LOA Charter
Application Executive
Summary Section
Item #1 pp. 2-3

1. State the Charter School's mission and describe why this initiative is important to the community it serves. Also provide a brief description of any defining features of the school. Include how stakeholders were involved in the petition process and how they will continue participating.

Issues with answer, missing information, needed corrections	Non-Negotiables	Request for clarifications
This item should only contain facts and not opinions or marketing.		Opinions or marketing items. Please remove or rephrase.
2) Paragraph #2, "Prior to LOA, it is estimated that approximately one-third – 1000 students – sought education outside of Greene County. Once LOA was established, students from Greene County returned."		Unless there is evidence of this which can be provided it is not fact and should be removed.
3) Paragraph #2, "Families from across the world come to the area solely because of LOA as an educational option."		There are many factors that lead to families relocating and rarely if ever is one factor the sole reason for moving. Please restate a fact or remove.
4) Paragraph #3, "LOA was established by the community and continues to encourage community involvement by holding routine board meetings and encouraging parental involvement through our Parent Teacher Committee, with time set aside for community comment."		LOA was established by the Greene County Board of Education not just the community. Please correct.

5) Paragraph #3, "The school, along with the new hospital,	This is an opinion and needs to
has been instrumental over the past 16 years in bringing	be removed. There are multiple
large scale construction to the area. This increase in	factors that contribute to
construction supports significant increases in the tax	economic development and
base and the gross value of ESPLOST initiatives."	there is no proof of the claim.
6) Paragraph #4, "Evidence of student achievement	This looks like an opinion.
including standardized test scores, graduation rate, and	Please provide the evidence for
college admission rates proves that small rural	the claim or remove it.
communities can have schools that can compete with	
larger suburban and urban schools."	
7) Paragraph #4, "The efficient use of funds allows it to	Please change to "The efficient
work with a local foundation to develop"	use of funds allows it to work
	with a local foundation and the
	Greene County School Board to
	develop"

LOA Charter
Application Executive
Summary Section
Item #2 pp. 3-4

2. Describe the charter school's academic program, specifically focusing on why it is innovative in your school district. Include mention of any waivers of state law and SBOE rule that are needed to implement the academic program. Be sure to describe any special characteristics of your charter school, such as a special population or some other feature, or features which enhance educational opportunities.

Issues with answer, missing information, needed corrections	Non-Negotiables	Request for clarifications
Social Emotional Curriculum (See attachment 7 last line)		Please add how LOA and the GCSB can work together to provide Social Emotional Professional Development in the middle schools and high schools.

3. Describe the charter school's organizational structure, specifically focusing on its innovation and need for flexibility, its general partnership structure with an educational service provider (ESP) if any, and the school's community interest and need.

Issues with answer, missing information, needed corrections	Non-negotiables	Request for Clarifications
1) LOA states in their original charter application that they will not use an "ESP" but have formed New Greene Education (an ESP) with no charter amendment as required. Without a charter amendment, they appear to have formed a relationship with Prestige School Solutions, LLC.		Please provide all partnership structure and relationship information between LOA, New Greene Education, Prestige School Solutions, LLC, the LOA Foundation, and any other entities that are intertwined with LOA, LOA's employees or LOA Board Members.
2) Under this section, there is no complete description of the charter school's organizational structure, no description of innovation, flexibility, or the community's interest of need. This does not mention the new position of executive director and there is no organizational chart nor a mention of the span of control.		Please update this section to reflect the New Executive Director position as well as any expected role for the former CEO. Will there be a change to your articles of incorporation?

- 4. Provide a narrative describing how the charter school performed in meeting the academic and organizational goals set forth in its current charter contract. In your narrative:

 Address the school's performance in each year of your current term.
 - * You are urged to include any supporting charts, tables, or graphs that provide quantitative data.
 - * If your charter school did not meet all of the goals in its charter contract, explain any mitigating factors to which this can be attributed and explain how the school plans to address them in the upcoming charter renewal term requested.

Issues with answer, missing information, needed corrections	Non-negotiables	Request for Clarifications
1) "LOA strives to score better than, or at least as well as, similar schools in GA" This should be the goal and NOT a comparison to the district which is not a good comparison. Future goals and prior results should be included.	Comparable Schools Boonton Community Charter, North Oconee High School	Cherokee County – Indian Knoll Elementary Coweta County – Brooks Elementary Coweta Charter Academy Walton Co. – Sharon Elementary
2) LOA beat the Odds one year, did not in 2018-19. No BTO data for 2020 and 2021 so this year will be very important and should be considered before moving forward.	8	LOA beat the Odds one year, did not in 2018-19. No BTO data for 2020 and 2021 so this year will be very important and should be considered before moving forward.
3) LOA offers 20 AP courses.		Please list and clarify how many different courses were taught each year the past 3 years, the location, and method (online or in person).

4) No mention of any unmet goals	Please provide Organizational measure results for Goals 2-4 on pp. 6-7 for each year of the current charter school contract.
5) Data is used from the 2018/19 CCRPI, which is rethan 4 years old and dates from a time when the leschool enrollment was half of its present size.	
6) Accountability goals for improvement for the term charter renewal are never defined. The application that LOA outperformed the local district and state 2018 and 2019 CCRPI, but GADOE no longer can overall CCRPI scores, so this measure cannot be accountability purposes.	on states e on the alculates
7) The application makes reference to LOA outperfole local district in 2021. The GADOE did not calculate in this year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and school systems to use data only for gauging the in COVID-19. GADOE cautioned against the use of data for any other purpose, including measureme accountability.	late CCRPI urged mpact of FY21
that LOA students outperformed the district and state. However, analysis of significant subgroups reveal that Black students at LOA are at 4% proficiency in Math, compared to 31% for GCSS and 25% statewide for Black	This is significant considering only 21% of LOA students qualify for free & Reduced lunches Provide relevant subgroup information for the GA Milestone and EOC testing for the current charter and 2023 Milestone data.

LOA Charter Application Past Performance Section Item #3 pp. 9-10

LOA Charter Application 5. Describe the school's financial situation

• Detail any financial successes or struggles the school experienced during the current charter term. Include any instances of fraudulent behavior or accusations of fraudulent behavior by school staff, governing board members, or anyone else associated with the school.

Issues with answer, missing information, needed corrections	Non-Negotiables	Request for Clarifications
1) What do you mean by "sound financially" and what is a "5-star financial rating"? Cite your source5 start efficiency rating?		Please add the specifics for the 5 star rating, by whom and when.
2) The proposed 5-year budget in section 23 is flat, showing a per student income of 13,865.45 per student each year.	Please adjust the student/funding cap to reflect year one at 1072 and a 2% increase per year for each year after.	Please provide a revised budget projection to include the revised student cap.
3) How much of the charter school budget goes to paying facility debt leases, loans, or payments?		Please break this down by separate facility. The enclosed attachments have them all lumped in together.

4	4) "For almost three years, LOA was legally engaged with the Greene County School District over a discrepancy with funding for students who were attending LOA. The suit was settled with the Greene County School District making a financial settlement with LOA."	The lawsuit has been settled. Please remove these statements.
	5) Buildings that are on property that are not owned by the district are not eligible for ESPLOST funds or for state building money.	Please consider making all properties part of the district so we can use ESPLOST funds and get state building/repair money.
	6) The middle school building.	Please consider allowing the GCSS to build the building so we can all make sure it fits into everyone's strategic plan and so we can use ESPLOST funds. This can also free up funds for LOA's operational expenses. This would be completed just like the original building. Priority could be given in the next ESPLOST.

LOA Charter Application
Past Performance Section
Item #4 pp. 10-11

- 6. Provide a brief overview of the school's current governance structure. In your description, you must include:
 - Specific examples of decisions the governing board has made on behalf of the school;
 - Specific examples of decisions that the school leader has made on behalf of the school;
 - How the governing board holds the school leader, any charter partners, and any independent contractors accountable, and;
 - The governing board's training program for the current and proposed charter term. Attach as Exhibit 6 a copy of the board's Governance Training Plan.
 - How the governing board holds the school leader, any charter partners (ESP/CMO/EMO), and any independent contractors accountable, and
 - The governing board's training program for the current and proposed charter term. Attach as Exhibit 6

Issues with answer, missing information, needed corrections	Non-negotiables	Request for Clarifications
1) deleted		
2) The governance board structure is vaguely defined (p10). The application does not specify how the governance board members are selected, length of terms, discipline process, removal process, replacement process, and what connection (if any) board members should have to the school community.		Please add

_			
	3) The current charter gives first enrollment priority to a	We will only	Consider making it clear that
	student whose parent is a Board member, full-time teacher,	allow and pay for	priority is given to a student
	professional, or other employee at the charter school	the children of	whose parent is a full-time
		full-time	teacher, or a full-time
		administrators	administrator. We agree with
		and full-time	allowing current students who
		teachers. This	do not meet this requirement to
		law says "may"	remain at LOA until they
		and not "shall"	graduate (grandfather them in).
	4) Nothing in the application states how the governing board		Who evaluates the CEO and/or
	will hold the CEO and/or executive director accountable,		Executive Director? Is it the
	nor is there a provision for contract terms or the removal		entire Board of Governors or a
	of the CEO. There is no organizational chart which		subset of the Board of
	delineates the duties and responsibilities of the new		Governors? Please clarify.
	executive director nor any other positions.		
	5) "All these board members have been involved with the		The lawsuit is settled. Please
	lawsuit against the Greene County School Board."		remove this statement.

LOA Charter Application
Past Performance Section
Item #5 pp. 11-16

7. Describe how the school provides state and federally mandated services to students with disabilities reciting the requirements of law and rule is insufficient. Your description must include the school's best practices and procedures...

Issues with answer, missing information, needed corrections	Non-negotiables	Request for Clarifications
1) High cost associated with SPED will be \$27,000 dollars more than the cost of a regular education student. GADOE has high-cost grants that can be applied for to help local districts deal with the expense of a high-cost special needs student. The district will work with LOA to apply for a grant if, and when a need arises.	discriminated against in the lottery or in	Please add this to the petition.
2) LOA will provide a full continuum of SPED services on the LOA campus and no SPED student will be refused admission to LOA based on a special education need.	LOA will be	A full continuum of services includes all special education needs to include but not limited to severe and profound, therapeutic supports, and gifted.

3) GCSS and LOA will determine the cost of needed services and a proportionate share of the cost will be assessed by the district.	Items 1-9 in this section will be included in exhibit 18 as an agreement between LOA and the GCSS.
4) Any due process cost as a result of a complaint by an LOA parent will be the financial responsibility of LOA for both the LOA attorney and the district attorney should the district be required to be represented.	
5) On page 13 of 43 LOA states that it is a PBIS school.	Please clarify the extent to which you will use the discipline reporting software "Educators Handbook" and the extent that you will provide PBIS.
6) LOA will create a detailed SPED handbook that will be consistent with the GCSS SPED Handbook.	Please review the GCSS SPED handbook and consider using it or provide us with your handbook that follows the policies in the GCSS SPED handbook, state, and federal law.
7) LOA will provide their own certification and the cost affiliated with maintaining Mindset Training.	Items 1-9 in this section will be included in exhibit 18 as an agreement between LOA and the GCSS.

8) GCSS Director of SPED will make every effort to	Items 1-9 in this section will be
collaborate with the LOA SPED Coordinator, however the	included in exhibit 18 as an
final authority over all SPED related matters in Greene	agreement between LOA and
County is the GCSS Director of Special Education.	the GCSS.
9) All LOA Sped staff will attend all training provided by the	Items 1-9 in this section will be
GCSS Director of SPED at the location selected by the	
GCSS SPED Director.	agreement between LOA and
	the GCSS.

Past Performance Section Item #6 pp. 16-19

LOA Charter Application 8. Describe how the charter school provides state-and federally mandated services for English Learners (EL's). Reciting the requirements of law and rule is insufficient. Your description must include diagnostic methods or instruments that are used to identify and assess those students, as well as the instructional program that is provided to ELs.

Issues with answer, missing information, needed corrections	Non-negotiables	Request for Clarifications
1) LOA will pay for all expenses related to their own ESOL students related to, but not limited to, testing using the WIDA, ACCESS, NWEA, and other related test and all professional Learning.		Please add in exhibit 18 as an agreement between LOA and the GCSS on how we will handle ESOL students.
2) Home Language Survey for Parents.		This must be included in the agreement between LOA and the GCSS on how we will handle ESOL students. LOA will use the Infinite Campus Electronic Registration LOU that includes the electronic version of the Home Language Survey.

LOA Charter Application
Past Performance Section
Item #7 pp. 19-22

9. Provide the number and percentage of students receiving In-School Suspensions, or Expulsions during the current charter term (e.g. the past 5 years). How does this discipline and dismissal data compare to the Office of Civil Rights data?

	I	1
Issues with answer, missing information, needed	Non-Negotiables	Request for Clarifications
corrections		
1) Educator's Handbook	All disciplinary	Please add a MOU in section 18
	actions will be	that this will be followed.
	documented	
	through Educators	
	Handbook which is	
	the District's	
	selected data	
	collection method.	
	This is necessary	
	for federal	
	compliance and	
	SPED	
2) Please provide the historical data that is requested in this		Please provide the GCSS the data
section		requested in this section for the
		past 5 years and provide an
		agreement in section 18 to
		provide it yearly within the next
		charter.

LOA Charter Application		
Past Performance Section		
Item # 8 pp. 22-23		

10. Describe in detail how the charter school's students, governing board, faculty, and staff reflect the socioeconomic diversity of the community served by the charter school. If the charter school does not reflect the community's diversity in one or more areas listed above, provide a comprehensive plan to address the need for diversity. Included in such a plan could be, for example, the use of targeted recruitment or the use of a weighted lottery to provide an increased chance of admission for educationally disadvantaged students pursuant to O.C.G.A. 20-2-2066(a)(1) and State Board Rule 160-4-9.05(2)(g).

,	Non-negotiable	Request for Clarification
corrections		
The Charter Application compares the LOA student sociodemographic diversity to the entire population of Greene County instead of to the student population of Greene County.		Please use the sociodemographic diversity numbers on the GA DOE's Annual Charter School Report to compare the LOA student population to the GCSS student population and come up with a proposal to reduce the
		sociodemographic disparity between the two student populations within the Charter term at the first lottery at PreK.

LOA Charter Application
Past Performance Section
Item # 9 pp. 23-24

11. Describe in detail any difficulties faced during the charter term that were not already addressed above, how the school dealt with such difficulties, and if they remain an issue for the school. Also explain how the school plans to avoid these difficulties during the upcoming charter renewal term.

Issues with answer, missing information, needed	Non-negotiables	Request for Clarifications
corrections		
1) The application states that there was a misunderstanding in regard to which document, application or contract, rules. There was never a misunderstanding, the contract rules, if there is a conflict between the application and the contract. In the 2023 application (p.23) LOA states that the renewal application is a projection of what "will" happen over the next 5 years. The term "will" does not suggest a "guess" therefore no alterations should be necessary to meet changing circumstances.		One solution for this is for the Charter Contract to explicitly say that all agreements in exhibit 18 will be honored during the term of the Charter Contract unless a new agreement by both the LOA BOG and the GCSS Board is reached.
2) One decision that has be made is an apparent violation of enrollment priorities (OCGA 20-2-2066(a)(1) by allowing PreK matriculation ahead of siblings which is contrary to page 47 of the current charter application.		Please explain how you plan to address the sibling issue and follow this law. See Attachment 9.

LOA Charter Application Item #10 pp. 24-34

12. If the answers given above to questions 1-9 reflect a change to any of the following, please provide Proposed Changes Section | the rationale for the change.

- Academic Changes
- The use of waivers and Innovations
- School programs Students with Disabilities, Gifted and Talented, English Learners

Issues with	answer, missing information, needed	Non-negotiables	Request for Clarifications
corrections			
1) LOA cor	pares its student's performance with the Greene		Please provide academic goals
County S	chool System even though the student		with measurable milestones as
socioeco	nomic and racial student populations are entirely		compared to other similar
different			schools as determined by GOSA
			and the GCSS for the term of the
			Charter Contract.
2) The appl	cation specifically excludes any special education		The Charter School Law states
student v	ho does not fall under the categories of co-taught,		that Charter Schools are to be
collabora	tive, and/or resource (p. 27). The application		treated no less favorably (there
states th	at any student requiring more "specialized		can be differences as long as
services,	'would not be eligible to attend LOA.		need is articulated to be in the
			best interest of students. Not all
			students need the same things)
			than any other school. The
			SPED agreement between LOA
			and the GCSS included in exhibit
			18 will state that LOA will
			provide all needed SPED
			services to all its students and

	will not render any student ineligible to attend LOA based
	on any SPED classification. This is the same as any other GCSS
	school.
2) There needs to be a MOUI for how transportation will work	
3) There needs to be a MOU for how transportation will work between LOA and the GCSS	
between LOA and the GCSS	who is responsible for transportation meet with the
	GCSS director of transportation
	to develop a MOU to be in
	exhibit 18.
4) The application states that LOA and GCSS will collaborate	
to provide Career & Technical-Based Instruction (p28).	
However, if LOA will not serve students who are eligible	
for CTI, how will it provide these services?	between LOA and the GCSS.
5) Gifted services (pp.28-29) are defined only for grades K-5.	LOA must provide a full
No mention is provided of how gifted students in grades 6-	continuum of services for all
12 will be served, or if these students will receive gifted	SPED categories including gifted
services of any kind.	and this will be spelled out in the
	agreement for SPED services in
	exhibit 18.

6) Governance Changes item b. p. 31. College and Career	Since both schools	Please have a member of the
Academy and AP classes.		LOA administration meet with
	there will be no	the CEO of the College and
	transfer of money	Career Academy and the Greene
	for this service to	County High School Principal to
	students.	form an agreement for exhibit
		18. This agreement will outline
		how LOA and the GCSS will
		allow any student at LOA to take
		courses at the College and Career
		Academy and any GCSS student
		may take AP classes at LOA that
		are not offered at the GCSS.
7) When real property is owned by the foundation ESPLOST		Please consider putting all real
funds cannot be used on the buildings and the buildings do		property under the ownership of
not earn state facility funds.		the GCSS so we can use
		ESPLOST funds to construct,
		repair and accumulate State
		Facility money for all of LOA's
		properties.
8) The district needs to know the strategic plan for LOA		Please provide the 5-year
		strategic plan for LOA for the
		new charter term to include
		facility plans.

9) The GCSS is responsible for providing a facilities plan for	The LOA Executive Director and
the district's schools.	the GCSS Superintendent will
	agree on a document that will be
	included in exhibit 18 on how
	new facilities for LOA will be
	provided during the new charter
	term.
10) Item #2 on page 40 of the application states that LOA shall	For the GCSS to fulfill its
be subject to the control and management of the local	obligations under this
board of the local school system in which the charter	requirement please consider
school is located, as provided in the charter and in a	submitting to the same audit as
manner consistent with the U.S. and Georgia	the Greene County School
Constitutions;	system as provided by the State
	Department of Audits.
11) Funding excludes detailed discussion of the funding	Please consider Dean Ware and
mechanism for LOA, which was included in the previous	Machelle Usry create an
renewal application in 2016.	agreement for exhibit 18 that
	details how LOA will follow the
	state allotment funding formula,
	QBE worksheets, proportional
	calculations, etc. and cooperate
	fully in completing the CPI
	Report. Categorical funding and
	expenditures will not be waived.
12) The application indicates that LOA seeks all Federal funds	Please include an agreement for
it is eligible to receive. It should be stated that charter	exhibit 18 that LOA will agree to
schools cannot waive federal accountability requirements.	Federal funds being withheld by
	the GCSS if LOA falls out of
	compliance with Federal laws,

13) (p. 34) Discussion on demographics again compares LOA	rules, or guidelines. Funding would be restored once in compliance. Also, it will detail how the GCSS will ensure compliance. Please change items a and b on p. 34 to reflect the difference in the
student enrollment to the overall Greene County population.	student populations at LOA and the GCSS as reflected in the GA DOE Charter Schools Annual Report.
14) Charter school law states that charter schools should be treated no differently than other schools. No school in the GCSS gets a proportional amount of ESPLOST money based on their percentage of the student population. This would be treating LOA as a school system instead of a school within the GCSS which it is.	Please consider putting all real property under the GCSS and allowing the GCSS to be involved in the construction of any new facilities so that ESPLOST funds can be used and we can earn state facility funds. This will free up money for LOA's operating budget.
15) Federal funds that are earned will be forwarded to LOA. A federal compliance audit will also be conducted.	Please submit an agreement for exhibit 18 that outlines how the GCSS will make sure LOA is in compliance with the Federal compliance audit.

16) There is a significant difference in the demographic breakdown of students at LOA and the GCSS as revealed in the GA DOE Charter Schools Annual Report.	Since the 1st lottery selection is in the PreK program and those students are allowed to matriculate into LOA at kindergarten please provide a plan to increase the number of non-white students in the PreK program over the next 5-year
17) Much mention of the lottery is made throughout this	charter term. You may want to consider adding transportation to achieve this. Please provide an agreement for
document, but no data of any kind is ever provided. If the number of applications is truly at or above 400 per year as stated, demographic data of applicants could be provided to give some context.	exhibit 18 that will provide the race residence status, and age, of all applicants.
18) LOA receives QBE funding for alternative school services, but has indicated a desire to participate in the District's alternative school.	Please provide a clear plan for alternative school services, to include cost sharing, and an MOU that covers processes, procedures to include observance of student due process rights.

Looking to the Future Section pp. 34-35

LOA Charter Application 13. Briefly describe how the school has and will continue with its proposed changes to serve the needs of its students for the upcoming (renewed) charter term.

Issues with answer, missing information, needed	Non-negotiables	Request for clarifications
corrections		
 LOA is NOT the highest performing school "in the surrounding counties" (p35). Although not mentioned by name, Oconee County School System is excluded from comparison because it has a "less diverse population". Three Points: Oconee County's and LOA's demographics are nearly identical. LOA is not even in the top 4 in the NEGA RESA in student achievement If you exclude a comparison to a school because they do not resemble your school, any comparison between LOA and the GCSS should be excluded for obvious reasons. 		Please provide measurable with schools that have similar student demographic populations to LOA. Since the student demographics of LOA and the GCSS are very different, LOA will not make academic comparisons between those schools.
2) HB 318 and the 2% increase annually did not pass.	GCSS will agree to a starting student/funding cap at 1072 year one with a 2% increase each following year.	In the past increasing the number of students at LOA has resulted in the top students at the GCSS schools attending LOA. This has had a negative impact on the remaining students in the GCSS schools. We need to find a balance between allowing LOA's student population to increase

3) There is not agreement on how to handle disputes between LOA and the GCSS.		without hurting the students that remain in the GCSS schools. Please consider starting LOA's enrollment at 1072 in the first year of the charter and increasing it by 2% each subsequent year of the charter. This allows balance between increasing LOA's enrollment without negatively impacting the students at the GCSS schools. Dr. Bowling and Dr. Houston will create an agreement for exhibit 18 to resolve disputes between LOA and the GCSS that at worst would result in mediation, not law suits.
4) School Safety Plan	A copy of your school safety plan will be submitted to the local director of Emergency Management for approval as required by law.	Please add an agreement in section 18 that a copy of LOA's school safety plan will be submitted to the local director of Emergency Management for approval as required by law and to the GCSS for verification.