



May 7, 2012

Dr. Regena Williams



Dear Dr. Williams,

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 2012 Application Review process and I regret to inform you that at its public meeting held April 23, 2012, the Board did not approve your application to establish The Washington DC Clean Energy Adult Public Charter School (“Washington DC Clean Energy”) in the District of Columbia.

The Board’s decision was based on a thorough evaluation of the written application by the Board, Board staff, and an external adult education consultant; and information gathered from the applicant interview and the public hearing. The following findings were the basis for the Board’s denial:

- The application stated an intent to provide a career pathway in the area of renewable energy. However, the Board concluded the application did not provide sufficient detail or articulate a clear plan showing the school could assist Washington DC Clean Energy students with finding local apprenticeships and/or obtaining national certification upon completion of the program.
- Obtaining a General Education Development (GED) credential is one of two important pathways stated in the vision; however, the application lacked a description of a comprehensive GED program. In contrast to the flexible schedule that was developed for the clean energy career courses, which spans days, nights, and weekends, no GED evening courses were proposed, hindering accessibility for adult learners who have daytime jobs.
- The application stated that the applicants would use Common Core State Standards (CCSS) to design the new GED assessment and that the proposed program will use CCSS to enhance the core content areas for the GED courses. However, the Board concluded that the application did not include an implementation plan and/or timeline for curriculum development and staff training specific to CCSS.
- The application lacked an educational plan for addressing the needs of all types of learners and skill levels. This is most apparent in the decision not to allocate funds in the budget or develop a plan to serve English language learners during the first five years of operation. Instead, the program focuses on serving students with a high-intermediate level of literacy, not those students who may be significantly below grade level.
- The salaries for the GED teachers outlined in the budget are low for full-time teachers with Bachelor’s degrees, which could hinder the ability to acquire the caliber of staff necessary to deliver quality instruction to achieve the proposed school’s mission and goals. The average teacher salary range for adult public charter schools is \$48,547 to \$63,685.

We recognize the hard work and effort that went into the development of your application. If you wish to receive additional feedback as it relates to the Board's denial decision, please e-mail Monique Miller at [REDACTED] by Thursday, May 18, 2012 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,

[REDACTED]

Brian Jones  
Chair

cc: Scott Pearson, Executive Director