

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Keith Simmons, Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: Foothills Partnership Concept Paper

Summary

Please refer to the attached Foothills Partnership Concept paper.

Superintendent's Comments and Approval

<u>Superintendent's Comments</u>	
Dr. Curtis L. Jones, Jr.	Approved

The Network will save \$6,462,013 in state funding for FY21.

Proposed Network Funding

The Network is a collaboration between Mountain Education Charter High School, Foothills Education Charter High School, Coastal Plains Education Charter High School, and the proposed Heartland Education Charter High School. The Network requests that individual school contracts be amended to remove enrollment caps and to allow future expansion and replication in accordance with a strategic plan developed with authorizer input. The Network understands that its request may lead to the increase of state expenditures as a result of increased student enrollment. To mitigate this financial impact, the Network proposes that its schools be treated as “virtual” schools for the purposes of calculating the capital outlay portion of the state charter supplement. This would reduce the capital outlay portion of the state charter school supplement to 25% of the statewide average capital expenditure. This change would have the following impact on the state budget for FY21:

	FTE for Funding	QBE Allotment	State Charter Supplement General Portion	State Charter Supplement Capital Portion	Total State Charter Supplement	Total State Funding with Proposed Network Formula	Savings to Georgia with Network Formula ¹
FECHS	2,131	\$8,370,470	\$10,147,822	\$1,472,692	\$11,620,514	\$19,990,984	\$3,949,473
MECHS	2,295	\$9,684,143	\$10,928,790	\$704,329	\$11,633,119	\$21,317,262	\$1,663,981
CPECHS	1,249	\$8,651,270	\$5,947,738	\$383,884	\$6,331,622	\$14,982,892	\$848,559
						Total FY21 Impact:	\$6,462,013

The Network is also committed to:

- Establishing systems to promote greater consistency in operation and reporting across participating schools.**
All Network schools will work together to develop common processes, procedures, and manuals for key operational obligations, such as financial and data reporting.
- Creating and implementing, with stakeholder input, a strategic and deliberate expansion plan to increase access and meet student demand and further model replication.**
The goal will be to ensure that all students in Georgia have access to a location of a Network school. We believe that all students deserve an equitable opportunity to attend a proven and successful nontraditional school model.
- Continual review and revision of governance practices to ensure schools meet the needs of their respective communities and state expectations.**
The unique model of Network schools requires special attention to adequate governance and oversight. The Network is committed to closely examining governing board composition and practices to meet authorizer directives.
- Reassessing and quantifying partner school district contributions.**
The Network leverages partnerships with traditional local school districts for the more efficient use of financial and operational resources. Network schools will examine and reassess its school district partnerships to ensure that school district contributions are appropriately captured and maximized to promote Network school success.

¹¹ These figures were calculated with generally available data. Calculations completed with official state data may vary slightly.