

## Charter school relocating

### Charter

#### Young Women's College Prep is moving to Greece

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Young Women's College Prep, Rochester's only all-female public school, is relocating to Greece in the fall, it announced Tuesday, joining a flurry of charter school movement announced in the last few weeks. The school, now enrolling grades 7-10, is currently at 311 Flower City Park in a building owned by Sacred Heart Cathedral. Its new location is 133 Hoover Drive in Greece, the site of Discovery Charter School. Before that, the Hoover Drive building housed the Greece Central School District's Odyssey Academy.

"We have worked tirelessly for the past four years to find an affordable facility that provides the best possible physical and programmatic environment for our students," Duffy Palmer, chairman of YWCP's board of trustees, said in a statement. "We are very excited about our new location and look forward to our first day of classes in our new school in August."

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Terms of its lease in Greece were not immediately disclosed. It will be the third charter school in Greece, joining Discovery and Renaissance Academy Charter School for the Arts, in the former Kirk Road school.

A charter school must get state approval to switch from one school district to another. A state spokesman said YWCP has not yet obtained that approval but has notified the education department of its plan.

The Hoover Drive building is owned by a holding company associated with the Education Success Network, a powerful local education reform nexus that also controls Discovery, the Norman Howard School and EnCompass: Resources for Learning, a tutoring company.

A *Democrat and Chronicle* investigation earlier this year found multiple instances of questionable business practices in the network, including no-bid contracts signed by related parties and a lease for Discovery that is by far the highest in Monroe County.

Between relocations and possible openings and closures, the charter school landscape in Rochester stands to look very different in the next few years. About 4,600 city students are in charter schools this year, a number that will continue to rise as existing schools add more grade levels and new schools look to open.

The state has approved Exploration Charter School for Science and Technology, another Education Success Network member, to open in the fall. Discovery, meanwhile, is waiting to see whether the state education department allows it to stay open despite mediocre test scores.

The city of Rochester has arranged to sell two former city school buildings to charter operators: School 22, off Joseph Avenue, to Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School, and School 36, off Carter Street, to Rochester Prep. The buildings would go for \$1.5 million each.

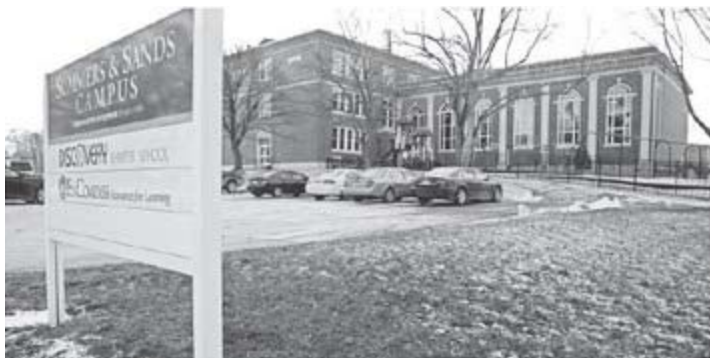
Vertus Charter School, now in a cramped space off Lyell Avenue, intends to move into 49,000 square feet of renovated space in a former Harris Corp. building on Humboldt Street, according to an agenda item for the County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency. The building developer, Morgan Management, is looking for a tax abatement deal.

PUC Achieve Charter School is embarking on a \$5.1 million expansion at its location off Hudson Avenue. And Rochester Prep, according to its February meeting agenda, also plans to move into a new location on Chili Avenue.

That move is necessary in part because its current building on Maple Street may be needed to accommodate the proposed Maple Street Charter School. It would be run by a for-profit operator that failed in Rochester once before in the same location.

Upstate charter schools do not receive state facilities funding, a distinction they say puts them at an unfair disadvantage. A lawsuit on the subject is currently making its way through the courts.

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**Young Women's College Prep is moving to the site of Discovery Charter School in Greece.**

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