



Part I: General Information

All applicants must complete this section

SUBMITTED BY: Andrea Lachenmayr, Board Chair, District of Columbia International 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)
[X] Graduation Requirements
Competency-Based Learning Application

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 1, 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): District of Columbia International School.
b) Year opened: 2014.
c) Grade levels served (Currently and at maturation of charter agreement, if applicable): Currently, grades 6-11.
d) Date that charter will be eligible for possible renewal: 9/2024.
2. Please select the performance indicators below that describe the school's current performance*: (Mark all that apply)
[X] Currently rated Tier 1, or met at least 2/3 of targets on the most recent PK-only PMF or Alternative Accountability Framework.
[X] School is not currently under corrective action.
[X] Has historically met enrollment projections w/in 80% of target.
[X] School has been in operation for 3+ years.
[X] School is currently accredited. Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (Expiration: May 1, 2025)

*If the school has multiple campuses or varying PMFs, please describe the academic performance of each campus here: District of Columbia Middle School: Tier I, District of Columbia High School: Tier I

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.



PROPOSAL

District of Columbia International School (DCI) 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 July 23, 2019.

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.

The internationally benchmarked requirements for both the IB Diploma and IB Career-related Program are known to be of the most rigorous curriculum and assessment programs offered in the world today. In addition, they are [strongly correlated](#) with college attendance, persistence and graduation. The complex requirements of both programs require strong preparatory courses in ninth and tenth grade in order to prepare students for the enormously rigorous two-year (college credit bearing) courses. These requirements may not allow a student to take PE/Health or other traditional graduation requirements. Thus, impeding their ability to be adequately prepared for IB Diploma or Career-related courses.

In addition, the District of Columbia International School offers an honors for all curriculum by requiring all students to take IB Middle Years Program Courses in grades 9 and 10 and IB Diploma and Career-related courses in grades 11 and 12. Thus, requiring that a strong preparatory program is in place for all students. This is the basis for the specific adjustment to the .5 credit art and .5 credit music graduation requirement requested in this application. Our students need a strong preparatory course in music, visual arts, theater or photography/film if they are going to pursue any one of these courses at the Diploma Program level (a two-year course that has the possibility of bearing college credit).

This proposal mirrors existing policies in the following jurisdictions that accept participation in IB programs as an alternative pathway to graduation:

- Alabama
- Florida
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Washington State
- Chicago Public Schools

In order to support the requirements of the internationally benchmarked, rigorous and highly respected International Baccalaureate Diploma and Career-related Programme requirements, DCI Proposes four pathways to graduation for our students. Pathway (1) would retain our existing requirements and pathways 2-4 would retain a 24 credit requirement while allowing for alternative pathways to fulfill the IB Diploma Program (2), IB Career-related (3) or IB Arts (4) requirements:

(1) DCI would retain our existing graduation requirements as summarized below for a majority of our students:



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District of Columbia International School Graduation Requirements

DCI’s high school credit and graduation policies reflect our philosophy as well as adherence to DC law and the Office of the State Superintendent for Education guidelines, DC Public Charter School Board policy, and the approach of the International Baccalaureate Organization. In effect, to earn a DC diploma, students must fulfill the obligations of DC law and, in most cases, either the structures of IB Diploma or Career Programmes.

To receive a standard DC diploma from DCI, students must earn 24.0 credits (or Carnegie Units) as follows:

Subject	Credits (Carnegie Units)
English	4.0 credits
Mathematics (including Integrated Math 1, 2, and 3)	4.0 credits
Science (must include three lab sciences, including Biology)	4.0 credits
Social Studies (including 1.5 credits of US and DC History and Government, and 1.5 credits of World History)	4.0 credits
World Language	2.0 credits
Art	0.5 credits
Music	0.5 credits
Health and Physical Education	1.5 credits
Electives	3.5 credits
Total	24.0 credits

All students must also satisfactorily complete the following to earn a DCI diploma ***unless the credit hours below are used for credit recovery:***



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1. MYP Personal Project (typically in 10th grade)
2. A class in Theory of Knowledge (ToK) or Personal and Professional Skills (PPS), typically in 11th/12th grade, which can count towards elective credits
3. The Creativity, Service, and Action Project or Career-related Program Service Requirement (in 11th/12th grade) which may include the 100 hours of required community service, that is also a requirement to graduate.
4. The Extended Essay or Reflective Project (typically in 11th/12th grade)

For the IB Diploma Programme and the IB Career Programme, we will follow current rules of the IB Organization. Please note that the IB Organization makes final decisions as to awarding of IB diplomas and certificates.

A student with special needs who does not achieve a diploma shall be eligible to receive an Individual Educational Program (IEP) Certificate of Completion. The decision to pursue a program leading to an IEP Certificate of Completion shall be made by the IEP team including the parent(s) and where possible, the student. The decision shall be made no earlier than the ninth (9th) grade and shall be attached in writing to the student's IEP. We will comply with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 and District law with regard to appropriate transition assessments.

We propose the following amendments in order to support all students pathways to the rigorous and internationally benchmarked International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and Career-related Programs:

(2) A student who fulfills the requirements specified below toward completion of an international baccalaureate diploma programme and 24-credits is considered to have satisfied PCSB minimum requirements for graduation from a public high school:

To receive a high school diploma under this section, a student must complete and pass all required international baccalaureate diploma programme courses as scored at the local level (and 9th and 10th grade preparatory courses) in each of the required subjects under the diploma programme.

(3) A student who fulfills the requirements specified below toward completion of the international baccalaureate career-related programme in addition to a minimum of 24-credits and IB diploma program courses in English, social studies, science, language acquisition, and mathematics (and 9th and 10th grade preparatory courses) is considered to have satisfied the PCSB minimum requirements for graduation from a public high school:

To receive a high school diploma under this section, a student must complete and pass all required international baccalaureate career-related courses and enrolled diploma programme courses as scored at the local level.

(4) District of Columbia International School (DCI) students that complete a full credit of visual arts, music, theater **or** photography/film in grades 9 or 10 will not be required to obtain a .5 credit of visual arts and a .5 credit of music towards graduation requirements.



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To receive a standard DC diploma from DCI, students must earn 24.0 credits (or Carnegie Units) as follows:

Subject	Credits (Carnegie Units)	IB Diploma Alt. Pathway (1)	IB Career-related Program Alt. Pathway (2)	Arts Alternative Pathway
English	4.0 credits	4.0 credits and DP Course (SL or HL)	4.0 credits and DP Course (SL or HL)	4.0 credits
Mathematics (including Integrated Math 1, 2, and 3)	4.0 credits	4.0 credits and DP Course (SL or HL)	4.0 credits and DP Course (SL or HL)	4.0 credits
Science (must include three lab sciences, including Biology)	4.0 credits	4.0 credits and DP Course (SL or HL)	4.0 credits and DP Course (SL or HL)	4.0 credits
Social Studies (including 1.5 credits of US and DC History and Government, and 1.5 credits of World History)	4.0 credits	4.0 credits and DP Course (SL or HL)	4.0 credits and DP Course (SL or HL)	4.0 credits

World Language	2.0 credits	4.0 credits and DP Course (SL or HL)	4.0 credits and DP Course (SL or HL)	2.0 credits
Art	0.5 credits	Exception granted when necessary for achievement of IB Diploma requirements	Exception granted when necessary for requirements of IB Career-related Program	1 credit of Art, Music, Theater, Film or Photography in preparation for IB DP Visual Arts, Music, Theater, Film or Photography
Music	0.5 credits	Exception granted when necessary for achievement of IB Diploma requirements	Exception granted when necessary for requirements of IB Career-related Program	See above
Health and Physical Education	1.5 credits	Exception granted when necessary for achievement of IB Diploma requirements	Exception granted when necessary for requirements of IB Career-related Program	1.5 credits
Electives	3.5 credits	Exception granted when necessary for achievement of IB Diploma requirements	Exception granted when necessary for requirements of IB Career-related Program	3.5 credits
Total	24.0 credits	24.0 credits	24.0 credits	24.0 credits

All students must also satisfactorily complete the following to earn a DCI diploma unless the credit hours below are used for credit recovery:

1. MYP Personal Project (typically in 10th grade)
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3. The Creativity, Service, and Action Project or Career-related Program Service Requirement (in 11th/12th grade) which may include the 100 hours of required community service, that is also a requirement to graduate.
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2. How will the proposed amendment(s) support or enhance the school's mission?

It is the mission of the District of Columbia Public Charter School to inspire inquiring, engaged, knowledgeable and caring secondary students who are multilingual, culturally competent, and committed to proactively creating a socially just and sustainable world. The International Baccalaureate Middle-Years, Diploma and Career-related Programmes provide the curriculum and inquiry-based pedagogical framework to allow us to achieve this important mission. Thus, flexibility in providing a full range of curricular options within the context of the IB Programmes will further empower DCI to fulfill our mission.

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.

DCI's recent charter continuation had no findings that required a response. Community complaints are directly addressed through our education leadership team through direct communication with all community members involved.

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.]*



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

N/A

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.]*

DCI has shared this proposal (Section F1-Graduation Requirements) as written with our local ANC commissioner, Mr. Stephen A. Whatley. Our managing board has reviewed, provided feedback and approved this proposal (via both the board's education committee as well as the full board). We have notified our staff and parent communities via our weekly newsletter, the Dispatch. As the International Baccalaureate Programmes are central to our mission, we have not faced opposition to the proposal to date.

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

Yes. The DCI Board reviewed and voted to approve this proposed amendment during the April 2019 board meeting. Please find our minutes attached as annex A.