

## Letter of Intent

This letter of intent (LOI) serves to provide a formal notice to the Mississippi Charter School Authorizer Board regarding ***Greater Refuge Preparatory Academy: Jackson***'s intention to submit a proposal for opening a PreK–8 charter school in the 2014-2015 school year.

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

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name of Proposed School</b> | <b><i>Greater Refuge Preparatory Academy</i></b>                         |
| Grade Configuration            | Pre K – 8 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Model or Focus                 | Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics + Economics (STEM + E) |
| Primary Contact Person         | Elder Walter Veals   |
| Phone                          | 901-201-0475   |
| Email                          | <a href="mailto:Grt4115@aol.com">Grt4115@aol.com</a>                     |
| District                       | Jackson  |
| Proposed Leader (if known)     | We are actively recruiting for this position                             |
| Replication?                   | Yes  |
| 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.*

| <b>Grade</b>        | <b>2014-2015</b> | <b>2015-2016</b> | <b>2016-2017</b> | <b>2017-2018</b> | <b>2018-2019</b> |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| PreK                | 40               | 40               | 40               | 40               | 40               |
| K                   | 40               | 40               | 40               | 40               | 40               |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>     | 40               | 40               | 40               | 40               | 40               |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>     | 40               | 40               | 40               | 40               | 40               |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>     |                  | 40               | 40               | 40               | 40               |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>     |                  |                  | 40               | 40               | 40               |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>     |                  |                  |                  | 40               | 40               |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>     |                  |                  |                  |                  | 40               |
| Total # of students | <b>160</b>       | <b>200</b>       | <b>240</b>       | <b>280</b>       | <b>320</b>       |

### **Mission of School:**

***Greater Refuge Preparatory Academy*** will grow students' proficiency levels in science, math, engineering, technology, and economics and demonstrate how these skills are used every day in every subject, every class, and every career. GRPA's comprehensive STEM + E education includes a strong emphasis on hands-on, experiential and inquiry-based student experiences and activities.

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

*Greater Refuge Preparatory Academy's* Grade1 – 5 students will participate in *Project Lead the Way (PLTW)*, a nationally recognized program that emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, innovation and real-world problem solving through a STEM-based curriculum. *Gateway To Technology (GTT)* (grades six through eight) units explore aerospace, energy, the environment, modeling, robotics, technology and other STEM-related topics. The activities-oriented curriculum challenges and engages the natural curiosity of students while sparking an interest in STEM subjects and preparing students for further study in high school. Grade 8 Gifted and Talented Students will be exposed to components of *Pathway To Engineering (PTE)*, typically designed for students in grades nine through twelve. PTE explores the design process and links STEM principles to relevant problem-solving activities. Courses complement traditional mathematics and science courses and prepare students to pursue a post-secondary education and careers in STEM-related fields. The 420-minute minimum instructional day will include an academic program that provides a challenging curriculum and individual attention to student learning modalities and abilities. The school will also implement a 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. “before-school care” program as well as a 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. “after-school care” and “tutorial” program.

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

| <b>Name</b>        | <b>Current Professional Title and Organization</b> | <b>Board Role</b> | <b>Focus/Expertise</b>  |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Elder Walter Veals | President, Greater Refuge Inc.                     | Chairman          | Business Administration |
| Jeff Ross          | Vice President, Regions Bank                       | Secretary         | Finance                 |
| Percy Cain         | Retired Superintendent, Madison County             | Treasurer         | Education               |
| Neal Rich          | Engineer, Asset Company                            | Board Member      | Engineering             |
| Bill Beaty         | Architect, Faia Architect                          | Board Member      | Construction            |
| Shirley McCauley   | CPA  | Board Member      | Finance                 |
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