



**PITTSBURGH  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS**  
COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING  
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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Board of Education Revokes Charter for Career Connections Charter Middle School**

### *District Site Visit Uncovers Health and Safety Issues*

PITTSBURGH September 27, 2006 – This evening the Board of Public Education took action to revoke the charter approved by the State Charter Appeal Board in early September for Career Connections Charter Middle School (CCCMS). Based on a September 22<sup>nd</sup> site visit, District officials learned that CCCMS was educating middle-grade students in a community center, which is not authorized to operate as an educational facility.

The community center lacks classrooms, a cafeteria and student health services. It is being used while CCCMS awaits a zoning change and occupancy permit to relocate the middle-grade students to the Lawrenceville facility noted in its original application to the District.

Superintendent Mark Roosevelt said, “Our concern is for the students. This is a public place that we doubt has the necessary clearances in place for individuals who may come into direct contact with students.”

Since CCCMS operates under the authority of the School District of Pittsburgh, it is the obligation of the Board of Education to ensure that the charter school provides its students with appropriate learning environments in compliance with state regulations.

The Board of Education took action after CCCMS did not provide information the District requested to obtain a better understanding of the charter school’s delivery of educational services to students. The District is entitled by law to this information.

According to the Pennsylvania Charter School Law, the local board of school directors may take immediate action to revoke a charter in cases where the health or safety of the school’s students and/or staff is at risk. When a charter is revoked, the law states that charter students must apply to the public school in their district of residence.

Pittsburgh Public Schools will immediately begin the process of notifying CCCMS parents and guardians of their child’s school of assignment and expected return date for instructional services. “We are prepared to provide a smooth transition for these students,” added Roosevelt. For questions, CCCMS parents/guardians should call the Student Services at 412-622-3952.

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For information regarding accommodations, civil rights or grievance procedures, contact Ms. Lee Mecaro, Employee Relations Manager, Office of Employee Relations, Pittsburgh Public Schools, 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3516; Phone (412) 622-3691 (Voice/TTY/TDD); Fax (412) 622-7968.