

SB #26-98

IN THE MATTER OF THE DENIAL OF :
THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION : STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE VISTAS CHARTER SCHOOL, : DECISION
BERGEN COUNTY. :

Decided by the Commissioner of Education, January 21, 1998

For the Appellant, Charles A. Webster, pro se

For the Participant Commissioner of Education, Michelle L. Miller, Deputy
Attorney General (Peter Verniero, Attorney General of New Jersey)

The Vistas Charter School (hereinafter "appellant") filed an appeal to the State Board of Education from a letter decision of the Commissioner of Education dated January 21, 1998 denying its application to establish a charter school in the 1998-99 academic year. The Commissioner indicated that the application needed to be strengthened in the following areas: Educational program weak; needs additional alignment to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards; middle school alternative education concept; statewide assessment program not addressed; discriminatory admissions policy; no process for self-evaluation; and financial plan missing financial narrative.

We have considered the arguments made by appellant in light of the record provided to us on behalf of the Commissioner. On the basis of this review, we

conclude that appellant has failed to demonstrate an entitlement to establish a charter school pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36A-1 et seq. Therefore, the State Board of Education affirms the Commissioner's decision to deny appellant the grant of a charter for 1998-99.

April 1, 1998

Date of mailing _____