

Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent  
District/School Operations

**SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD DENIAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FOR LEARNING ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL, INC., ON BEHALF OF LEARNING ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

As established in School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.471, Charter Schools (K-12), Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has received charter school applications from individuals and/or organizations in the community.

Learning Academy Charter School, Inc. (Learning Academy) proposed to serve a maximum of 1,590 students in kindergarten through grade eight, with a maximum of 368 students in its first year of operation, commencing with the 2010-2011 school year and continuing throughout the term of the contract, which would end on June 30, 2013.

Following is the Founding Board for the charter school: Mr. Antonio Delgado, Vice-President, European Investment Management Corporation; Ms. Vivian A. Sanchez, Self-employed; and Ms. Annie M. Moreno, Pharmaceutical Representative, Astra Zeneca.

On January 20, 2010, M-DCPS' Charter School Technical Assistance Team (TAT) reviewed the application and identified a number of concerns which were forwarded to the M-DCPS' Charter School District Review Committee (DRC) for final review and final recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools, pursuant to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.471, Charter Schools (K-12). Utilizing the Florida Department of Education's Model Application Evaluation Form, the TAT identified deficiencies in 8 of the 19 sections of the application.

On January 28, 2010, the DRC was convened to further review the application and provide the applicant the opportunity to address any deficiencies and/or concerns. By a unanimous vote, the DRC made a recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools for denial of the application.

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Learning Academy failed to meet the following statutory requirements:

- Provide a detailed curriculum plan that illustrates how students will be provided services to attain the Sunshine State Standards. [s. 1002.33(6)(a)(2), F.S.]
- Provide goals and objectives for improving student learning and measuring that improvement. The goals and objectives failed to indicate how much academic improvement students are expected to show each year, how success will be evaluated, and the specific results to be attained through instruction. [s. 1002.33(6)(a)(3), F.S.; s.1002.33(7)(a)(7), F.S.]
- An annual financial plan for each year requested by the charter for operation of the school for up to 5 years. The applicant failed to provide a plan that contained anticipated fund balances based on revenue projections, a spending plan based on projected revenues and expenses, and a description of controls that will safeguard finances and projected enrollment trends. [s. 1002.33(6)(a)(5), F.S.]

In addition, reviewers also identified the following deficiencies in the application which are required elements of the Florida Model Charter School Application:

- A set of priorities that are meaningful, manageable and measurable, and focus on improving student outcomes;
- Capacity to meet the school's obligations under state and federal law regarding the education of exceptional students and English Language Learners;
- Legally sound policies for expulsion; and
- A student recruitment plan that will enable the school to attract its targeted population.

Copies of the application will be transmitted to the School Board Members under separate cover and will be available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida deny the charter school application submitted by Learning Academy Charter School, Inc., on behalf of Learning Academy Charter School.

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