

Quest Academy Charter School in St. Louis Park to close

Written by

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Pillsbury United Communities (PUC), the charter authorizer for Quest Academy in St. Louis Park, says it plans to terminate Quest Academy's contract because it has failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management. If terminated, the school will close by the end of the 2012-2013 academic year, and Pillsbury United Communities' staff will proactively work with Quest Academy to ensure minimal disruption to its 54 students in 7th through 12th grades.

"We take our authorizer responsibility for ensuring academic quality very seriously," Larry McKenzie, Pillsbury United Communities' Charter School Liaison, said. "While it is a difficult decision when it comes to closing a school, our staff and Board of Directors have determined that Quest Academy's current progress and success is not sufficient. It is our responsibility to provide students with high-quality education, and to not renew schools which do not meet our standards. We understand it may cause some short-term difficulty for families, but it is a decision made in the long-term best interests of their children."

As defined in the Charter Law Minnesota Statutes 124 D.10, subd.23 the authorizer may unilaterally terminate the agreement during the term of the contract for cause. In accordance with Minnesota Statute 124 D.10, subd.23, Quest Academy will be given an informal hearing from the Pillsbury United Communities' Charter School Review team on Thursday, March 7, 2013.

Pillsbury United Communities' Charter School Authorization Department's main goal is not only to build and strengthen charter schools, but to provide students with a high-quality education. If Quest Academy's contract is terminated, PUC staff will proactively work with Quest Academy to ensure minimal disruption to students. Additionally, staff will ensure that Quest Academy adopts and executes a School Closure Action Plan that allows for securing student and financial records, assists students in identifying other schooling options, and responsibly ramps down operations.

Pillsbury United Communities currently oversees 12 public charter schools in Minnesota.