

Chester Community Charter School Proposal

Executive Summary

School Model and Proposal Overview

CCCS's proposal is designed to help CUSD obtain financial sustainability, return to local school board control, and create innovative learning opportunities in two new unique elementary academies. CUSD currently operates under the 2012 Financial Recovery Law, 24 P.S. §6-601-A, et seq., which requires it to focus conversion efforts on achieving financial stability. This proposal meets that requirement while providing unique academic opportunities for CUSD students.

CCCS proposes converting CUSD's Main Street and CUSA schools. The two new Pre-K to 5th grade schools will be guided by an overarching Renzulli Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM), with unique focuses for each. The conversion offers exceptional opportunities for students that choose to attend, while also leaving available the option for students in all grades to continue attending CUSD-operated schools. This is required in the conversion law.

The Performing and Visual Arts Academy (PVAA)



PVAA will be a cross-curriculum school providing immersion in performing and visual arts with a Pennsylvania standards-aligned curriculum. The program stimulates learning with an innovative and engaging approach by intertwining arts and education.

PVAA will utilize the physical and intellectual aspects of music and movement, as well as the aesthetic and story-telling aspects of visual arts, to offer entry points into core academic content. This is exciting for students who thrive academically when immersed in the arts.

PVAA's program will have a strong focus on community connection, by tapping into Chester's diverse arts scene. Mentorship programs will help bring the community into the school while also allowing students to venture into the world they are preparing to someday lead.

While the performing arts program will allow students to express themselves through music and stage presentation, the visual arts program will utilize drawing, painting, ceramics, technology and sculpture to help students find their voices. PVAA will be committed to the untrained beginner who has a yearning to study and learn through art.

The Main Street Academy (MSA) for Entrepreneurship



MSA has an innovative and dynamic school program that will bring new opportunities to CUSD students, fostering the spirit of Pennsylvania's charter school movement. MSA is answering the need of modern students for relevant life skills, which will prepare them for successful professional careers as adults.

MSA will offer a program combining the best in traditional curricula with project-based learning to provide students with the best learning environment contextualized by real-life experience. Our competency-based, individualized learning model will empower students to become self-directed learners and to develop strong character and sense of purpose. Students will work collaboratively to execute real life projects. The MSA philosophy is to focus on the whole child by facilitating the development of independence and personal empowerment.

In this immersive environment, students will be educated in a hands-on, Pennsylvania-aligned curriculum. This curriculum is designed to bring to life the entrepreneurial and economic concepts that will build a strong foundation for success in their careers. Science, math, social studies, and language arts lessons will be immersed in basic economic and entrepreneurial concepts.

Central to MSA will also be a culture of community engagement. We will encourage parents and community members to be active members of our community. The MSA Mentorship Program will provide opportunities for local entrepreneurs to offer guidance and inspiration to students, while giving them the opportunity to see how hard work will pay off later.

MSA will use *MicroSociety* and *Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship* curriculums to help our scholars emulate the real world. They will produce goods and services and participate in competitions to encourage innovation. Students will assume roles as elected officials, peace keepers, and judges. They will develop ideas and write business plans. They will earn wages in the school's incentive currency, and will invest in ideas and develop simulated wealth.

Facilities and Finance

CCCS will facilitate the purchase of the properties and brand-new, state-of-the-art facilities will be constructed for each school. The schools will be purchased from CUSD for the greater of \$1,000,000 each or a reasonable appraised value. This will result in a minimum payment of \$2,000,000 to CUSD.

The new safe and healthy school buildings will create an excellent learning environment with a 1:1 Chromebooks ratio, and Smart Classrooms. These enhancements will be achieved without additional debt-burden to CUSD.

This proposal would ensure that CUSD's two oldest buildings are quickly replaced with the modern buildings for CUSD students. This will result in an immediate economic benefit to CUSD consistent with the Act 141 goals required for such conversion. CCCS will also assist CUSD to mitigate other long-term debt.

The proposed rate for regular education is \$11,500 and for special education is \$30,500. (*Note: the current statutory SPED rate for charters in CUSD is \$42,599.05.*) These discounted charter rates will utilize the loan provision under Act 141 to provide CUSD financial benefits and the rates are extremely competitive within Delaware County:

School District	2020-21 Special Education Rates	School District	2020-21 Nonspecial Education Rates
Marple Newtown	\$45,629.28	Rose Tree Media	\$17,339.70*
Radnor Township	\$41,726.62*	Radnor Township	\$17,312.92*
Garnet Valley	\$40,601.21	Marple Newtown	\$15,801.97
Chichester	\$39,347.29	Chichester	\$15,453.79
Rose Tree Media	\$39,005.18*	Garnet Valley	\$15,303.07
Wallingford-Swarthmore	\$38,715.47	Wallingford-Swarthmore	\$14,952.91
Southeast Delco	\$36,782.13	Ridley	\$14,777.93
Haverford Township	\$34,748.96**	Interboro	\$14,518.98
Interboro	\$34,727.29	Penn-Delco	\$13,044.00
William Penn	\$33,908.61	Springfield	\$12,841.77
Ridley	\$33,242.38	Haverford Township	\$12,132.20**
CCCS Proposed Rate	\$30,500.00	William Penn	\$12,056.60
Penn-Delco	\$30,472.54	Southeast Delco	\$11,981.70
Springfield	\$30,376.08	CCCS Proposed Rate	\$11,500.00
Upper Darby	\$30,313.86	Upper Darby	\$10,182.59

* Denotes 2019-2020 PDE 363 Rates, the most recently publicly available for this district

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In conclusion CCCS's proposal will allow CUSD to regain local school board control, offer new and exciting academic programs and allow CUSD to achieve financial stability thereby enabling CUSD to provide enhanced programs and facilities at the CUSD operated elementary, middle and high schools.