS students in the subject areas of English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies over the past three years (beginning with the 2014-2015 School Year.)

State Performance Targets:	Target	Actual FAY	Actual All Tested	Target	Actual FAY	Actual All Tested	Target	Actual All Tested
	2014-15			2015-16			2016-17	
End-of-Grade Performance Targets – Middle School								
English/Language Arts	60.3	47.1	47.2*	63.6	44.3	44.1*	66.9	46.8*
Mathematics	63.8	36	36.1*	66.8	43.8	42.2*	69.8	46.9*
Science	57.4	23.9	24.0*	61	26.2	26.2*	62.9	23.0*
Social Studies	59.7	22.3	22.5*	63.1	23.2	23.2*	66.5	31.0*

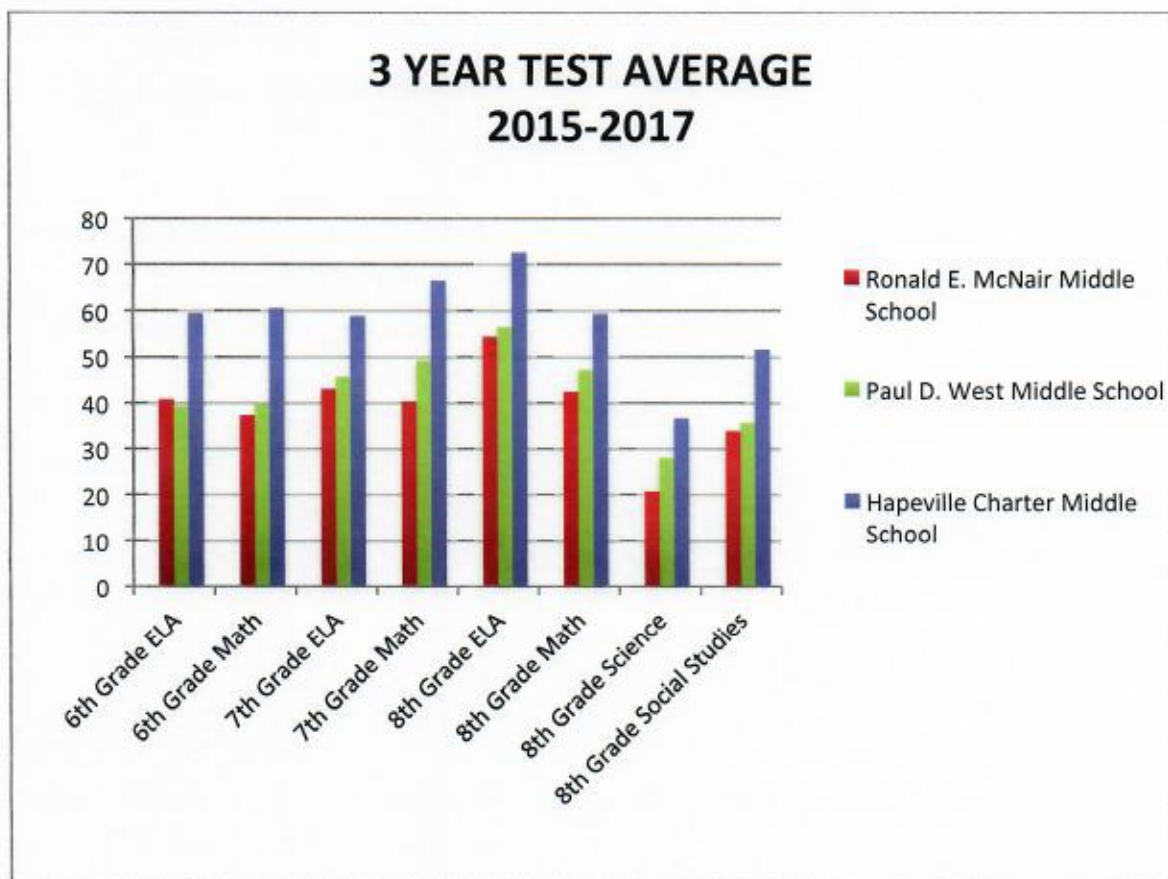
**These scores reflect all students that took the EOG Milestones versus the FAY scores for previous years.*

In the letter, Ms. Cornwall states, “based on this data, Hapeville (Charter Middle School) has not shown the significant improvement in academic achievement necessary to eliminate the Department’s concern about the viability of the school and allow us to recommend charter renewal should Fulton County Schools approve renewal when the charter school’s contract expires in 2019.”

Hapeville Charter School, overall, is currently in the midst of its ninth year of a 10 year charter (which it shares with Hapeville Career Academy) – which means that the 2017-2018 School Year marks the next to the last year of our current approved charter. As such, in the current school year, it is critical that Hapeville Charter Middle School show substantially improved growth in academic achievement throughout this year, for the State Department of Education to renew the school’s charter.

Comparing Test Scores

The results of the State DOE Georgia Milestone Assessments for the 2016-2017 School Year have recently been announced for all public schools, including startup charter schools such as Hapeville Charter Middle School. The following chart includes the mean (average) score results of Hapeville Charter Middle School along with those of students attending surrounding schools such as Paul D. West and Ronald E. McNair Middle Schools from the Spring of 2015 through the Spring of 2017:

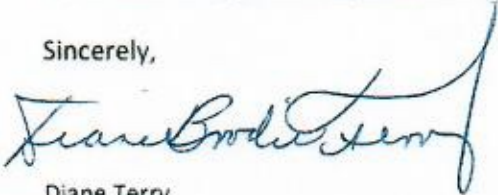


Based on the chart, Hapeville Charter Middle School students **consistently score higher** than the surrounding feeder schools. Given the performance of Hapeville Middle in these scores and the academic improvement plans and accomplishment already experienced since the last testing period, it is the intent of the Hapeville Charter School Board’s to continue to support improvement efforts of Ms. Strong and her team at Hapeville Charter Middle School.

The Board will continue to be actively involved in monitoring the data results as HMS works to effectively target areas where our students are in the greatest need of continued reinforcement. We continue to support and have confidence on those students and faculty in these efforts and wish them every success as this school year progresses. Their dedication and focus on student achievement is demonstrated consistently each day at school.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at dterry@hapevillecharter.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Terry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Diane Terry
Board CEO
Hapeville Charter Schools
E:dterry@hapevillecharter.org