



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 PCS

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

- Enrollment Ceiling Increase
Program Replication of Grades Served
Grade Level Expansion
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: 6/12/2020

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 - C:

Table with 3 columns: Campus Name (Year Opened), Grade Span, Location. Rows include Friendship PCS - Armstrong Elementary (2015), Friendship PCS - Armstrong Middle (2019), Friendship PCS - Blow-Pierce Elementary (2013), Friendship PCS - Blow-Pierce Middle (1999), Friendship PCS - Chamberlain Elementary (1998), Friendship PCS - Chamberlain Middle (2004), and Friendship PCS - Collegiate Academy (2000).

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. Please contact Melodi Sampson at msampson@dcpcsb.org if you have questions.

Friendship PCS - Ideal Elementary (2019)	PK3-3	6130 North Capitol Street NW
Friendship PCS - Ideal Middle (2019)	4-8	6130 North Capitol Street NW
Friendship PCS - Online Academy (2015)	K-8	1351 Nicholson St. NW
Friendship PCS - Southeast Academy Elementary (2005)	PK3-3	645 Milwaukee Place SE
Friendship PCS - Southeast Academy Middle (2018)	4-8	645 Milwaukee Place SE
Friendship PCS - Technology Preparatory High (2010)	9-12	2705 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Friendship PCS - Woodridge International Elementary (1998)	PK3-3	2959 Carlton Avenue NE
Friendship PCS - Woodridge International Middle (2004)	4-8	2959 Iton Avenue NE

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.
- 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 completed its 20-year charter review in March 2018 and met its goals and academic achievement expectations. For SY 2018-19, six campuses achieved Tier 1 status, several campuses ranked in the Top 10 for charter elementary and middle schools PMF performance, and one high school campus ranked in the Top 3 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 schools.

As it relates to PARCC outcomes, Friendship is closing achievement gaps with at-risk students.

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 – 6 th)	56.6%
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 (7 th – 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, 2020 (*leave blank if this has not been determined*).

1. Please provide details on 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.

Grade Expansion and Curriculum

Friendship PCS works diligently to narrow and close the achievement gap. Through its partnership with K12 to provide an online program, Friendship PCS seeks approval to expand offerings to PK at its online campus. EmbarK¹² is a vetted virtual option for families who otherwise would not have access to developmentally appropriate instruction, quality picture books and learning materials to gain the basic concept knowledge that define school readiness and help children succeed in kindergarten. Moreover, Friendship PCS offers preschool and prekindergarten grades at every elementary campus, except at the Friendship Online K-8 campus, which it has provided for 15 years. Friendship PCS would like to bring the Friendship Online campus into alignment with our elementary model. Therefore, allowing parents at the Friendship Online campus with preschool and prekindergarten age children the option to enroll all of their children at the same campus.

Friendship has a deep understanding of what it takes to collaborate and manage online campuses, and are poised to expand and offer a virtual prekindergarten program with our K12 partner. K12 has a prekindergarten virtual program that has operated for six years and we understand how such a program can meet the needs of its youngest learners. The EmbarK¹² curricular program is an innovative program designed to help schools and districts give children ages 3–5 the academic foundation they need for a successful entry to kindergarten. Introduced by K12 in the fall of 2013, EmbarK¹² combines engaging interactive online lessons with hands-on learning materials, offline activities, and high-quality children's literature. It embodies DAP guidelines from the National Association for the Education of Young Children and is aligned to the DC early childhood indicators of progress. In partnership with K12, Friendship can provide an outstanding online learning experience for our youngest scholars.

Friendship has demonstrated the quality of its prekindergarten programming through its excellent performance on CLASS across every elementary campus and boasting some of the highest scores across the city. This is a result of excellent teaching and learning supported by our Community Office staff over multiple years. The Early Childhood department has focused on helping PK teachers implement the component of CLASS that transfer to online teaching. The Early Childhood department also help parents/learning coaches use the CLASS tool in the home.

In keeping with our goal to provide all prekindergarten students Reggio inspired learning experiences, the Early Childhood department will collaborate with the K12 Online campus to ensure that the PK children benefit from these rich hands-on, child-

centered arts-based learning experiences on a consistent basis. Friendship is offering a Summer Virtual PK program that is Reggio inspired and family focused. The program requires a commitment from the families and provides developmentally appropriate arts-based learning experiences to build basic concept knowledge for success in kindergarten. The components of this program and what is learned from it, will inform the implementation of the prekindergarten program at Friendship Online as we enter into staged reopening.

Friendship Collegiate Online Academy (FCOA) – Enrollment Cap Increase

Friendship PCS was approved in July 2018 to offer a full-time virtual academy as a part of Friendship Collegiate Academy. The approval included a limit of to serve 100 students annually. While the nation grapples with COVID – 19, families in the District of Columbia contemplate the idea of sending their students back to a school building environment and are looking for a full-time virtual option. Parents are looking for a full-time virtual option, and Friendship is that option. We want to be able to accept and provide families with a high-quality full-time virtual program without worry of having to cap the number of students we accept while remaining within our charter enrollment ceiling.

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

The mission of Friendship Public Charter School is to provide a world-class education that motivates students to achieve high academic standards, enjoy learning and develop as ethical, literate, well-rounded and self-sufficient citizens who contribute actively to their communities. All of Friendship’s brick and mortar elementary schools serve grades PK3 – 3rd and offer programs and support that align with the mission, expanding the Friendship Online campus to include PK grades is the logical next step. Moreover, working with K12 to further develop the EmbarK¹² curricula to include FPCS early childhood themes and Reggio inspired learning experiences, reinforces this alignment. Students will achieve high academic standards, engage in learning they enjoy and that is focused on them.

Allowing the Friendship Collegiate Online Academy to enroll and serve more than 100 students per year, provides Friendship the opportunity to provide a world-class education with the rigorous EdOptions curricula that prepares students to get to and through college. The program focuses on developing the habits of mind so that students become self-sufficient and achieve high academic standards.

3. 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.

The proposed amendments will not adversely affect Friendship’s finances. Friendship currently has a contract with K12 to manage its Friendship Online campus. The contract will be amended to include serving grades preschool and prekindergarten based on a per pupil amount to be negotiated. Additionally, Friendship’s per pupil allocation will be used to finance the additional enrollment at our Collegiate Online Academy

4. 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?

Friendship has discussed the amendments with its board of trustees. K12 has discussed the possibility of offering prekindergarten grades with its current parents. Staff are excited about the opportunity to work with K12 to further develop its EmbarK¹² curricula to include themes, resources, and pedagogical practices proven effective in our early childhood program as evidenced by Friendship's high performance on CLASS. Staff also looks forward to collaborating with K12 with regard to virtual and distance learning practices.

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

The proposed amendment will be presented to the Board for approval at a board meeting scheduled June 22.

Grade Level Expansion and Program Enrollment Increase

1. What grades does the school currently serve and what grades will the school expand to serve? How will the addition of these grade levels improve the school's existing program?

The Friendship Online campus serves grades K through eight. If approved, the campus will serve grades preschool through eight, adding a grade each year starting with PK4. The addition of these grades will reinforce the introduction to virtual learning gained through the pandemic. It will support the transition to kindergarten through a more structured program.

2. What evidence-based research has the school found to demonstrate that virtual instruction yields high academic results in PK students?

EmbarK¹² is program designed to help schools and districts give children ages 3–5 the academic foundation they need for a successful entry to kindergarten. Introduced by K12 in the fall of 2013, EmbarK¹² combines engaging interactive online lessons with hands-on learning materials, offline activities, and high-quality children's literature.

In a limited study, K12 conducted two pilot programs during a three-week period, to determine whether short-term use of EmbarK¹² pre-kindergarten learning activities for literacy and mathematics would result in measurable academic progress among 3 to 5 year-old children in selected classroom-based and at-home instructional settings. In both programs, students demonstrated improvement based on pre-and post-assessments administered. Friendship's early childhood staff will work with K12 staff at the Friendship Online campus to ensure that the program is implemented

effectively and will develop further the curricular program over the next one to two years.

3. How many seats do you propose adding to Friendship PCS – Collegiate Academy’s online program?

Friendship currently has an enrollment ceiling of 5115 (need to check that number) therefore expanding our ability to virtually offer PS, PK4, and more high school students would not require an enrollment ceiling increase.

4. What adjustments (programmatic, operational) will Friendship PCS make to accommodate an increase in the number of students enrolled in Friendship PCS – Collegiate Academy’s online program?

The Friendship Collegiate Online Academy’s courses are taught by certified teachers provided by Edmentum’s EdOptions Academy; these teachers are the teachers of record. In addition, these teachers provide live lessons and office hours, and EdOptions Academy has live help Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM in all subject areas. Friendship staff will support students throughout the stages of reopening through small group scheduled Zoom sessions and hosting brick and click hours at multiple sites at stages 3 and 4 of reopening. Friendship hired Ms. Courtney Thompson to serve as the Friendship Collegiate Online Academy Lead and she will coordinate teachers during Brick and Click hours to provide support.

5. Please include a completed enrollment matrix with your charter amendment application. Click [here](#) for enrollment matrix template.

Curriculum

1. What resources and materials have you identified that complement the instructional methods and standards in each subject area and grade level? (Instructional materials include but are not limited to: textbooks, workbooks, novels, online programs, manipulatives, teacher resources, smart-boards, computer software, etc.) How will these resources and materials lead to student mastery of the standards while also creating a culture of learning that supports the school’s unique mission and educational philosophy?

Friendship Online will be using the EmbarK¹² Curricula. The curricula includes full kits of materials including literature, manipulatives, lesson guides, workbooks, teacher resources and software to complement the online digital courseware. EmbarK¹² is designed to help children aged 3 to 5 acquire the skills they need to succeed in kindergarten. The program combines engaging interactive online lessons with hands- on learning materials, activities, and high-quality children’s literature, and can be used in classroom settings, school and district learning centers, or at home. The curriculum features 18 thematic units that address topics relevant to young children, such as “Family and Friends,” “My Five Senses,” and “Looking at Animals.” Each thematic unit includes language arts, math, science, social studies, art, and music modules. Each module contains offline and online activities that can be adapted for large groups, small groups, pairs of students, or one-to-one use with a

student and teacher, and student and learning coach. Many activities include music selections and videos to keep children active and engaged while providing multi-sensory learning opportunities.

K12 will provide training to parents on the use of the EmbarK¹² curriculum, so that parents feel comfortable using it and can be partners to their child's teachers. In addition, Friendship staff will take key components from the CLASS observation tool and will work with K12 to provide training to parents on it. The key observation components can be used to focus the actions of the learning coaches to ensure they are engaged in developmentally appropriate practices when working with their children.

Friendship has demonstrated the quality of its prekindergarten programming by its excellent performance on CLASS across every elementary campus and boasting some of the highest scores across the city. This is a result of excellent teaching and learning supported by our Community Office staff over multiple years. The Early Childhood department has focused on helping PK teachers implement the component of CLASS that transfer to online teaching. The Early Childhood department also help parents/learning coaches use the CLASS tool in the home.

In keeping with our goal to provide all prekindergarten students Reggio inspired learning experiences, the Early Childhood department will collaborate with the K12 Online campus to ensure that the PK children benefit from these rich hands-on, child-centered arts-based learning experiences on a consistent basis. Friendship is offering a Summer Virtual PK Program that is Reggio inspired and family focused. The program requires a commitment from the families and provides developmentally appropriate arts-based learning experiences to build basic concept knowledge for success in kindergarten. The components of this program and what we learn, will inform the implementation of the prekindergarten program at Friendship Online as we enter into staged reopening.

2. What adjustments will be made to learning standards to meet the needs of students far above or below grade level, including students with disabilities?

The EmbarK¹² curriculum is designed to meet the needs of students as individuals. It is an adaptive mastery based curriculum. This allows students to learn at a pace that is ideal for them individually. The mastery-based curriculum ensures that every student achieves the needed content and skills to be successful in Kindergarten. The adaptive nature of the curriculum also allows students to work above grade level or at an advanced pace. The EmbarK¹² features over 1,200 interactive pre-kindergarten activities across 18 different thematic units in math, language arts, science, social studies, music and art which flows seamlessly in the K12 Kindergarten curriculum already used at Friendship Online.

3. Describe the progression of standards as students matriculate through the school. Demonstrate that the standards for each year will build off the previous year's learning.

The EmbarK¹² program is based on reports from the National Research Council, American Psychological Association, National Reading Panel, National Math Panel,

American Educational Research Association, and recent findings of cognitive scientists. The program aligns with core concepts of early childhood education experts, including the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Core Knowledge Foundation, Common Core State Standards, and state standards. It also embodies developmentally appropriate practices guidelines from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. EmbarK¹² is aligned to the DC early childhood indicators of progress (alignment attached). Friendship PCS also continues to research all best practices and studies as it relates to virtual teaching for Early Childhood. The Early Childhood department studies the white papers from NAEYC, The Fred Rogers Center, Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education, Early Childhood Education Journal and others.