For Immediate Release
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Environmental Charter School (ECS) Makes Official Recommendation to Move Middle, High School Programs to New Campus at 743 Technology Drive

PITTSBURGH, PA (June 18, 2026) – The Environmental Charter School (ECS) has announced that it has made an official recommendation to its Board of Directors to move its middle and high school programs to a new facility located at 743 Technology Drive along the Monongahela River. The Board will consider the recommendation and vote on the proposal at a special Board meeting on July 14. If agreement is reached, transition to the new campus is anticipated to occur in advance of the 2027-2028 school year.

"The process of finding a new location for our Middle and High schools began in 2020," said ECS CEO Patrick Dowd. "Through an extensive and in-depth search, we have explored more than 20 options for the relocation of our programs in a variety of locations and I can say with full confidence that we believe this facility will best serve our students and allow us to fulfill our school's mission to educate each student to high academic standards using innovative curricula that will foster knowledge, love of, and respect for the environment and preserve it for future generations."

If approved, Elmhurst and Mascaro will begin the construction and fit out the 92,119 sf never-before occupied building. IKM Architecture has worked collaboratively with an advisory group comprised of ECS staff, faculty, board members and parents to design a school that fulfills the ECS mission and vision.

"We believe that this move will allow us to expand our offerings and give our students access to a huge variety of opportunities for not only outdoor learning, but also for connecting with the incredible assets of our City – from river access, to bike trails, the South Side amenities, the University community of Oakland, and downtown partnerships," said Amanda Cribbs, ECS Superintendent. "The opportunities for out-the-door learning and experiences are endless and we are excited to begin to explore these possibilities for our students."

ECS will run two independent schools (middle and high school) with separate entrances, administrations, staff and programming, while utilizing one campus that can share facilities including the cafeteria, gymnasium, and specialty learning spaces. While each school is built to serve the distinct needs of its students, both are guided by a single mission, and students will move from one to the next within one connected community.

"While our current facilities have served us well, as we look to the future of ECS, our programs and also the needs of our physical spaces have grown," said Nick Tutolo, Principal of ECS Middle School. "This

facility will allow us to have enhanced music spaces, a full sized gym, tech and robotics labs and maker spaces where we can run our expanded programming to match what our students need and also deserve from our school."

If approved, once construction and the move are complete, ECS will close its Middle School, currently located at 5525 Columbo St and its High School at 1148 Chislett St. The schools opened in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

"As a young and growing high school, we hold our students to the highest academic standards, and this campus lets us connect that rigor to the real world," said ECS High School Principal Rodney Necciai. "With dedicated labs and project spaces, our students won't just learn concepts; they'll build industry-level skills in sustainability, technology, and design that prepare them for college, careers, and meaningful work in a changing economy."

Up-to-date information about the new location, process, and timeline of activities is available on the 'Proposed Campus Page' of the ECS website - www.ecspgh.org/our-schools/proposed-campus.

Contact: media@ecspgh.org

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About the Environmental Charter School:

The Environmental Charter School is a public, tuition-free K–12 charter school in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Through an innovative, environmental literacy-based curriculum, we grow active, engaged, empathetic citizens who are critical thinkers and purposeful agents of change.

ECS combines the academic rigor of the best public schools with a multi-disciplinary, "out-the-door" learning approach rooted in real-world problems. Through a variety of supports and the 4Cs guiding principles, the school district focuses on the development of the whole child, challenges students to be systems thinkers, and forges a path to global citizenry.

The Environmental Charter School was begun in 2008 by a group of inspired parents and community leaders. It has evolved into a K-12 school district that serves more than 1,000 students and employs more than 250 individuals across four schools.