

# **Enrichment Academy Green Public Charter School**

## **Executive Summary**

### **Mission and Purpose**

Enrichment Academy Green Public Charter School empowers students to think critically, act responsibly, develop environmental awareness, and become successful college students through a program of academic rigor, accelerated placement, college courses, student-centered activities, and individualized academic planning within a small learning community. By adopting Early College design principles, in which students dually enroll in college courses, the school will offer students the challenging opportunity to earn a high school diploma and an A.A. degree or up to 60 college credits. This concept combines high school and the first two years of a college program into an articulated educational sequence.

An important element of the school's purpose will also be to model and teach principles of environmental responsibility. The school will strive to be toxic free (meaning no pesticides, lead or mold) and will use environmentally friendly building and cleaning materials. Enrichment Academy will use resources and energy efficiently and provide healthy choices for lunch. Curricula will also be designed to promote environmental awareness and will include hands-on lessons, experiments, and service learning projects.

### **Philosophy**

The founders of Enrichment Academy believe that high expectations and academic rigor, along with an opportunity to save time and money, will motivate students to work diligently and strive to meet intellectual challenges. With a quickly changing global environment, environmental education is critical and necessary, as it inspires and enriches students' learning and serves as a needed catalyst for change. We believe that all students can learn and achieve when supported in a successful school program that utilizes research-based instructional practice and promotes and practices continual growth. We also believe that the ideal learning environment is a small school community that can provide individualized academic planning, support, and collective motivation.

### **Early/ Middle College High Schools**

In 2002, Jobs for the Future (in partnership with The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation and others) established the Early College High School Initiative to support the development of new innovative schools that combine high school with the first two years of college. Early college high schools are small schools designed so that students can earn both a high school diploma and an Associate's degree or up to two years of credit toward a Bachelor's degree. Early college high schools have the potential to improve high school graduation rates and better prepare students for high-skill careers by engaging all students in a rigorous, college preparatory curriculum and compressing the number of years to a college degree. Early college high schools make higher education more accessible, affordable, and attractive by bridging the divide between high school and college. They also provide students with needed guidance and support from adults through the first two years of college.

### **A Need for Enrichment Academy**

According to the District of Columbia Public Schools, student performance in the entire Washington D.C. area is below 30% proficiency in both math and reading on standardized tests. Many of these students do not continue on to college and are not

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prepared for success after high school. Of every 100 students who enter ninth grade in DCPS and DC Public Charter Schools, only 43 graduate from high school within five years; only 29 enroll in post secondary educational programs within eighteen months of high school graduation; and only 9 attain postsecondary degrees within five years of enrolling in college.<sup>1</sup> The District is clearly in need of educational reform and strong academic programs such as Enrichment Academy Green Public Charter School.

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<sup>1</sup> Doubling the Numbers. 2008