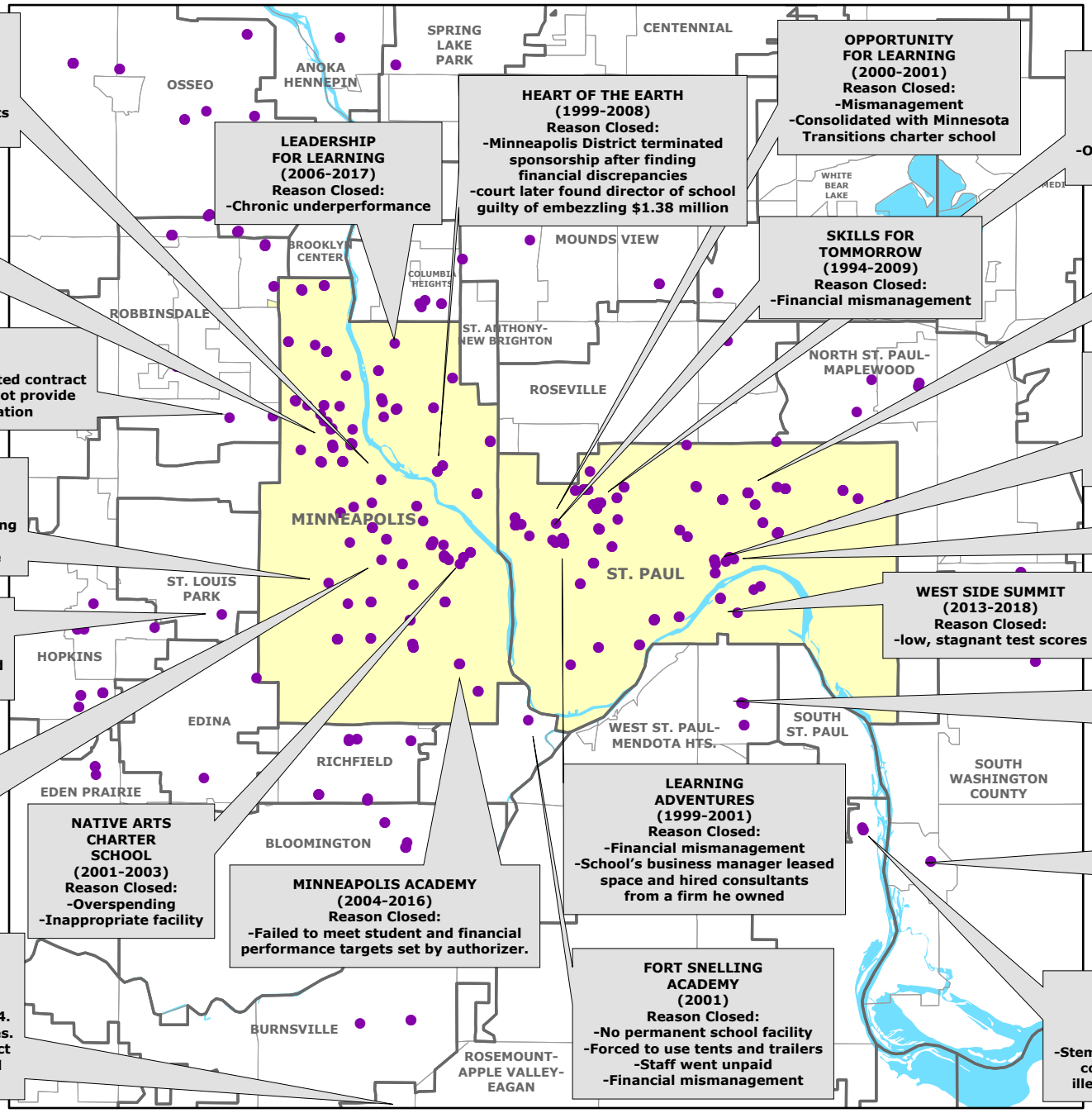
INSTITUTE ON METROPOLITAN OPPORTUNITY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LAW SCHOOL

MINNEAPOLIS - SAINT PAUL (CENTRAL REGION)
Reasons for Charter School Closings, 1995-2020

● = Charter School that closed during period



CHIRON CHARTER SCHOOL (2002-2005)
Reason Closed:
-misappropriation of funds
-over-reported number of students
-misuse of more than $300,000

RIGHT STEP ACADEMY (1995-1999)
Reason Closed:
-fraud, filling false tax returns
-owners sentenced 2 to 3 years jail for defrauding the school.

DAKOTA ACADEMY (2006-2007)
Reason Closed: -Sponsor terminated contract after charter's founders would not provide financial and other information

EMILY O. GOODRIDGE-GREY (2007-2013)
Reason Closed:
-Could not meet demand of growing special ed. and ESL students.
-Declining student performance

QUEST ACADEMY (2008-2013)
Reason Closed:
-failed to meet generally accepted fiscal management standards.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS MATH/SCI ACAD (1995-1999)
Reason Closed:
-$23,000 in unpaid retirement contributions
-Inconsistent data reported
-Students left for public schools

PAIDEIA ACADEMY ACADEMY (2005-2015)
Reason Closed:
-Half of teachers resigned in 2014.
-Declining enrollment and finances.
-note: school opened when district was desegregating local school attendance boundaries.

LEADERSHIP FOR LEARNING (2006-2017)
Reason Closed:
-Chronic underperformance

NATIVE ARTS CHARTER SCHOOL (2001-2003)
Reason Closed:
-Overspending
-Inappropriate facility

HEART OF THE EARTH (1999-2008)
Reason Closed:
-Minneapolis District terminated sponsorship after finding financial discrepancies
-court later found director of school guilty of embezzling $1.38 million

MINNEAPOLIS ACADEMY (2004-2016)
Reason Closed:
-Failed to meet student and financial performance targets set by authorizer.

OPPORTUNITY FOR LEARNING (2000-2001)
Reason Closed:
-Mismanagement
-Consolidated with Minnesota Transitions charter school

SKILLS FOR TOMMORROW (1994-2009)
Reason Closed:
-Financial mismanagement

LEARNING ADVENTURES (1999-2001)
Reason Closed:
-Financial mismanagement
-School's business manager leased space and hired consultants from a firm he owned

FORT SNELLING ACADEMY (2001)
Reason Closed:
-No permanent school facility
-Forced to use tents and trailers
-Staff went unpaid
-Financial mismanagement

SUCCESS ACADEMY (1998-2000)
Reason Closed:
-Criminal use of public funds (cars, trips, condos)
-Overcounted enrollment for funds
-Left a debt of $1 million

CHARLES YOUNG MILITARY ACADEMY (2004-2005)
Reason Closed:
-administrative, governance and fiscal problems
-enrollment decline

MINNESOTA BUSINESS ACADEMY (2000-2006)
Reason Closed:
-Enrollment declined
-Overspending
-State forgives $750,000 in debt

MEXICA MULTICULTURAL ED CHARTER (2000-2002)
Reason Closed:
-Enrollment declined
-Overspending

WEST SIDE SUMMIT (2013-2018)
Reason Closed:
-low, stagnant test scores

GENERAL JOHN VESSEY JR LEADERSHIP (2004-2012)
Reason Closed:
-High staffing turnover
-Unable to undo funding shortfall.

NATURAL SCIENCE ACADEMY (2008-2019)
Reason Closed:
-governance problems
-poor academic performance

TAREK IBN ZIYAD ACADEMY (2003-2011)
Reason Closed:
-Stemming from ACLU lawsuit, court finding that school illegally promoted religion.

Data Source: Minnesota Department of Education, various news sources.