



# Schools and Communities United

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## Milwaukee Collegiate Academy

**Grades 9-12 — 4th year City charter; before that 7 years as a private religious voucher school.**

**Enrollment—Beginning of 2013-14 year: 201; end of school year: 160.**

Overview: For the past two years, its academic performance has been near the bottom among City charters. It is in its 11th year of operation, first as a private voucher school and now a City charter. In both 2011-12 and 2012-13, it expelled 11% of its students. In 2013-14 it expelled 16% of its students. These expulsion rates are at least 5 times greater than any other City-chartered high school and 10 times greater than Milwaukee Public Schools high schools. Its suspension rate was 56% in 2011-12 and 42% in 2012-13, higher than any other City charter school or MPS high school.

### **Report from Review Committee's Consultant (Children's Research Center/National Council on Crime and Delinquency):**

"Pay special attention to MCA's progress over the next school year to improvements in writing, special education, grade promotion rates, and point-in-time academic achievement on standardized tests. Significant progress, particularly in the mentioned measures, should be achieved in the fourth year of operation to avoid the possibility of probationary status."

### **Local Management**

- The school is locally based and not part of a national system.
- It opened in 2004 as a private Christian high school, the Clergy for Educational Options (CEO) Leadership Academy. It was a private voucher school during 2004-11. In fall 2011 it became a City-chartered school under the name Commitment, Excellence & Opportunity (CEO) Leadership Academy. In 2013, it changed its name to Milwaukee Collegiate Academy.
- In 2012-13, it received about \$1.6 million in state charter school aid, about \$350,000 in additional federal and state grants, and \$478,841 in private grants. In that year its net fund balance went from \$117,371 to \$475,841.
- In 2013-14, the school's board consisted of: Howard Fuller (Chair), Jack Gebhardt, Michelle Nettles, DeVona Wright-Contrell, Kenneth Robertson, Robert Davis, Jeff DeAngelis, Vera Graves-Davis, Archie Ivy, Kole Knueppel, Naryan Leazer, Shareka McGee, Deborah McGriff, Shunn Morrise, Jim Rowe and Joe Tate.

### **Facility**

- 4030 N. 29th St. The building is owned by Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin (a 501(c)3 nonprofit). In 2014, the first tax year after the school moved in, the property's assessment dropped from \$850,000 to \$543,000.

### **Overall School Accountability Score from Department of Public Instruction**

- 2012-13: Score 40.5; "Fails to Meet Expectations." Ranked 18th of 18 non-MPS charters; 7th of 7 City charters
- 2013-14: Score 32.7; "Fails to Meet Expectations." Ranked 18th of 19 non-MPS charters; 7th of 8 City charters

[Over]

### **Student Achievement Score from Department of Public Instruction**

- 2012-13: Score 35.8—13th of 18 non-MPS charters; 4th of 7 City charters
- 2013-14: Score 26.6—17th of 19 non-MPS charters; 6th of 8 City charters

### **Proportion of students considered Proficient or Advanced [DPI]**

- 2012-13 Mathematics 10.2%—11th of 18 non-MPS charters; 4 of 7 City charters
- 2013-14 Mathematics 1.6%—19th of 19 non-MPS charters; 8th of 8 City charters
- 2012-13 Reading 10.2%—17th of 18 non-MPS charters; 6th of 7 City charters
- 2013-14 Reading 3.2%—17th of 19 non-MPS charters; 6th of 8 City charters

### **Students**

- 2013-14: 98% Black non-Hispanic; 98% Economically Disadvantaged; 8% Special Education
- 2013-14: 12% of students who finished the previous year and were eligible to return did not return in the fall
- 2013-14: 28% of students who started in September 2013 withdrew before the end of the school year
- 2013-14: 36 students were expelled during the year (16% of all students).

### **Staff**

- All 15 classroom teachers to start in September 2013 stayed the entire year. Three of the 7 teachers at the end of the 2012-13 who were eligible to return in September did not return (43%).
- At the end of the 2013-14 year, one teacher did not have a DPI license.
- In interviews with Charter School Review Committee consultant, teachers noted "constant staff turnover," "heavy workload," "expectation that teachers write their own curriculum without adequate guidance," "lack of consistency in the implementation of disciplinary practices. This process needs to be revised to be more beneficial to students."

Prepared for Schools and Communities United by Jack Norman (jacknorman100@gmail.com). Sources: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; City of Milwaukee; school web sites, IRS form 990.