



May 24, 2013

Ms. Mickey Revenaugh
1001 Fleet St.
Fifth Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Ms. Revenaugh,

Thank you for submitting an application to establish a public charter school in the District of Columbia. The District of Columbia Public Charter School Board (“Board”) has completed the 2013 Application Review process and I regret to inform you that at its public meeting held May 20, 2013, the Board did not approve your application to establish Nexus Academy of DC Public Charter School in the District of Columbia.

The Board’s decision was based on a thorough evaluation of the written application and information gathered from the applicant interview, a site visit, and the public hearing. The following findings were basis for denial:

- At four hours a day for four days a week, the founding group did not explain sufficiently how the school’s staff could fully support and engage students, both academically and behaviorally, so that they would complete the expected coursework. They also did not clearly describe how this structure would help their target population realize their goals.
- The application is unclear as to how students with disabilities will receive required services. Moreover, at the site visit in Cleveland, Ohio, Board staff only observed limited examples of how the school’s staff - including “Success Coaches,” teachers, and a special education coordinator - accommodate high-needs students, especially those with special needs.
- The founding group relied heavily on Pearson’s Connections for the school’s day-to-day operation and academic content. It does not appear that, should the contract with Connections be terminated, the founding group would have the capacity to run the school without them or another provider.
- The application did not clearly articulate how it would help students gain access to the curriculum from off-site if they either chose not to carry a laptop to and from school or had their school-provided laptop lost, broken, or stolen. There was a lack of consideration given to the safety risk to students if they were to carry laptops into neighborhoods of high instances of crime.
- The application did not address ways of adjusting the program to address students who were not intrinsically motivated or who may benefit from more structure to complete the two-hours of required additional work per day.
- The applicant did not explain why it did not try to penetrate the core issues facing at-risk students in D.C., when the funding in D.C. would allow for the applicant group to address wrap-around services beyond “success coaches” and the methods used in the existing schools.

- The description of the teacher's role and the purpose of face-to-face time in the blended-learning environment was not completely evident. In one vignette, the teacher was planning to show an on-line video during her face-to-face time with students.

We recognize the hard work and effort that went into the development of your application and there were many positive parts of the application that are not mentioned in this letter. If you wish to receive additional feedback as it relates to the Board's denial decision, please e-mail Monique Miller at mmiller@dcpcsb.org by Thursday, June 6th to schedule an appointment. This feedback can be useful should you decide to revise your application for submission in upcoming review cycles.

Thank you for your interest in public charter schools and your commitment to improving public education in Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the handwritten signature of John H. "Skip" McKoy.

John H. "Skip" McKoy
Chair

DC Public Charter School Board