

Carwell John

From: Kendall Massett <kendallm@decharternetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2013 6:00 PM
To: Gray Teri; Murphy Mark
Cc: Johnson Donna R; Carwell John; Maldonado Sally
Subject: Kuumba Academy Charter School
Attachments: Letter of Support for Kuumba Modification.pdf

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Dear Teri and Mark,

Attached please find a letter of support for Kuumba Academy Charter School. I am sending to you and copying both Donna and John so that it can be made part of the public record.

Best,

Kendall

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Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, President
State Board of Education

Mark Murphy, Secretary of Education
Delaware Department of Education

John G. Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Dr. Gray and Secretary Murphy,

I am writing to offer my support for the modification application for Kuumba Academy Charter School (Kuumba). The modification of Kuumba's charter would allow the school the ability to continue to provide their rigorous and high performing curriculum and method for children through 8th grade.

As an urban elementary school with 86% low socio economic students and 94.7% African American students, their scores

Grade 3 – Reading 88.89% proficient
Grade 4 – Reading 84.85% proficient
Grade 5 – Reading 94.74% proficient

Grade 3 – Math > 95% proficient
Grade 4 – Math 87.88% proficient
Grade 5 – Math 92.11% proficient

greatly exceed the State averages:

Grade 3 – Reading 75.51% proficient
Grade 4 – Reading 74.81% proficient
Grade 5 – Reading 78.50% proficient

Grade 3 – Math 76.78% proficient
Grade 4 – Math 77.06% proficient
Grade 5 – Math 74.28% proficient

More striking though is the difference between Kuumba and the city average which is approximately 59% for both Reading and Math.

On a personal note, the first charter assembly that I attended when I began this journey with Delaware's charter schools, was at Kuumba. They were having a celebration, an awards ceremony really, to celebrate having 8 months of growth in a 5 month time frame. That day the joy on the faces of the kids as they heard their scores and names called out was transforming for me. I still feel the pride that I know the parents that were there felt. This school is making a difference in the lives of the children that they serve – just imagine how many more lives will be changed by approving the modification of their charter.

Best,

Kendall Massett
Executive Director
Delaware Charter Schools Network

cc: Sally Maldonado, Kuumba Academy Charter School