



**Parkrose
School District**

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Dr. Karen Fischer Gray,
Superintendent

November 17, 2008

John Liljegren
Chief Operating Officer
Arthur Academy
13717 SE Division
Portland, Oregon 97236

Dear John Liljegren,

The following outlines the rejection of completeness by the Parkrose School District of your second application for an Arthur Academy Charter School to be located within our school district.

Pursuant to ORS 338.045 and Parkrose School District policies LBE and LBE-AR, you must submit the following information in order for the application proposal to be considered complete by our district:

1. It has been eight months since your last rejection (March 3, 2008) and you still do not have a legal address, facilities and physical location of the public charter school within the Parkrose area. We do not have copies of applicable occupancy permits and health and safety approvals.
2. A proposed budget and financial plan including evidence that the proposed budget and financial plan are financially solvent. Last time, we requested a five year budget plan and we still make the same request. Your proposal is for a three year budget and financial plan. We need evidence that the Arthur Academy has been able to be a fully sustainable enterprise in other districts and would be sustainable in Parkrose.
3. Explanation of how the proposed academic program, as outlined in the notebook, will be aligned with the K-8 academic Power Standards and Common Formative Assessments of our school district. If these are not aligned, students will not have a viable plan for re-entering the district's public school system upon completion of the charter school's program in the 8th grade. It is a set up for failure if not well aligned and designed.
4. Description of how the public charter school will make adjustments and improvement of student performance especially for students who are being taught English as a Second Language who are not Spanish speakers. We have MANY languages in the Parkrose School District besides Spanish and we have ELL programs designed to meet their needs.
5. Description of policies, interventions and practices for meeting the needs of students who are unsuccessful in the charter school's regular program. The program is very prescriptive and does not demonstrate flexibility for academic interventions.



6. Description of parent involvement, content of planned meetings with parents, and how the school will adjust the meetings to accommodate our many hard working parents and their hours of work.
7. Description of Distance Learning and specific online learning opportunities and options available to students, including the grade levels of such opportunities and the amounts of instruction offered to students. We also need to know how technology based and enhanced coursework would be assessed by the charter school.
8. Demonstrate ANY support for this charter school by ANY parent group, students and community of the Parkrose School District.
9. Demonstrate how the governance structure, which the application states is 100% run by the Mastery Learning Company, will include crucial input for decision making by people in Parkrose School District and community.
10. Finally, pursuant to ORS 338.005 (2) (f), the value of the public charter school is outweighed by directly identifiable significant and adverse impact on the quality of the public education of students residing within the district. We are still a school district with many years of flat enrollment and that is true again this year for Parkrose. If the proposed 75 students were to be taken from the district's ADM, even at 80% funding, it would once again mean a loss of more than \$300,000 to the district. This is equivalent to 4-5 staff and would greatly increase class sizes. It could also mean a loss of up to 4 school days of closure. Given the unique educational needs of our highly diverse and high poverty student population, the loss of staff, increased class size and/or loss of school days would be highly detrimental to the academic achievement and success of our students. In addition, the Governor last Friday told a packed audience at the Oregon School Board's Association convention to prepare for losses of budget funding for THIS school year, let alone next school year based on our failing economy. He admonished us to hang onto our district dollars so we could weather this storm. It would be wholly irresponsible to allow Parkrose School District to have a loss in student enrollment that would adversely impact the education and welfare of our students.

Based on the criteria for proposal approval set forth in the law and by district policies, we cannot approve your application as a completed proposal.

Yours truly,

Dr. Karen Fischer Gray
Superintendent
Parkrose School District

