

BOARD OF REGENTS
EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SECTION: 17

DATE:

March 21, 2006

RECOMMENDATION

REISSUANCE OF CHARTER
COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents reissue the charter for Commonwealth Community Development Academy and authorize the president of the University to execute a new five-year contract which will expire June 30, 2011.

STAFF SUMMARY

Commonwealth Community Development Academy began in 1996 and was reissued a charter in 2001. The Academy is a K-6 successful charter school in Detroit enrolling 265 students. The school has an annual budget of approximately \$2 million and has added new classrooms in recent years. They have exceeded state and federal assessment requirements on the MEAP and "Adequate Yearly Progress" standards.

Accompanying this recommendation are highlights of activities at Commonwealth Community Development Academy.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.

University Executive Officer

Date

COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY DESCRIPTION

Commonwealth Community Development Academy (CCDA) was founded in 1996 with an enrollment of 187 students; currently, the Academy enrolls 277 students in grades K-6. The students at CCDA have made “Adequate Yearly Progress” (AYP) and received a “B” on the Michigan Report Card. All of the Academy’s teachers are certified. Approximately 80 percent of the Academy’s students are from low-income families.

Curriculum and Assessment

Commonwealth Academy contracted with the Success for All Foundation in order to implement its research-based model into the curriculum. It has been highly successful as indicated in student test scores and continues to propel the staff in making continuous improvements in teaching and learning. In addition, CCDA adopted Everyday Mathematics and the writing model, Step Up to Writing.

Daily resources provided for the students include a technology lab with twenty-six Internet-linked computers and at least two computers in each classroom.

CCDA attributes its academic success to highly qualified teachers and the implementation of the Success for All model which has enabled them to obtain AYP status and success on the MEAP.

Financial Status

Commonwealth Academy has maintained a fund balance of more than \$1 million during the past few years and with this resourceful fund equity has added new classrooms in 2001 and again in 2003. The Academy also offers a full breakfast and lunch program for students who qualify under federal guidelines.

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March 21, 2006

RECOMMENDATION

REISSUANCE OF CHARTER - GAUDIOR ACADEMY

ACTION REQUESTED

It is recommended that the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents reissue the charter for Gaudior Academy and authorize the president of the University to execute a new five-year contract which will expire June 30, 2011.

STAFF SUMMARY

Gaudior Academy received its first charter in 1996 and a second one in 2001. This highly successful K-8 public school academy enrolls 240 students in its present Inkster location. The Academy has met state standards in MEAP results and has achieved "Adequate Yearly Progress" in the **No Child Left Behind** measures, and has maintained sound financial status and an adequate yearly fund equity.

Accompanying this recommendation are highlights of activities at Gaudior Academy.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The proposed Board action has been reviewed and is recommended for Board approval.

University Executive Officer

Date

GAUDIOR ACADEMY DESCRIPTION

Gaudior Academy is a K-8 public school academy located in Inkster, Michigan. September, 2005 marked the beginning of the tenth year of its charter with Eastern Michigan University. The school's curriculum and philosophy contain many unique and innovative ideas, from the way children are grouped to the expectation that all members of the community must be active participants in the learning process.

Curriculum and Assessment

Gaudior's educational offerings blend Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences theory with Jane Nelson's ideas regarding positive discipline and William Glasser's definition of a "quality school." By combining these three educational philosophies, Gaudior offers an environment that "educates the whole child" in a "more joyful" learning environment. ("Gaudior" is the Latin word for more joyful.)

Using the guidelines provided by these three authors, the staff have created a school curriculum that requires every person in the Gaudior community to "think out of the box." Integration is a must as is cooperative and collaborative learning. The teachers are not only active participants in the learning experience, but mentors, helping students identify their strengths and areas where they require more assistance. The school does not use textbooks. This requires that the teachers research teaching materials and generate the majority of the exercises children use to learn a concept. The children, also, do extensive research and help generate their own learning materials.

Gaudior also has created a list of curriculum requirements that must be met every year by every student. These requirements ensure that all eight intelligences, as defined by Gardner, are addressed. In addition to this unique learning style, Gaudior utilizes the team approach to meet administration and educational goals. The community, families, children, staff and Board of Trustees are members of the Gaudior team. These are only a few of the examples that show how Gaudior implements the philosophy as stated in its charter with Eastern Michigan University.

Financial Status

During this past year, Gaudior's operational budget was approximately \$1.7 million. The Academy maintained a fund balance of approximately 10% (or \$170,000). The Gaudior school board, in the 2004-05 school year, purchased the Inkster school building which they have leased since 1998.