



May 24, 2013

Ms. Maia Shanklin Roberts  
1620 Fort Dupont St, SE  
Washington, DC 20020

Dear Ms. Shanklin Roberts,

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 O.U.R. Leadership Academy 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 and the public hearing. The following findings were basis for denial:

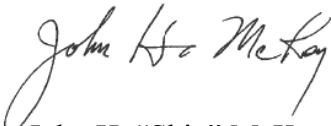
- The application emphasized undermining the school-to-prison pipeline in the mission and provided an in-depth explanation of its school culture, community partnerships, and non-academic services. However, there was minimal description of the proposed school’s academic program. The applicant group’s previously submitted application (2012) proposed using the Diploma Plus curriculum and instructional model. However, the current application eliminated Diploma Plus without replacing it with a curriculum of comparable or greater scope or track record.
- The application failed to demonstrate how the proposed school’s academic program and interventions would support struggling students and keep them engaged in school.
- The application provided no clear explanation of how it would track student academic progress. The lack of academic performance metrics is an especially glaring omission given the application’s statement that traditional quantitative measures are not accurate assessments of disconnected youths’ college and career readiness.
- The academic components of the application, including the curricula, did not incorporate descriptions of modifications or accommodations or a continuum of academic services for students with disabilities.
- The planning process did not discuss curriculum development except that the founding group is recruiting a director of curriculum.
- The application did not clearly define the enrollment policies necessary to support its targeted student population, which is expected to have high rates of inter-school mobility.
- The inspiring, original founders showed little commitment to staying with the school, if chartered.

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, including your

excellent behavior-intervention systems. If you wish to receive additional feedback as it relates to the Board's denial decision, please e-mail Monique Miller at [mmiller@dcpsb.org](mailto:mmiller@dcpsb.org) by Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 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 handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John H. McKoy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

John H. "Skip" McKoy

Chair

DC Public Charter School Board