

Charter School Application Review and Recommendation for

**Computing Workshop Charter School
Hill House Passport Academy Charter School
Mount Washington Community Academy
Charter School**



Pittsburgh
Public Schools



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Computing Workshop

Proposed Grade Levels: 5-12+

	Projected Enrollment
Year 1	16
Year 2	17
Year 3	18
Year 4	19
Year 5	20

Proposed Location

Squirrel Hill area of Pittsburgh

Focus

Students on the Autistic Spectrum or with other cognitive or physical differences

Computing Workshop Charter School

Computing Workshop Criteria Review

- The charter school does not provide the School District of Pittsburgh with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities currently being offered.
- The application does not consider all the information requested in section 1719-A and conform to the legislative intent outlined in section 1702-A.
 - No specific curricula are indicated in the application.
 - Various technical/computerized resources indicated in the application are not PA State standards aligned.
 - The management plan provided in the application is incomplete.
- The proposed school is not financially viable.
 - Required financial documents were omitted from the application.
- The charter school is not able to serve as a model for other schools in the District.

Recommendation for Computing Workshop Charter School

Based on a thorough analysis of the Computing Workshop Charter School application, the Pittsburgh Public Schools Review Team recommends that the Board ***deny*** this charter application.

Next Step:

PPS Board to vote at the February 27, 2013 Legislative Session

Hill House Passport Academy Charter School

Proposed Grade Levels: 9-12

	Projected Enrollment
Year 1	150
Year 2	180
Year 3	180
Year 4	180
Year 5	180

Proposed Location

- The Hill area of Pittsburgh

Focus

- Drop-out Recovery

Hill House Passport Academy Criteria Review

- The governance structure of the charter school is not in compliance with all federal, state and local regulations and the PA school code.
 - No separate public, nonprofit corporation to hold the charter and operate the charter school has been established.
 - Although Hill House Association can be the applicant, the charter school must be operated by an independent, public, nonprofit corporation.
 - The finalized management agreement between the charter school and k12, Inc. is not included in the application.
- The charter school only to some extent provides the School District of Pittsburgh with expanded choices and is able to serve as a model to other schools in the District.
 - Blended learning model offered at Student Achievement Center.
 - Job placement is mentioned but lacks details about how program will work.

Recommendation for Hill House Passport Academy Charter School

Based on a thorough analysis of the Hill House Passport Academy Charter School application, the Pittsburgh Public Schools Review Team recommends that the Board ***deny*** this charter application.

Next Step:

PPS Board to vote at the February 27, 2013 Legislative Session

Mount Washington Community Academy Charter School

Proposed Grade Levels: K-8

	Projected Enrollment
Year 1	256
Year 2	300
Year 3	344
Year 4	368
Year 5	392

Proposed Location

- The Mount Washington area of Pittsburgh – former Saint Mary of the Mount Catholic School

Focus

- Microsociety

Mount Washington Community Academy Criteria Review

- The charter school, to some extent, provides the School District of Pittsburgh with expanded choices and is able to serve as a model for other schools in the District.
 - Integration of the Microsociety and the curriculum is not coherent.
 - Amount of time spent in the Microsociety is insufficient.
- The governance structure is not in compliance with all federal, state and local regulations and the PA school code.
 - The Articles of Incorporation or proof that the Articles have been filed with the Pennsylvania Department of State were excluded from the application.
 - The Bylaws are not consistent with either the Sunshine Act or the Public Officials and Employee Ethics Act.
- The application does not consider all the information requested in section 1719-A and conform to the legislative intent outlined in section 1702-A.
- The charter school is financially viable, with exceptions.
 - The charter school has underestimated some of their initial expenses.

Recommendation for Mount Washington Community Academy Charter School

Based on a thorough analysis of the Mount Washington Community Academy Charter School application, the Pittsburgh Public Schools Review Team recommends that the Board ***deny*** this charter application.

Next Step:

PPS Board to vote at the February 27, 2013 Legislative Session