

5 September 2014

City of Milwaukee
Charter School Review Committee
c/o City Clerk's Office
City Hall, Room 205
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Members of the Charter School Review Committee,

On May 3, 2011, the Common Council approved an “umbrella charter” for TransCenter for Youth, Inc. allowing us to open up to eight schools by 2017. In the 2012-2013 school year, we opened the first school under the “umbrella,” which we called Escuela Verde.

Escuela Verde, which incorporates the EdVisions student-centered, project-based academic model into a focus on environmental justice and urban ecology, has taken off. The school is fully enrolled with a waiting list and, as you know, is moving to a new location so that we can accommodate more students. We have just learned that faculty at UW-Stevens Point have nominated Escuela Verde for the Earthguard Award of the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education.

So many people – parents, students, and teachers – have expressed interest in the school’s model, that TransCenter decided to propose that the second school to open under our “umbrella charter” be a replication of the Escuela Verde model to be located at a site on Milwaukee’s north side. Enclosed is our application for the replication.

As you know, the Department of Public Instruction has already approved a \$250,000 Planning Grant to support the opening of the new school.

We look forward to working with you to implement TransCenter’s New School (TNS) and to help ensure that all of Milwaukee’s young people, especially those “at risk of not graduating from high school,” have access to high quality educational options that will help them become productive adults and responsible community members.

Sincerely,

Daniel Grego, Ph.D.
Executive Director
TransCenter for Youth, Inc.