

# **Charter School Renewal Recommendations**

## **June 19, 2014**

# New Media Technology Charter School

**Recommendation:** Nonrenewal

**Student Body:** Serves 451 students in grades 6-12  
18% special education students  
1% English language learners  
62% economically disadvantaged

**Location:** Northwest Philadelphia

**Mission:** To provides its scholars with a culturally affirming, student-centered, project-based, technology driven educational experience.

**Opening Date:** 2004

# New Media Technology Charter School





## I. Academic Success





<b>Rating</b>	<b>Does Not Meet Domain Standard</b>			
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	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
<b>AYP/SPP</b>	Warning	School Improvement 1	School Improvement 2	SPP: 48
<b>Math Proficiency</b>	31%	23%	28%	25%
<b>Reading Proficiency</b>	45%	44%	44%	44%
<b>Math Growth</b>			Did Not Meet Standard	Did Not Meet Standard in MS Math and HS Algebra
<b>Reading Growth</b>			Did Not Meet Standard	Met Standard in MS Reading But Not in HS Literature

# New Media Technology Charter School





## II. Organizational Compliance (1 of 2)





Rating	Does Not Meet Domain Standard	
<b>Special Education Compliance</b>		Identification and placement procedures are developing. There is not yet a formalized process for progress monitoring and insufficient resources in past.
<b>ELL Compliance</b>		Not meeting state instructional requirements for Level 3 English language learners.
<b>Admissions Policies</b>		Application only requests basic information; however process involves additional documents and steps, including submission of report cards, test scores, essays, and attendance at an informational session.
<b>Student Retention &amp; Discipline</b>		Discipline policy is clearly stated, but inconsistently implemented. Across year retention ranged from 67% to 99%.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

# New Media Technology Charter School



## II. Organizational Compliance (2 of 2)





Rating	Does Not Meet Domain Standard	
<b>Mission Fulfillment</b>		Stakeholders share an understanding of mission, but programming and instruction do not comprehensively reflect the mission.
<b>Board Oversight &amp; Compliance</b>		Board does not act on clear budget priorities or financial policies; out of compliance with bylaws and the ethics act.
<b>Timely Reporting Requirements</b>		Annual reports submitted timely and compliant with IEP SCN requirements. 2009 and 2013 audits were not completed timely.
<b>Personnel Compliance</b>		At least 75% staff certified; not meeting 100% highly qualified teachers requirement. 2010-12 audits found employee files missing checks and clearances; missed 2012-13 PSERS payment.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

# New Media Technology Charter School

## III. Financial Viability

Rating		Does Not Meet Domain Standard
Financial Health		At the close of FY13, operating net loss of approximately \$900 per student and four days of cash on hand.
Business Practices		2010-2013 independent CPA audit findings related to credit cards and petty cash use without appropriate documentation or invoices; guaranteed the \$3.5 million mortgage of its for-profit and unrelated landlord and pledged all assets as collateral.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

# Khepera Charter School

**Recommendation:** 5-Year Renewal with Conditions

**Student Body:** Serves 452 students in grades K-8  
11% special education students  
0% English language learners  
82% economically disadvantaged

**Location:** Northwest Philadelphia

**Mission:** To create exceptional learners and leaders by using culturally responsive methodologies to close the achievement gap attributed by race, gender and economic class.

**Opening Date:** 2004

# Khepera Charter School

## I. Academic Success





<b>Rating</b>	<b>Meets Domain Standard</b>			
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	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
<b>AYP/SPP</b>	Made AYP	Made AYP	Made AYP	SPP: 74
<b>Math Proficiency</b>	57%	61%	65%	61%
<b>Reading Proficiency</b>	49%	61%	62%	63%
<b>Math Growth</b>			Exceeded Growth Standard	Exceeded Growth Standard
<b>Reading Growth</b>			Exceeded Growth Standard	Exceeded Growth Standard



# Khepera Charter School





## II. Organizational Compliance (1 of 2)





Rating	<b>Does Not Meet Domain Standard</b>	
<b>Special Education Compliance</b>		Identification and placement procedures are appropriate. Resources do not fully meet student needs.
<b>ELL Compliance</b>		Not assessed. Application does not request ELL information and a home language survey is included in enrollment packet.
<b>Admissions Policies</b>		Application only requests basic information; available and can be submitted through multiple avenues in English and Spanish.
<b>Student Retention &amp; Discipline</b>		Discipline policy is clearly stated, but inconsistently implemented. Within year attrition decreased from 19 to 9% across the charter term.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

# Khepera Charter School



## II. Organizational Compliance (2 of 2)





Rating	<b>Does Not Meet Domain Standard</b>	
<b>Mission Fulfillment</b>		Stakeholders share an understanding of core values, but not the school's mission. Core values are reflected in operations.
<b>Board Oversight &amp; Compliance</b>		Board possesses knowledge of school, but does not act on clear budget priorities and is out of compliance with bylaws and the Sunshine Act. The Board has not ensured a lunch program.
<b>Timely Reporting Requirements</b>		Annual reports submitted timely and compliant with IEP SCN requirements. 2010 – 2013 audits have not been completed timely.
<b>Personnel Compliance</b>		At least 75% staff certified; not meeting 100% highly qualified teachers requirement.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

# Khepera Charter School

## III. Financial Viability

Rating		Approaching Domain Standard
<b>Financial Health</b>		Declining fund balance until 2012-13. Operating deficit in 2010-11 and 2011-12.
<b>Business Practices</b>		2010 independent CPA audit findings related to a lack of supporting documentation for cash disbursements and fixed assets and payroll deficiencies. These findings were corrected by the 2011 audit.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

# Khepera Charter School

## **Charter agreement conditions include:**

- Board of Trustees shall come into compliance with Bylaws regarding number of Board members and annual officer elections.
- Board of Trustees shall transition three members off the Board by July 2015.
- Board of Trustees shall comply with Sunshine Act regarding public notice and subject matter of executive sessions and public meetings.
- Board of Trustees shall attend trainings by established provider.
- Board of Trustees shall implement a plan to address renewal findings.
- Board of Trustees shall comply with Ethics and Nonprofit Acts and Conflict of Interest policy.
- Board of Trustees statements of financial interest submitted on time annually.
- Develop and implement a special education plan to ensure appropriate levels of support.
- Implement Student Code of Conduct consistently for all students.
- Implement a lunch program and participate in the National School Lunch Program.
- Submit a report demonstrating that independent contracting arrangements comply with IRS and PSERS regulations and, if not, come into compliance.
- Implement procedures to evaluate the performance of the Chief Executive Officer, Board members, and the Charter School.
- Ensure at least 75% certified and 100% highly qualified teachers with appropriate background checks and clearances.

# Nueva Esperanza Academy Charter School

**Recommendation:** 5-Year Renewal with Conditions

**Student Body:** Serves 916 students in grades 7-12  
17% special education students  
22% English language learners  
89% economically disadvantaged

**Location:** North Philadelphia

**Mission:** Esperanza Academy Charter School is dedicated to providing a quality education that prepares critically thinking, socially capable, spiritually sensitive, and culturally aware young adults who can use English, Spanish, and technology as tools for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Opening Date:** 2000

# Nueva Esperanza Academy Charter School





## I. Academic Success





<b>Rating</b>	<b>Approaching Domain Standard</b>			
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	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
<b>AYP/SPP</b>	Making Progress	School Improvement	Corrective Action	SPP: 64
<b>Math Proficiency</b>	40%	50%	52%	57%
<b>Reading Proficiency</b>	51%	52%	46%	62%
<b>Math Growth</b>			Exceeded Growth Standard	Exceeded Growth Standard in HS Algebra and Met in MS Math
<b>Reading Growth</b>			Exceeded Growth Standard	Exceeded Growth Standard in MS Reading and Met in HS Literature

# Nueva Esperanza Academy Charter School





## II. Organizational Compliance (1 of 2)





Rating	Approaching Domain Standard	
<b>Special Education Compliance</b>		Identification and placement procedures, resources, and support are appropriate.
<b>ELL Compliance</b>		Placement, resources, and support are adequate and meet state requirements.
<b>Admissions Policies</b>		Application only requests basic information; available and can be submitted through multiple avenues in English and Spanish.
<b>Student Retention &amp; Discipline</b>		Discipline policy is clearly stated, but inconsistently implemented. Percent of students returning ranged from 89 to 93% across charter term.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

# Nueva Esperanza Academy Charter School

## II. Organizational Compliance (2 of 2)



Rating	Approaching Domain Standard	
<b>Mission Fulfillment</b>		Mission is understood by stakeholders and operationalized in school systems and activities.
<b>Board Oversight &amp; Compliance</b>		Conflict of interest concerns between charter school and affiliated non-profit. Statements of financial interest were not always submitted timely.
<b>Timely Reporting Requirements</b>		Annual report, audited financial statements, and special education reporting is timely.
<b>Personnel Compliance</b>		At least 75% staff certified; met 100% highly qualified teachers requirement.





-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed



# Nueva Esperanza Academy Charter School

## III. Financial Viability

Rating	Approaching Domain Standard	
<b>Financial Health</b>		Meeting most standard industry financial indicators; slight deficit in FY 13 and less than one month cash on hand across charter term.
<b>Business Practices</b>		<p>No independent CPA audit findings or deficiencies in FY 2010 – 2013.</p> <p>Conflict of interest concerns with individuals associated with the charter school, landlord, and management company.</p> <p>Subcontractor and employee designations may not follow IRS and PSERS regulations.</p>

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

# Nueva Esperanza Academy Charter School

## Charter agreement conditions include:

- Revise Student Code of Conduct and implement consistently.
- Review and obtain detailed supporting documentation for all related party contracts.
- Board of Trustees members shall not be employed by the associated non-profit. Overlapping Board members shall properly abstain from voting on matters involving both entities.
- Board of Trustees complies with Ethics and Nonprofit Acts and Conflict of Interest Policy.
- Board of Trustees statements of financial interest submitted on time annually.
- Implement procedures to evaluate the performance of the Chief Executive Officer, Board members, and the Charter School.
- Submit a report demonstrating that independent contracting arrangements comply with IRS and PSERS regulations and, if not, come into compliance.
- Ensure at least 75% certified and 100% highly qualified teachers with appropriate background checks and clearances.
- All public signs and website references reflect school's registered name.

# Freire Charter School

**Recommendation:** 5-Year Renewal with Conditions  
Reviewed During the 2013 Renewal Cohort

**Student Body:** Serves 914 students in grades 5-12  
12% special education students  
1% English language learners  
88% economically disadvantaged

**Location:** Center City

**Mission:** To provide a college-preparatory learning experience with a focus on individual freedom, critical thinking, and problem solving in an environment that emphasizes the values of community, teamwork, and nonviolence.

**Opening Date:** 1999

# Freire Charter School

## Five Year Renewal Recommendation

Domain	Rating	Summary
<b>Academic Success</b>	Acceptable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freire achieved AYP 3 of 4 years during the charter term.</li> <li>65% of students were proficient/advanced in reading and 82% in math in 2012.</li> <li>Significant evidence exceeded the standard for PA Academic Growth in reading and math.</li> </ul>
<b>Organizational Health</b>	Acceptable with Deficiencies Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special education and ELL identification and placement procedures are appropriate; additional resources needed in the middle school.</li> <li>Minimal barriers to entry in admissions process.</li> <li>Board of Trustees possesses knowledge of school and makes viable financial decisions.</li> <li>75% certified and 100% highly qualified teachers.</li> </ul>
<b>Financial Health</b>	Acceptable with Deficiencies Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate accounting controls in place; conducts business in conformity with standards of financial management.</li> <li>Acceptable financial health—current obligations being met, in a stable long-term financial position.</li> </ul>

To determine the renewal recommendation from the overall academic success, organizational compliance, and financial viability ratings the following methodology was applied:

		<b>Academic Success</b>			
		Exceeds Standard	Meets Standard	Approaching Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
<b>Organizational Compliance &amp; Financial Viability</b>	Meets Standard	<b>5-year Renewal</b>		<b>Nonrenewal</b>	<b>Nonrenewal</b>
	Approaching Standard	<b>5-Year Renewal with Conditions</b>			
	Does Not Meet Standard	<b>Nonrenewal</b>			