

# **Belmont Charter High School Revised Charter Application**

**Presentation to the School Reform Commission  
July 1, 2016**



# Overview of Regulatory Requirements

- Pennsylvania Charter School Law provides denied charter applicants with right to appeal to the State Charter School Appeal Board **or** to resubmit a revised application
- At least 45 days after receiving a revised application, the School Reform Commission is required to vote at the first scheduled public board meeting

# Overview: Belmont CHS Resubmission

- Belmont Charter School submitted a revised application for Belmont Charter High School May 16, 2016
  - Revised application was evaluated against the 2015-16 new charter application guidelines and criteria
- District staff reviewed revised application and submitted evaluation report to the SRC
- Evaluation report sent to applicant and posted to CSO website
- SRC will vote on revised application this morning

# Belmont Charter High School

	<b>Original Application</b>	<b>Revised Application</b>
<b>Grade Range</b>	9 – 12	9 - 12
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	500	500
<b>Location</b>	1301 Belmont Avenue (Leidy building), 19104	1301 Belmont Avenue (Leidy building), 19104
<b>Proposed Opening Year</b>	2016-17	2017-18
<b>Enrollment/Lottery Preference</b>	Graduates of Belmont CS & preference for Straw. Mansion	Graduates of Belmont CS

# Approval Guidelines New Charter Applications

Pennsylvania Charter School Law\* guidelines include but are not limited to:

- Extent to which application considers information requested in the charter application
- Capability of the applicant, in terms of support and planning, to provide comprehensive learning experiences to students
- Demonstrated, sustainable support for charter school plan by parents, community members, and students
- Extent to which charter school may serve as a model for other public schools

\*As in Section 17-1717-A



## **Charter School Revocation Recommendation World Communications Charter School**

*Presentation to the School Reform Commission  
Charter Schools Office*

July 1, 2016



## Revocation Overview

- Consistent with a renewal evaluation, a revocation recommendation is based on an evaluation of same three domains
  - Academic success, organizational compliance and financial health
- The CSO's revocation recommendation is based on the collection, evaluation, and synthesis of evidence from the following sources:
  - Charter for WCCS
  - Annual reports
  - 2015 Annual Charter Evaluation (“ACE”)
  - Audited financial statements
  - Site visit (focus groups and school walkthroughs)
  - Site visit documents
  - WCCS self-reported academic data, School Performance Profile (“SPP”) report, and SPR report
  - Office of Auditing Services financial review and enrollment audit



## Timeline

Date	Action
March 2015	CSO conducted site visit at WCCS
May 2015	CSO issued findings memo to WCCS subsequent to site visit
August 31, 2015	Date of Letter Agreement between Board of WCCS and CSO to approve new charter operator or surrender charter
Fall 2015	WCCS conducted Request for Proposal
April 2016	WCCS confirmed that selected new charter operator exited negotiations, CSO requested surrender action
May 2016	After repeated requests by the CSO, Board of WCCS refused to surrender charter



# World Communications Charter School

**Recommendation:** *Revocation*

**Location:** Center City

**Student Population:** 556 students in grades 6-12

	WCCS	District
<b>Special Education</b>	<b>14%</b>	14%
<b>English Language Learners</b>	<b>2%</b>	10%
<b>Students Living in Poverty*</b>	<b>62%</b>	65%

\*Students receiving Medicaid, SNAP or TANF

Grade	# Students
<b>6</b>	35
<b>7</b>	43
<b>8</b>	87
<b>9</b>	89
<b>10</b>	120
<b>11</b>	100
<b>12</b>	82

## **Mission:**

*“To create students that question their environment, learn from their experiences, and change the world with their ideas.”*

# World Communications Charter School

## Academic Success

### Proficiency (MS & HS)

- Math/Algebra I outcomes were lower than comparison group averages in **17 out of 18 instances**
- Reading/ELA outcomes were lower than comparison group averages in **15 out of 18 instances**
- From 2012-13 to 2014-15, WCCS's proficiency rate for HS students fell 22.1 percentage points in Algebra I, 36 percentage points in Literature and 20.3 percentage points in Biology
- From 2010-WCCS proficiency rate fell 33 percentage points in math and 27.6 percentage points in reading

School Year	Algebra I Keystones – 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade				Literature Keystones – 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade			
	WCCS	District	Charter	Peer	WCCS	District	Charter	Peer
2012-13	34.0%				61.0%			
2013-14	22.0%				42.0%			
2014-15	11.9%				25.0%			

School Year	Math – Grades 6-8				Reading/ELA – Grade 6-8			
	WCCS	District	Charter	Peer	WCCS	District	Charter	Peer
2012-13	51.4%				43.5%			
2013-14	34.3%				36.5%			
2014-15	2.4%				16.6%			

	School's proficiency above District, Charter or Peer average.		School's proficiency below District, Charter or Peer average.
--	---	--	---

# World Communications Charter School

Academic Success	
<b>Growth (HS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math, ELA and biology growth standards not met in any of most recent three years</li> <li>• Significant evidence of not meeting the growth standard in all subjects in 2014-15</li> </ul>
<b>Growth (MS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math growth standard met in one of three instances in the past three years</li> <li>• Reading/ELA growth standard not met for any year of the charter term</li> </ul>

School Year	High School Growth			Middle School Growth	
	Algebra I	Literature	Biology	Math	Reading/ELA
2012-13					
2013-14		NR (IS)			
2014-15					

	Growth meets or exceeds PA standard.		Growth does not meet PA standard.	NR (IS) – Not Reported (Insufficient Sample)
--	--------------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------	--

Academic Success	
<b>Graduation (HS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduation rate decreased from 62% in 2012-13 to 53% in 2013-14 and was lower than District, Charter, and peer averages in all years</li> </ul>
<b>College Readiness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only six 12<sup>th</sup> grade students over a three year period scored “college ready” on SAT/ACT</li> <li>• Through 2014-15 WCCS did not offer any advanced, college preparatory course work</li> </ul>

# World Communications Charter School

<b>Organizational Viability and Compliance</b>	
<b>Special Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School has not fully complied with conditions within its charter pertaining to special education program plans</li> <li>• School has a non-compliant Child Find process</li> </ul>
<b>English Language Learners (ELLs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School's ELL policy and practice for assessing, instructing or existing students is not consistent with PDE guidance</li> <li>• School has not fully complied with conditions within its charter pertaining to ELL program plans</li> </ul>
<b>Discipline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School's code of conduct does not fully adhere to requirements in the PA Public School Code</li> <li>• School's code of conduct is not appropriately differentiated for students with disabilities</li> </ul>
<b>Board Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board has not fully complied with conditions within its charter pertaining to committee meetings</li> <li>• Board does not fully comply with requirements of the Sunshine Act</li> </ul>
<b>Personnel Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board has not ensured full compliance with employee background check requirements through 2014-15</li> <li>• School failed to meet HQT requirements</li> </ul>
<b>Financial Health and Sustainability</b>	
<b>Fiscal Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audits for FY13 and FY14 found enrollment irregularities and special education file non-compliance (\$170,390 SDP overpayment to WCCS)</li> </ul>