



**Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy – Wake County**  
**Growing Global Leaders • Serving Our Community • Building Bright Futures**

October 15, 2023

Ms. Ashley Baquero  
Director, Office of Charter Schools  
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

***Re: Reconsideration: Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy – Wake***

Ms. Baquero:

This letter documents our plan to appear before the NC Charter School Review Board on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 2:15 pm pursuant NC Session Law 2023 – 10. We are extremely grateful to have our 2022 charter application reconsidered. We are extremely confident in the overall quality of our application and the dire need for this school, at this time, in Wake County. According to a WalletHub study, “Wake County Schools is the 4<sup>th</sup> least equitable school district in North Carolina out of 115 school districts that were included in the research.” Our updated WCPSS D-F Chart now lists the elementary and middle schools that have had a pattern of D-F scores in 2018-2019, 2021-22, and 2022-2023 in the communities we seek to serve. This is the only updated document that we have submitted for your consideration. Many of these schools have high poverty and minority populations. They have students with disabilities who are being undereducated and overly suspended for behaviors which are a manifestation of their disabilities We believe these subgroups of students have been continuously left behind in Wake County Public Schools, and we believe they deserve better. We want the opportunity to demonstrate that students with disabilities *can* do well in the charter school setting. We are committed to becoming a school with creative and unique strategies that promote academic, behavioral and social growth for all students including those with ADHD and Autism.

HCLA-Wake will be a safe, nurturing, and academically rigorous school for students in Northeastern Raleigh and Wake County and surrounding communities. With the closing of *Torchlight Academy* in Northeast Raleigh, we have families waiting anxiously for our approval. We have identified a pressing need in Wake County that we believe HCLA-Wake can address.

We are so thankful for the unanimous recommendation for approval that the former NC Charter School Advisory Board granted HCLA-Wake on December 5, 2022. The experienced members of that board carefully vetted our application and board before making their recommendation. We are humbly grateful that the NC Charter School Review Board now has the statutory authority to reconsider our 2022 NC Charter Application.

Since our application was submitted for consideration on a standard timeline, we are requesting that our application be approved to open in the 2025-2026 school year.

Thank you for reconsidering our charter application. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any question and needs prior to our reconsideration meeting.

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Raleigh, NC 27616

Phone: 919-376-5887

Fax: 984-204-7746



***Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy – Wake County***  
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Best regards,

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kashi Bazemore'.

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Dr. Kashi Bazemore

Board Chair

Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy-Wake

cc: Bruce Friend, Chair, NC Charter School Review Board  
Melanie Rackley, Office of Charter Schools  
HCLA Board Members  
Mildred Bazemore, HCLA Board Advisor  
Kisha B. Johnson, HCLA Clerical Assistant to the Board