



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Charter and/or Charter Agreement Amendment Application

Part I: General Information

All applicants must complete this section

SUBMITTED BY: Jack McCarthy, Board Chair, AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter School

SUBJECT: Charter Amendment Request for: (Mark all that apply)

- Enrollment Ceiling Increase
Program Replication of Grades Served
Grade Level Expansion (Single Grade)
Grade Level Expansion (Grade Band)
Additional Facility or New Location
Goals and Achievement Expectations
Mission or Education Philosophy
Curriculum, Standards or Assessments
Name Change - Campus or Facility
Campus Reconfiguration
LEA Status for Special Education
Special Education Enrollment Preference
Governance Structure (Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation or Management)
Graduation Requirements
Competency-Based Learning Application

SUBMISSION DATE: 9/13/2019

SCHOOL BACKGROUND

Please address the following questions in their entirety. This information provides helpful background to the DC PCSB Board as it reviews these requests.

Overview of School Performance

1. Provide the following information about your Local Education Agency (LEA) by campus:
a) Campus name(s) and location(s):

In School Year 2018-2019, AppleTree Early Learning PCS had six locations, as follows:

- Columbia Heights, 2750 14th St NW
Douglas Knoll, 2017 Savannah Terrace SE
Lincoln Park, 138 12th St NE
Oklahoma Avenue, 330 21st St NE
Parklands, 1801 Mississippi Ave., SE
Southwest, 801 7th St SW

For reasons explained below, the Southwest location (in italics above) did not open in School Year 2019-2020.

- Year opened: School Year 2005-2006
Grade levels served (Currently and at maturation of charter agreement, if applicable): Pre-K3 and Pre-K4
Date that charter will be eligible for possible renewal: June 8, 2020

2. Please select the performance indicators below that describe the school's current performance*: (Mark all that apply)

Disclaimer: While processing this application, DC PCSB staff may contact you later to request additional information for the Board's consideration. By submitting this application, you agree to cooperate with DC PCSB staff to ensure your application is processed in a timely manner. For questions, please contact DC PCSB staff person Laterica (Teri) Quinn at (202) 328-2660.

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- Currently rated Tier 1, or met at least 2/3 of targets on the most recent PK-only PMF or Alternative Accountability Framework.
- School is not currently under corrective action.
- Has historically met enrollment projections w/in 80% of target.
- School has been in operation for 3+ years.
- School is currently accredited. **Through June 30, 2022**

*If the school has multiple campuses or varying PMFs, please describe the academic performance of each campus here: **The campuses are meeting their PMF requirements.**

PROPOSAL

AppleTree Early Learning Public Charter School submits to the DC Public Charter School Board this application to amend its charter agreement by changing the item(s) selected above. If approved, this amendment will be effective on_____, 20_____ (leave blank if this has not been determined).

1. Please provide details on the selected amendment(s) above and describe the requested change(s), including the school's rationale for the proposed changes. Describe any planning that is already underway to prepare for the proposed amendment.

AppleTree seeks approval for two amendments:

- **To relocate the Southwest school at 801 7th St., SW to 475 School Street, SW. The School Street campus would open for SY2020-2021.**
- **To open a second Southwest campus at Waterfront Station (1000 4th St., SW). This campus would open (assuming construction proceeds as planned) in School Year 2022-2023.**

An explanation for these two requests is below:

- **Relocation: AppleTree's Southwest school at 801 7th St., SW, operated in modular classrooms on the grounds of the Jefferson Middle School beginning August 2014 through June 2019. During School Year 2018-2019, AppleTree was informed the ground lease for the modular classrooms would not be renewed for School Year 2019-2020. AppleTree was able to secure new space at 475 School St., SW, and executed a lease for this space on July 15, 2019. However, the extent of renovation required means the new space will not be available until August 2020 (that renovation has already begun and is on schedule). As a consequence, AppleTree Southwest suspended operations for School Year 2019-2020 and seeks permission from the PCSB to open at the School Street location in August 2020.**
- **Second Southwest campus: As AppleTree was seeking space for the to-be-closed 801 7th St., SW, site, it also reached agreement with developer PN Hoffman for a school site at Waterfront Station (1000 4th St., SW). However, this site is still in permitting and construction has yet to commence. AppleTree expects that the site would be ready as early as School Year 2022-2023, but it could also be delayed a year.**

2. How will the proposed amendment(s) support or enhance the school's mission?

Both campuses will serve the growing Southwest neighborhood as well as children of parents from other Wards who may travel to the area for work. AppleTree has served the Southwest community for over 15 years. PCSB data show that there is a high and growing demand for seats – especially pre-K3 and pre-K4 seats – in the District and that there are far too few classrooms available to meet this demand. Both campuses will help meet the demand for new seats. Each of the new schools will have six classrooms (serving up to 132 children each). The 475 School Street campus will be on the first floor of the building and is now undergoing a complete gut renovation; the new space will be light-filled, modern and cheery. (The upper levels of the building will be

occupied by the Richard Wright PCS; AppleTree and Richard Wright students will each have separate entrances and egresses). AppleTree's school at the Waterfront Station development will also be on the first floor of mixed-use building and will be equally warm and inviting.

3. While considering this amendment request, DC PCSB staff may review the school's history of board actions, DC PCSB audits, community complaints, enrollment trends, and any relevant data used by DC PCSB to monitor equity in schools. Please describe any DC PCSB audits, notices of concern or other board actions issued against your school in the past 3 years. What was the outcome? Please explain what steps, if any, you've taken to address the concerns that prompted a DC PCSB audit, board action, or community complaint.

None.

4. DC PCSB will review the school's Financial Audit Reviews (FAR) and current financials to determine the fiscal health of the organization. If applicable, describe how the proposed amendment will impact the school's finances. Explain any anticipated expenses for the proposed changes and how the school will finance them. *[EXCLUDES the following amendments: Governance, Goals, Mission, Curriculum, Name Changes and Graduation Requirements. If not applicable, write N/A.]*

Note: *If applicable, in addition to your narrative please attach a proposed [5-year Operating Budget](#).*

Both campuses should generate a surplus. Please see the 5-Year Operating Budgets (attached) for each for further detail.

5. How has the school informed its external stakeholders (e.g. local ANC commissioners, neighbors) and internal stakeholders (e.g. staff, parents) of the proposed amendment(s)? Please attach any written communication (e.g., meeting minutes). Describe any notable support for or opposition to the proposed amendment(s). If concerns have been brought to your attention, how do you plan to address them? *[EXCLUDES the following amendments: Governance, Goals, Mission, Curriculum, Graduation Requirements and Competency-Based Learning Credits. If not applicable, write N/A.]*

The closure of AppleTree former location at 801 7th St., SW, has been the subject of much discussion, including editorials (in support of AppleTree) in both the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal. AppleTree representatives have already met with ANC 6D about the closure and its efforts to find new space. AppleTree has also formally notified ANC 6D of its plans (see *email, attached*) and will also meet with ANC members as needed. In addition, AppleTree has kept school community members abreast of its plans to re-open in a new location and of its hopes to expand.

6. When did your school's board approve the proposed amendment(s)? Please attach minutes from the meeting and vote results.

The Board of AppleTree Early Learning PCS approved the School Street location at its meeting of June 4, 2019 (attached) and approved the Waterfront Station location by unanimous consent on March 19, 2019 (attached).