



LOUDOUN MATH AND IT ACADEMY

CHARTER SCHOOL

Myths vs. Facts

Myth	Fact
The Loudoun Math and IT Academy (LMITA) will not abide by required rules and requirements.	FALSE – There is no basis for this claim. The Loudoun Math and IT Academy (LMITA) will abide by all federal, state and local rules and regulations in all its transactions.
LMITA is a part of a so-called Turkish “Gulen” movement	FALSE –LMITA does not and will not have any affiliations with any movement or organization, other than Loudoun County Public Schools, if approved.
LMITA seeks to spread the Muslim religion in its teaching.	FALSE – As a public charter school where teaching religion is prohibited by law, religion will not be taught at LMITA.
LMITA is being investigated by the FBI.	FALSE – Neither LMITA, nor Chesapeake Science Point Public Charter School, which served as a model for the LMITA, have been contacted regarding any “so-called” investigation and there is no proof any investigation actually exists.
LMITA will cost Loudoun tax payers more money, taking away from Loudoun County Public Schools.	FALSE – The funding for LMITA will flow with the children who attend the charter at a to-be-agreed-upon rate between LCPS and LMITA that is generally less than the total amount allotted per pupil. In addition, Loudoun County will save money because the charter is responsible for all its facilities costs, saving LCPS and Loudoun taxpayers the cost to build a middle/high school. In all, LMITA will offer an additional choice for Loudoun students with an interest in math and IT who would have otherwise been educated by LCPS at no additional cost to the taxpayers, in fact, saving them money. CSP has saved taxpayers in Anne Arundel County 27% compared to the cost of other County schools, and comparable savings are expected at LMITA.
LMITA plans to offer intelligence-related languages such as Arabic and Turkish that are not in demand for IT jobs.	FALSE – LMITA has included in its curriculum the opportunity to offer languages that are within the U.S. State Department’s Critical Languages Program, which are defined as languages “for which there is a large demand for speakers but little supply,” including Arabic, Turkish and a range of other languages that will be considered by the LMITA school community. This will correlate directly with the school’s cyber security program, for which there are critical workforce shortages.
LMITA will not require that their teachers possess a Virginia Certified Teacher’s License.	FALSE – LMITA teachers are planned to be Loudoun County Public School (LCPS) employees and will be professional, licensed and qualified, per LCPS criteria for teachers.
LMITA plans to hire all its teachers on H-1B visas, bringing them to this country from Turkey.	FALSE – LMITA will be an equal opportunity employer and will not discriminate based on age, gender, religion or ethnic background. Religious affiliation and ethnic background will play no role in the hiring process, given it is illegal and no more appropriate than asking any current LCPS teacher what his/her religion or ethnic background is.
The Chesapeake Science Point Public Charter School (CSP) is not a good model to consider for Loudoun County given its probation status.	<p>FALSE – CSP was put on “probation” by the Anne Arundel County Public School (AACPS) staff, which also recently recognized CSP for meeting 100 percent of the state targets in the state’s “measureable reading and math categories” in an October 31, 2012, media release, where the Superintendent stated, <i>“These results are tangible proof of the incredible work that goes on in our high schools – and all of our schools, for that matter – every single day.”</i></p> <p>Despite CSP’s probationary status given by a school system staff known for not supporting charter schools, CSP: has</p>

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	<p>been identified as one of the best 30 middle schools in the metro D.C., region, including all public and private schools, by the <i>Washington Post</i>; beat the County average in its students' scores on the Maryland State Assessment tests in its first year according to State Department of Education data; students are participating in and winning local, national and international academic competitions; and state education officials have provided extremely positive feedback about CSP's performance.</p> <p>CSP's challenges have been in the relationship it has with its local school system staff, which are easily addressed as the terms and conditions of the relationship between LMITA and LCPS are established. CSP's data-driven education model, which is being adapted to meet the Loudoun community, <u>works</u> and the data supports this.</p>
CSP filed a law suit against Anne Arundel County Public Schools only after receiving their failing assessment.	<u>FALSE</u> – CSP has a contract with AACPS that legally requires the school system to pay a certain amount in state funding per student each year, which the school system has not been paying in full. AACPS has remitted a total of \$737,000 less than required by their contract with CSP, which led CSP to file the law suit after repeated attempts to otherwise secure the funding from AACPS. It is important to note that even with this tremendous shortfall in anticipated and owed state funding, CSP students continue to excel.
CSP is not providing quality services to students with disabilities.	<u>FALSE</u> – An audit was conducted by the Assistant Superintendent of the Division of Special Education at the Maryland State Department of Education and in her report, she indicated, "The CSCPCS provides an excellent learning opportunity for students with disabilities ..."
CSP is not in good financial standing.	<u>FALSE</u> – CSP had an independent audit conducted that is publically available as part of the LMITA application that directly demonstrates that AACPS's claims that it is not in good financial standing are false.
The founding members of LMITA are not representing themselves and are using the services of a "lobbyist."	<p><u>FALSE</u> – The founding members of the LMITA have attended every meeting where its application has been discussed or directly addressed and, when appropriate, have been introduced as the founding members, their roles have been publically defined, and some have formally testified and responded to questions about their application before the State Board of Education, the Loudoun County School Board, and information sessions hosted for the community by LMITA.</p> <p>They are also working with Mindy Williams, co-owner of Access Point Public Affairs and a long-time Loudoun business and community leader, who has been providing communications and outreach support to LMITA since the fall of 2011. While she is paid a modest fee for her services, the majority of her work is provided on a pro bono basis, given her strong history of supporting Loudoun County education efforts and initiatives, and her personal commitment to this charter school effort. Here efforts have focused on supporting LMITA's outreach and communications efforts to help spread the word about their charter school throughout the Loudoun community.</p> <p>The founding members of the LMITA all work full time and many have families, so Williams' communications support has enabled them to focus on the application development and moving it through the extensive process required of charters in Virginia.</p>