

Letter of Intent

This letter of intent (LOI) serves to provide a formal notice to the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board regarding Emerge Community Schools intention to submit a proposal for opening a K – 8 Elementary/Middle charter school in the 2014-2015 school year.

The information presented in the Letter of Intent is non-binding.

Name of Proposed School	Emerge Community Elementary/Middle Charter School
Grade Configuration	K - 8
Model or Focus	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
Primary Contact Person	Stanley Robinson
Phone	(901) 497-0242
Email	stanstyle@yahoo.com
District	Tunica
Proposed Leader	TBD
(if known)	
Replication?	No
Contract with ESP?	No

Enrollment Projections:

Provide additional rows and columns if necessary. Replace “Year 1” with the academic year the applicant plans to begin operating and the four subsequent academic years.

Grade	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
K	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
1	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
2	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
3		40	40	40	40	40	40
4			40	40	40	40	40
5				40	40	40	40
6					40	40	40
7						40	40
8							40
Total # of students	120	160	180	200	220	260	300

Mission of School:

At Emerge Community School (ECS), students will apply the curriculum through the lens of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) - focused activities. Students will master skills and competencies that will enable them to appreciate the complexities- and opportunities- of deeper work in addressing the grand challenges and the elementary and middle grade levels and beyond. No longer for the boys, modern STEM education emphasizes the need to engage girls in these areas as well. Therefore, ECS’s STEM-based curriculum will provide the underpinnings for every child to be successful in college, work, and life. STEM graduates are expected to be problem solvers, innovators, inventors, and logical thinkers. Additionally, students will be expected to immediately take advantage of opportunities through post-secondary institutions and businesses.

Provide a brief overview of the education program of the school:

Emerge Community School students will be exposed to a rigorous STEM-based curriculum. STEM is the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The idea of emphasizing these subjects in delivering the curriculum is driven by the business community, with the goal of preparing an agile and competitive workforce. It is important to note that STEM is not a program, but a philosophy. In the real world, content knowledge is interwoven, layered and sophisticated, not experienced in isolation such as in traditional education settings (separate math time, separate science time, etc.). STEM skills, which are infused in Common Core State Standards which are vital for success in the 21st century and critical to our collective future. The Critical C's of collaboration, Cooperation and Communication are emphasized through project-based learning and through interdisciplinary activities. Through collaborative partnerships with the Northwest Mississippi Community Colleges' programs, ECS students will benefit from the latest in educational innovations. The teachers will participate in high-quality, focused professional development, and students will be actively engaged in lessons and activities that apply 21st Century skills in STEM-specific fields of study. Active learning and engagement is always the goal, with student choice a key component of exploratory learning. At ECS, this work is done through the application of the Engineering design process in every subject are beginning in Grade 3.

Complete the following table to list Board members for the school at this time. Add rows as is necessary.

Name	Current Professional Title and Organization	Board Role	Focus/Expertise
Craig Harris	Community Organizer/Nonprofit	TBD	Community Organizer
Natasha Elington	Auditor/ Sam's Town Casino	Treasurer	Fiscal
Reggie Griffin	Firefighter/Tunica County	TBD	Advocate
Shanerika Taylor	Sherriff/ Tunica County	TBD	Parent Representative
Antonio Lewis	Logistics/Kroger Warehouse	TBD	Advocate