2025 Charter Applications - Generation 30

Valenta Academy - Bastrop

Link to application and capacity interview

Final Vote: vetoed 10-3 (1 abstention)

General Information

- Valenta Academy planned to open a K-8 charter school in Bastrop serving 540 students at maximum enrollment.
- This was Valenta's first application.
- Valenta's main innovation was 2 Hr Learning, which is an online AI "adaptive learning model" that delivers all instruction.
- Core subjects would be taught in 30 minute timed segments.
- The afternoons would be spent on community learning projects and self-directed learning that develop additional life skills.
- Teachers would be "guides" who monitor progress and support the learning projects but do not deliver instruction.
- Charter schools using the 2 Hr Learning model have been denied in 4 states and approved in Arizona – which Valenta did not disclose.
- 2 Hr Learning is currently being used by private schools in Austin ($40,000/year tuition) and Brownsville ($15,000/year tuition). Valenta did not disclose student demographics at these related private schools, making performance claims at these schools difficult to evaluate.

Concerns

- Concerns were raised during the State Board of Education meeting about a lack of community support or involvement on Valenta's board and the heavy usage of AI.
- Members also raised concerns about the cost of 2 Hr Learning ($1500/student annually) given the lack of independent analysis of

student performance and failure to disclose the demographics of the students included in the performance data and the denials of the 2 Hr Learning model by 4 states.