

Delaware Academy Of Public Safety and Security

Response to:

April 30, 2014 Charter School Renewal Pre-Report

Academic Performance

By September of 2014, the academic data report for Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security will include a third year of DCAS data. Our academic efforts are focused on a return to the more positive DCAS data results earned in 2011-12 and to establish increase positive trends and results

Much of the cause of the DCAS performance in year two can be attributed to the budget cut of \$300,000 as a result of the Federal government cancellation of Charter School startup grants. To handle this 12% budget cut, we were forced to drastically scale back our teaching assets affecting testing performance.

Despite this dramatic cut in Federal funds, important first year (2011-12) DCAS data points not referred to in the overview, include Delaware Academy cadets performing equal to state averages in the area of ELA, plus our cadets out-performing major feeder school districts (Christina, Red Clay, Colonial) in both ELA and Math. Additionally, Academy racial sub-groups of African-American, Hispanics and Low SES out-performed New Castle peers on ELA and Math DCAS testing.

With the addition of a third class, the Academy has responded to the deflated DCAS 2012-13 performances with systematic interventions including extra course time, individual tutoring and broader school-wide focus on DCAS student success. If such interventions result in positive trends, they will become embedded in the school culture. Those interventions will be enhanced to next prepare our cadets for the impending implementation of the state wide Smarter Balance Assessment.

Currently, the Academy has preliminary DCAS reports on 2013-14 DCAS testing which point to positive school wide improvements in both ELA and Math.

Organizational Performance

As reported, the Academy has operated in a manner which has rapidly, adequately and positively addressed all non-compliance operational issues. Although facing typical start-up challenges, the Academy operation has no record of formal reviews or extensive substitutive deficiencies in performance.

Previous student attendance goals have not met or exceed standards; however as of April 29, 2014 the school's average attendance rate is 96.26 % a trend which points positively to attendance interventions put in place and bodes well for the future data report.

In 2013-14 the Academy was approved by the State board of Education to relocate to larger and more advantageous facilities. The relocation has resulted in increased enrollment, improved access to laboratory and physical education facilities. This new location provides a positive long term solution to the ongoing facility issues faced by charter schools.

Financial Performance

Delaware Academy of Public Safety & Security's most recent financial measures indicate a positive direction in regards to the overall financial viability. The school has been able to trend positive despite a significant federal start-up funding cut, which resulted in a loss of over \$300,000 in revenue (12% of the DOE approved budget). The Academy has nearly doubled enrollment over the past year and the schools May 2014 unit count, exceeds the 80% requirement.

Importantly, the debt incurred as a result of loss of federal start- up funding has been significantly reduced and will lead to yet another improvement in the school's debt measure ratios. Delaware Academy of Public Safety & Security maintains a budget that accounts for 12 months of all employee salaries.