



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: Ronald Hasty, Chairperson, Eagle Academy PCS Board of Trustees

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
Graduation Requirements
Competency-Based Learning Application

SUBMISSION DATE: 12/9/2019

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): Eagle Academy PCS at Congress Heights, 3400 Wheeler Road SE; and Eagle Academy PCS Fairlawn at Capitol Riverfront, 1017 New Jersey Avenue SE.
b) Year opened: 2003
c) Grade levels served (Currently and at maturation of charter agreement, if applicable): PreK3 thru Grade 3
d) Date that charter will be eligible for possible renewal: 2033
2. Please select the performance indicators below that describe the school's current performance\*: (Mark all that apply)

- 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. By Middle States through December 1, 2024.

\*If the school has multiple campuses or varying PMFs, please describe the academic performance of each campus here: For the 2018-2019 SY, both campuses were rated Tier 1.

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

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**Eagle Academy PCS** 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 February 1, 2020 (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.

**For the current 2019-2020 SY, Eagle Academy has two campuses: the Congress Heights campus in Ward 8 and the Fairlawn at Capitol Riverfront campus in Ward 6. Eagle Academy leases the property in Ward 6 through August 2020. Within the next few months, Eagle Academy expects to sell its Fairlawn property located at 2345 R Street SE to another public charter school. For the 2020-2021 school year, Eagle Academy will continue to have two campuses but will need to relocate and rename its Ward 6 campus. The new Ward 6 campus, Eagle Academy PCS at Capitol Riverfront, will be located at 1900 Half Street SW.**

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

**During Eagle Academy's strategically planned growth over the past 16 years, Eagle Academy has kept true to its mission, as outlined in its charter application, to serve students during their early childhood years (ages 3-8), and to serve the communities where it was first established as well as those from where many of its students come from. Eagle Academy seeks to continue to have a presence in both Ward 6 and Ward 8. Eagle Academy's mission is "to build the foundation for a promising future for all students in a rich, robust learning environment that fosters creativity, problem-solving abilities, emphasizing cognitive, social and emotional growth by engaging children as active learners, in an inclusive learning environment." The impact of high-quality early learning experiences is well established, particularly for children at-risk for underachievement (the majority of the students Eagle Academy serves). Eagle Academy's commitment to early childhood is based on the fact that the first eight years of life are crucial in setting children on a path to success. A comprehensive, high-quality PreK3 – Grade 3 approach is critical to ensuring that children develop a solid foundation in literacy, math, social-emotional skills, as well as strong engagement in learning. In fact, Eagle Academy has met the challenge to unite early childhood and special education in PreK3 – Grade 3 classrooms so the power to transform ALL young lives is fully realized. We project that a large number of the students enrolled at the current Ward 6 location will follow Eagle Academy to the new location at 1900 Half Street SW. For the 2020-2021 school year, Eagle Academy projects an enrollment of 890 students: 650 at the Congress Heights campus, and 250 at the new Capitol Riverfront campus at 1900 Half Street SW.**

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.

**Eagle Academy has had a number of parent complaints, primarily associated with the responsiveness of school administrators to parent concerns. All complaints were resolved to the satisfaction of the complainants. Some DC PCSB members expressed a desire to meet with Eagle Academy's Board members regarding the LEA's responsiveness to community concerns in the construction of the Fairlawn school. The meeting with PCSB members and staff was held on Tuesday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m. Eagle Academy staff presented evidentiary documentation that the LEA went beyond what was reasonable in response to community concerns in the development and construction of the Fairlawn school. Eagle Academy began by meeting with the ANC and receiving approval for the new school construction. When Eagle Academy began construction of the school building, the ANC chair was strongly supportive of Eagle Academy. She also had two grandchildren enrolled at Eagle Academy PCS at Congress Heights, and was excited to have an Eagle Academy school closer to her home. She retired from the ANC in December 2018. A new ANC chair was elected then and began serving in January 2019. Eagle Academy kept meeting with the ANC and Ward 8 Councilmember White for over the three years, as well as holding numerous, well-documented community meetings to address concerns. Eagle Academy worked closely with DCRA and DDOT in community meetings and resolved all reasonable complaints. The new ANC chair initially sided with a few complainants near the construction of the school. In August of 2019, he sent an email praising the school and how much the new building improved the community. He was pleased to have Eagle Academy there. Eagle Academy has also met with the ANC in Ward 6 regarding the establishment of the new school in their neighborhood. Attached to this application is a resolution from the entire group of ANCs representing the area in support of Eagle moving to the new Ward 6 location on 1900 Half Street SW.**

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](#).*

**Based on our lease, Eagle Academy will have to vacate the building at 1017 New Jersey Avenue SE no later than August 2020. Currently, this campus accounts for approximately 170 of Eagle Academy's student enrollment. For the 2020 – 2021 SY, Eagle Academy projects an enrollment of 250 at the proposed Ward 6 location, and 640 at its Ward 8 location, with a total enrollment of 890. Eagle Academy's proposal to relocate the Capitol Riverfront campus to 1900 Half Street SW would allow Eagle Academy to: (1) maintain its current level of finances; (2) keep approximately two thirds of its current population at the Ward 6 campus while only having to recruit one third; and (3) decrease the enrollment at its Ward 8 campus to facilitate academic instruction and social-emotional learning. The annual cost of the current lease at 1017**

**New Jersey Avenue SE plus the cost of maintenance and repairs is significantly less than the proposed cost. This is more than off-set by the number of new students Eagle expects to enroll by opening the school on Buzzards Point. The newly developed SE and SW waterfronts have a abundance of children and a c shortage of educational spaces for those children. Eagle also enjoys an excellent reputation with this neighborhood as evidences by the ANC 6's vote to keep Eagle. In the attached Five-Year Operating Budget, Eagle Academy keeps it enrollment ceiling cap at 920, with budgets developed using a conservative enrollment estimate of 890 for school years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. For school years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, we estimate reaching the 920 enrollment target. The revenue growth for per pupil is set at 2.7% per year and 2.2% for facilities increases based on a very conservative view of the District's recommendation for increases in education. The area around the proposed campus site at 1900 Half Street SW is void of public charter schools and has only two DCPS schools for young students, Van Ness Elementary School in the SE and Amidon on the SW side approximately 1 mile from Eagle's location. Van Ness currently serves PreK3 through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and has an enrollment of approximately 270 students, with a long waitlist for the earlier grades. Amidon serves approximately 339 students. Eagle Academy will continue with the same staff and will continue to implement Eureka Math and American Reading Company curricula. With a reduction in operating costs, Eagle Academy will be in an excellent position to continue its high-quality programs and to have the additional resources needed to recruit students.**

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.]*

**Parents, several of them residents of Ward 6, and members of the Ward 6 ANC6D, have asked Eagle Academy to remain in Ward 6 because Eagle has been a member of the Capitol Riverfront community since 2003, and because there are not enough public schools serving the area. Eagle Academy has also met with the ANC in Ward 6 regarding the establishment of the new school in their neighborhood. Attached to this application is a resolution from the entire group of ANCs representing the area in support of Eagle moving to the new Ward 6 location on 1900 Half Street SW. The ANC members have been active in helping Eagle find a new location.**

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

**Eagle Academy's Board of Trustees has been discussing the need to remain in Ward 6 since 2016. Eagle Academy learned in September 2016 that the building located at 1017 New Jersey Avenue SE was being sold, and that Eagle was expected to vacate the building by August 2017. As a result, Eagle Academy's Board of Trustees approved the relocation of the Eagle Academy PCS at Capitol Riverfront campus to a new location. Eagle's Board kept**



**approving extensions from the new owner to remain at the Ward 6 location while seeking a new location in Ward 6. We have now identified a new location in Ward 6 at 1900 Half Street SW. This relocation conforms with the direction the Board of Trustees approved at its September, 2019 meeting to seek a Ward 6 location that was more permanent.**