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**Emerge Collegiate STEM Charter School**

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**The Background:**

Emerge Collegiate STEM Charter School submitted an initial charter application to Shelby County Schools. After reviewing the application, the Shelby County Board of Education voted to deny the charter proposal at the regularly scheduled board meeting held on May 27, 2014.

On June 25, 2014, EmERGE Collegiate STEM Charter School sponsors submitted an amended application to address the deficiencies cited in the initial application. At the July 15, 2014 meeting of the Shelby County Board of Education, the board voted to deny the amended application.

On July 23, 2014, sponsors of the EmERGE Collegiate STEM Charter School appealed to the State Board of Education. A hearing was held on August 14, 2014 at the Shelby County Board of Education. The State Board of Education Charter Application Review Committee conducted a de novo on the record review of the application and held a capacity interview with the applicant on September 8, 2014.

**The Recommendation:**

The Executive Director recommends that the Board affirm the decision of the local board of education to deny the amended charter school application. This recommendation is based on the attached Findings and Recommendation of Dr. Nixon.