



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: Donald L. Hense – Friendship Public Charter School

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

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

SUBMISSION DATE: 2/3/2020

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): Armstrong Elementary 111 O Street, NW; Armstrong Middle 111 O Street, NW; Blow Pierce Elementary 725 19th Street, NE; Blow Pierce Middle 725 19th Street, NE; Chamberlain Elementary 1345 Potomac Avenue, SE; Chamberlain Middle 1345 Potomac Avenue, SE; Collegiate Academy 4095 Minnesota Avenue, NE; Ideal Elementary 6130 North Capitol Street, NW; Ideal Elementary 6130 North Capitol Street, NW; Online 1351 Nicholson Street, NW; Southeast Elementary 645 Milwaukee Place, SE; Southeast Middle 645 Milwaukee Place, SE; Tech Prep Middle 620 Milwaukee Place, SE; Tech Prep High 2705 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE; Woodridge Elementary 2959 Carlton Avenue, NE; Woodridge Middle 2959 Carlton Avenue, NE
 - b) Year opened: **1998**
 - c) Grade levels served (Currently and at maturation of charter agreement, if applicable): **PK3 – 12th Grade**
 - d) Date that charter will be eligible for possible renewal: **June 30, 2028**
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.

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.

Charter and/or Charter Agreement Amendment Application

- ☒ School has been in operation for 3+ years.
- ☒ School is currently accredited. **May 1, 2022**

*If the school has multiple campuses or varying PMFs, please describe the academic performance of each campus here:

Friendship underwent a 20-year charter review in March 2018 and was deemed as meeting its goals and academic achievement expectations. For SY 2018-19, six campuses achieved Tier 1 status, and one high school campus (Friendship Tech Prep) ranked in the Top 5 for charter high schools PMF performance. This is significant due to the higher proportion of Friendship students classified as at-risk compared to other Tier 1 high schools.

Below is a table of Friendship's PMF performance.

Campus Name	SY 2018-19
Chamberlain Elementary	82.7%, T1
Woodridge Elementary	82.5%, T1
Blow Pierce Elementary	75.3%, T1
Southeast Elementary	80.6%, T1
Southeast Middle (4 th – 7 th)	56.6%, No Tier
Armstrong Elementary	47.4%, T2
FPCS Online K-8	52.7%, T2
Chamberlain Middle	52.1%, T2
Woodridge Middle	80.2%, T1
Blow Pierce Middle	54.0%, T2
Tech Prep Middle (8 th)	46.1%, T2
Tech Prep High	82.3%, T1
Collegiate Academy	50.2%, T2



PROPOSAL

Friendship 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 July 1, 2019 (*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.**

On January 30, 2020, the Board of Trustees of Achievement Prep Public Charter School voted to close its Wahler Place Middle School campus effective June 30, 2020. Rather than immediately shutter the facility and displace students, leadership at Achievement Prep sought options that would allow for a school to absorb the students and provide stability. After discussion with several charter organizations, Achievement Prep chose Friendship PCS to pursue a partnership to serve its students upon closure.

Friendship proposes to acquire the Achievement Prep Middle School campus, operating the campus as a second location for Friendship Southeast Middle for school year 2020-21 and then consolidating enrollment at our soon to be expanded Southeast Middle Campus on Milwaukee Place for SY 2021-22 and beyond. This year would allow students to remain in their existing facility, while Friendship PCS relaunches academics at the school and acculturates students and new staff to the Friendship Way.

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

Friendship was founded to ensure that students receive a world-class education and become ethical, literate, well rounded, and self-sufficient citizens who contribute actively to their communities. As such, we are working with Achievement Prep to ensure that the students who will be displaced as a result of their closure, receive a world-class education in accordance with our mission. We have the capacity to serve these students and our enrollment ceiling can accommodate them.

- 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.**

Since SY 2016-17, Friendship PCS has been 100% compliant according to PCSB's Annual Compliance Review and has received no board actions. In 2017, in response to an anonymous complaint the PCSB audited discipline data for discipline reporting and also audited data related to disproportionate suspensions. The PCSB found that all discipline data was accurately reported and that there was one attendance error (a student incorrectly coded) that was addressed by the school. For the audit on disproportionate suspensions, the context

Charter and/or Charter Agreement Amendment Application

provided by Friendship PCS addressed the concern. DC PCSB staff closed both audits and determined that no corrective action was necessary.

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](#).

To operate the temporary Southeast Middle location at Wahler Place the cost is approximately \$20,000 per student and is in keeping with per pupil funding from local and federal funds. Friendship anticipates no additional expenses beyond the per pupil cost to operate at this location.

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.]**

Friendship has discussed the proposed partnership with our school leaders who would be impacted. The school leaders support the decision to ensure students at Achievement Prep have a school to which they could return as well as the opportunity to live out Friendship's mission.

Achievement Prep advertised its Special Board Meeting for parents on its website and announced the discussion topic of the potential closing of the middle school campus. The meeting was well attended and parents expressed concerns about the school closing in general; however, they also expressed support for this partnership. The parents also received a letter from Shantelle Wright, Founder and CEO of Achievement Prep, and Friendship will be onsite to provide information and answer questions about our programming. Friendship began outreach to our ANC and the ANC of Achievement Prep's area to inform them of the potential change pending DC PCSB approval.

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

The Friendship Trustees were informed of the proposed acquisition January 27, 2020 and expressed support for Friendship to proceed with its present course of action. The Executive Committee of the Friendship Board of Trustees met February 3, 2020 and voted to approve the development of a Memorandum of Understanding to explore acquiring the Achievement Prep Middle School as well as seek approval from the DC PCSB to operate in a new location. If DC PCSB approves Friendship's request, the FPCS BOT will ratify the committee's vote and the final Asset Acquisition Agreement. Friendship PCS is keeping the PMF as its goals; however is requesting that DC PCSB exclude the Achievement Prep students who enroll at Friendship Southeast Middle from the re-enrollment calculation for one year. This allows Friendship to stabilize the enrollment of the former Achievement Prep students once they move to the expanded campus of Friendship Southeast Middle.