

LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA) NAME:

BOARD CHAIR NAME: Michelle Lerner

SUBMISSION DATE: May 29, 2024

SUBJECT: Enrollment Ceiling Increase Amendment Request

SCHOOL BACKGROUND AND PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Campus name(s): Inspired Teaching Demonstration Public Charter School

Year(s) opened: 2011

Grades served: PK3 - 8

Year the school will undergo its next charter review or renewal: 2025

Proposal summary:

ITDS is requesting an enrollment ceiling increase of 16 students (2 students/grade or 1 students/classroom in grades 1-8) - resulting in a total enrollment ceiling of 536 (vs the current 520). The increase will ensure that should more students than intended decide to accept a seat we will receive funding for all students enrolled at ITDS. Our target enrollment will remain at 520.

Year the school plans to implement the proposed changes: 2025-2026

When did the school's board approve the proposed changes? *Please attach minutes from the meeting and vote results.*

March 20, 2024

SCHOOL EXPANSION

All schools seeking to increase their enrollment ceiling or expand their grades served must complete this section.

1. What is the rationale for requesting a school expansion?

We are looking to increase our enrollment ceiling by 16 students (2 students/grade in grades 1-8). Our current ceiling is 520 which is our target enrollment – and in order to reach that number, we offer more seats because we know some students will decline. However, it is also possible that we will enroll slightly more than 520 if more students accept than we can predict. We would like to ensure we receive funding for all students we enroll. Our current plan is to enroll 520 - we simply would like to ensure we are funded for all students should we go over 520.

2. What do you anticipate will be the challenges of expanding your school? How will you address these challenges?

We do not consider this increase an expansion of our school. The result of the increase would allow us to have one more student in a classroom in grades 1-8 should we have more acceptances than planned. We do not intend to try to enroll additional students.

3. Do you meet the performance criteria described in the ECI Policy and the 2023 Temporary Guidance? Explain.

ECI Policy

Performance

- **For single campus LEAs with a single pre-kindergarten (PK) – 8, HS, or Adult Education PMF, earn Tier 1 in SY 2018 – 19.**
- **For single campus LEAs serving grades 3 – 12, whether the LEA meet or exceed the overall state proficiency rates for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) in English language arts (ELA) and Math in SY 2021 – 22**

In SY2018-19, ITDS earned at Tier 1 status.

ITDS exceeded the overall state proficiency rates for the PARCC in SY 2021-22:

	State rate	ITDS
ELA	31%	57%
Math	20%	47%

Demand

- **Make a compelling case for demand informed by the [Sector Planning Supplement](#), which has replaced the *Analysis on Charter Programs, Need, and Growth*. The description of the scope, pace, and need for the expansion must still reflect knowledge of DC’s current demographics and growth projections. Note that DC PCSB continues to not consider school financial issues as a need.**
- **Schools serving grades PK3 – 12 must, at minimum, discuss waitlist-to-seats offered ratios and enrollment trends at all campuses. Alternative and adult schools must, at minimum, discuss mobility data.**

Because we are not intending to increase our target enrollment, we do not need to ensure demand. However, ITDS has always had a strong waitlist at all

grade levels and has seen trends showing increased demand for students to attend ITDS:

- On count day in SY23-24 we had students on the waitlist at every grade level.
- From SY22-23 to SY23-24 citywide applications were up by 3%, and ITDS applications were up by 10%. In 5th grade, our applications went up by 30%.
- In 5th grade, where historically we admit the most new students, from SY23-24 to SY24-25 we saw a 32% increase in applications that ranked ITDS in the top 3 schools for the lottery application.

Student Group Performance/Growth for PK3 – 12 Schools

Schools ending in grades 4 through 12

d. Historically marginalized student groups must perform at or above the state proficiency rate on PARCC in SY 2021 – 22 for that group.

Historically marginalized student groups performed above the state proficiency rate on PARCC in SY 2021 – 22 for that group.

	DC (ELA/Math)	ITDS (ELA/Math)
Black	20%/9%	31%/18%
Hispanic	31%/17%	45%/32%
At-Risk	15%/6%	27%/8%
Sped	8%/6%	25%/17%
ELL	19%/14%	26%/NA

Temporary Guidance Indicators

1) In operation for at least three years; an LEA undergoing turnaround under its charter is not eligible for growth until after completing three years of operation after announcing turnaround. (Note: An LEA that acquires an LEA through an Asset Acquisition is exempt.)

Met. ITDS opened in 2011 and is not undergoing turnaround.

2) School's audited enrollment is at least 90% of their projected enrollment for the past two years.

Met.

2022-2023 - projected: 520 actual: 519
 2023-2024 - projected: 520 actual: 522

3) Re-enrollment rate (PMF rate and business rules when applicable): i. At least 85% for single campuses grades PK-12 ii. At least 85% for multi-campus local education agencies (LEA), calculated as the average of all campuses' rates iii. Persistence5 rate of at least 75% for adult schools.

Met.

2022-2023 - 85%

2023-2024 - 88% (unofficial)

4) School's status on the most recent Financial Audit Review is not "Requires Additional Monitoring."

Met.

5) School has not been issued a Notice of Concern within the past 6 months.

Met.

6) No "not compliant" ratings on the most recent Compliance Review report.

Met.

7) If beyond year nine of operation, the school is fully accredited. If beyond year seven, the school is in the candidacy phase per the accreditation agency.

Met. ITDS is accredited through AALE (American Association of Liberal Education). Completed renewal in October 2022 and current accreditation status is effective through October 2027.

8) Subgroup performance/ growth for PK-12 schools:

• For single campus LEAs, historically underperforming subgroups must perform at or above the city average on the state assessment for that subgroup OR have a median growth percentile (MGP10) score at or above the city average for that subgroup

Met.

Historically marginalized student groups performed above the state proficiency rate on PARCC in SY 2021 – 22 for that group.

	DC (ELA/Math)	ITDS (ELA/Math)
Black	20%/9%	31%/18%
Hispanic	31%/17%	45%/32%
At-Risk	15%/6%	27%/8%
Sped	8%/6%	25%/17%
ELL	19%/14%	26%/NA

9) Rate of exclusionary discipline using out-of-school suspension for the following groups at each campus is not an outlier¹² the previous school year, as defined by the interquartile formula¹³:

- i. ALL students**
- ii. At-risk students**
- iii. Students with disabilities**

Met. Our rates of out-of-school suspensions for all students, at-risk students, and students with disabilities is not an outlier, and falls significantly below the Outlier Threshold. See charts below.

PK-5	ITDS out of school suspension rate	Outlier Threshold
All students	0.51%	6.07%
SWD	1.31%	13.02%
At-risk	1.20%	8.42%
Grades 6-8	ITDS out of school suspension rate	Outlier threshold
All students	6.75%	41.64%
SWD	11.90%	55.36%
At-risk	15.38%	46.29%

10) Rate of exclusionary discipline using out-of-school suspension at the LEA level for at-risk students or students with disabilities is not triple the rate of their non-subgroup peers the previous school year (flag lifted if the rate is at or below the sector average for that subgroup).

Met. Although ITDS's rate of out-of-school suspension for at-risk students and students with disabilities was triple the rate of non-subgroup peers (table 1 below) the rate is well below the sector average for both subgroups (table 2 below).

Table 1

All grades	ITDS out of school suspension rate
SWD	5.08%
At-Risk	5.73%
Not SWD	1.43%
Not At-risk	1.21%

Table 2

All grades	ITDS out of school suspension rate	Sector Average
SWD	5.08%	9.87%
At-Risk	5.73%	8.29%

Neither SWD or At-risk	0.88%				
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4. Demonstrate that there will be sufficient demand to sustain the proposed expansion by responding to the data in the Sector Planning Supplement. To inform your case for demand, answer these questions.

- a. **How does the scope, pace, and need for the expansion reflect DC’s current demographics and growth projections?**

This request is not an expansion of our school. We have a robust waitlist.

- b. **For schools serving grades PK3 – 12, discuss, at minimum, the waitlist-to-seats offered ratios and enrollment trends at all campuses. For alternative and adult schools, discuss, at minimum, mobility data.**

We have a robust waitlist at our one campus. This request will allow us to make sure we offer enough seats to ensure full enrollment at all grades, and ensure that if more students accept than predicted, we will receive funding for all students enrolled.

As seen in the table below, we have ample applicants and waitlists - with a much higher waitlist than seats available or offered:

SY23-24	Total Applications (all rounds)	Total New Students in Grade	Waitlist remaining COUNT day (Oct 5)
PK3	454	44	105
PK4	159	3	98
K	141	7	74
1	114	2	63
2	91	4	15
3	126	4	96
4	92	7	51
5	126	16	37
6	217	22	26
7	82	3	54
8	69	1	56
Total	1671	113	675

Additional data shows:

- In SY23-24 we had students on the waitlist at each grade level, at count day, and anticipate the same being true for SY24-25.
- From SY22-23 to SY23-24 citywide applications were up 3%, and ITDS applications were up by 10%. In 5th grade our applications went up by 30%.
- In 5th grade, the grade where historically we admit the most new students, from SY23-24 to SY24-25 we saw a 32% increase in applications that ranked ITDS in the top 3 schools for the lottery application.

5. Describe how the school has engaged its internal community in its decision to expand. Submit documentation of the school's communications with its staff and families or adult students regarding the proposed expansion. Identify the internal community's concerns and how the school is responding to their needs.

Since this is not an actual school expansion – it is merely an increase to make sure we account for all students enrolled – we have not done extensive community engagement. We have, however, informed our full staff via our weekly newsletter and at our annual State of the School Presentation, and we shared the information to our family community in multiple emails. Our school's administrative team discussed the increase request in one of our regular meetings.

6. Describe how the school has engaged the surrounding external community. Submit documentation of communications with neighbors, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) Commissioners, Councilmembers, and other community groups, notifying them of the school's plans.

We have informed our ANC representative via email of this request and rationale. Because it is not an actual expansion and will not have an impact on enrollment other than a few students, we do not believe this will have an impact on our external community.

a. When did the school inform the ANC of its proposed expansion? Has the school already presented its expansion plans during an ANC meeting? If not, when will it do so?

We notified the ANC by email on April 4, 2024. Mr. Hurst shared the email with his fellow commissioners and replied that they did not have any concerns or additional questions. He invited the school to present at the May 20, 2024 meeting. On May 20, ITDS's Chief Operating Officer presented the enrollment ceiling increase request information.

b. Summarize the external community's concerns, if any, and describe the school's response with specificity.

There were no questions or concerns expressed by the external community at the ANC meeting. The ANC passed a resolution in support of the enrollment ceiling increase request. See attached.

7. Which, if any, of the 10 additional indicators did the school not meet? For each indicator missed, explain why. What evidence suggests that you are improving in these areas?

The school has met all indicators.

8. Complete and submit DC PCSB's [Five-Year Operating Budget](#) template in accordance with its instructions. Explain the financial objectives supported in the attached Five-Year Budget.

The five year operating budget is [attached](#). Although we do not intend to actually increase our enrollment to 536, we have modeled out what our finances would look like if we did. Our financial objectives over the next five years are to complete our ground floor renovation (fall 2024), pay off OSSE debt, and maintain a healthy cash balance to weather any downturns in the city budget.

a. Describe contingencies if per-pupil funding is lower or outlays are higher, any planned fundraising efforts, and cash flow management.

ITDS has always maintained a very strong financial position with significantly more days cash on hand than required. We are conservative with our cash flow management and expenditures. This enrollment ceiling increase will not have a significant impact on our expenditures or overall financial planning processes because we do not intend to increase the number of students who actually enroll. However, we also recognize that adding additional students could be a contingency option should other funding sources decline.

b. What impact will the proposed expansion have on facilities? *If the school proposes operating a new facility, skip this question and instead complete the [Facility Amendment Application](#).*

There will be no impact on facilities. Our classrooms are able to accommodate 1-2 additional students.

ENROLLMENT CEILING INCREASE

Schools seeking an ECI must also complete this section.

9. Describe the school’s current and proposed enrollment matrices. Complete the proposed enrollment matrix below.

ITDS’s current enrollment matrix includes 44 students in PK-3 and PK-4, and 48 students in K-8. We are proposing the following matrix which increases each grade by 2 students, in grades 1-8 (from 48 to 50):

Proposed Enrollment Schedule					
	SY 2024 – 25	SY 2025 – 26	SY 2026 – 27	SY 2027 – 28	SY 2028 – 29
PK-3	44	44	44	44	44
PK-4	44	44	44	44	44
K	48	48	48	48	48
1	50	50	50	50	50
2	50	50	50	50	50
3	50	50	50	50	50
4	50	50	50	50	50
5	50	50	50	50	50
6	50	50	50	50	50
7	50	50	50	50	50
8	50	50	50	50	50
9					
10					
11					
12					
Adult					
	536	536	536	536	536

10. Describe the staffing plan for the proposed expansion. Include the anticipated number of academic staff, non-academic, special education and EL staff, and mission-specific staff required for the ECI.

We do not need any additional staff as this is not an actual expansion - it is simply the option to add 1 student to a classroom if more students accept than anticipated.

a. How will you attract and retain high-quality staff for the proposed ECI?

We will not need any additional staff as a result of this proposal.

b. How will the proposed ECI affect student-teacher ratios?

A classroom might have 1 additional student.

- c. What impact will the grade expansion have on the school's leadership team and reporting structure? If the ECI requires the school to hire a new leader, please provide an updated organizational chart and describe the expertise necessary for the role.**

This ECI will not have an impact on school leadership or reporting structure.



Inspired Teaching
Demonstration School

Board Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2024

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 20, 2024; 6:00pm

Location: Zoom

In attendance: Mary Pitts, Morris Clarke, Rusty Wilson (*Meeting Chair*), Leah Squires (*non-voting member for this meeting*), Maureen Ingram, Lucy Newton, Sundai Riggins, Pete Weber, Aleta Margolis

Staff: Kate Keplinger

6:05 pm Meeting Called to Order

Action Items

1. January 9, 2024 Board Minutes approved by unanimous vote
 - Yes: Mary Pitts, Lucy Newton (via phone), Maureen Ingram, Aleta Margolis, Peter Weber, Morris Clark, Rusty Wilson
 - No: NA
 - Present Leah Squires (non-voting member)

2. Enrollment Ceiling Amendment Proposal

Current ceiling is 520, proposal is to increase to 536 to ensure ITDS receives financial support for all students enrolled. Do not intend to increase current actual enrollment target/plan of 520 students. Board vote needed in order to proceed with application to PCSB

 - Yes: Rusty Wilson, Mary Pitts, Aleta Margolis, Peter Weber, Mary Pitts, Lucy Newton, Morris Clarke.
 - No: N/A
 - Present: Leah Squires (non-voting member)

Updates

- Rusty provided brief update on HVAC repairs
- Aleta asked all Board members to make it a priority to visit the school during the school day

6:20 pm Meeting Adjourned

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Next Board Meeting:
Tuesday, May 7th, noon via Zoom.



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 5F**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING Inspired Teaching School’s Request to the Public Charter
School Board**

Sponsor: Commissioner Hurst

WHEREAS, Inspired Teaching School currently has an enrollment target and enrollment cap of 520 students. The school lottery system is difficult to accept and enroll exactly 520 students as many families are accepted who may or may not enroll.

WHEREAS, Inspired Teaching School does not get any funding for additional students if they accidentally exceed the enrollment cap. For reference, in the 2023-23 school year they report that they enrolled 522 but only received funding for 520.

WHEREAS, Inspired Teaching School assures ANC 5F that they do not seek to increase the number of classes or the class size, but only to have flexibility where needed.


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 5F supports Inspired Teaching Schools request to increase the enrollment cap to 536 (from 520) - which is 2 students/grade in grades 1-8.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will take effect immediately upon passage.

This resolution came before ANC 5F at a duly noticed public meeting on May 20, 2024, 2023. ANC 5F is composed of 7 Commissioners, so that 4 Commissioners constitute a quorum.

With 6 Commissioners present, ANC 5F voted 6 Yea, 0 Nay, and 0 Abstain


Chair, ANC 5F


Secretary, ANC 5F



Weekly Updates 5-17-24

ITDS <Notification@target10114.brightarrow.com>
 Reply-To: ITDS <info@inspiredteachingschool.org>
 To: [REDACTED]

Fri, May 17, 2024 at 4:56 PM



It's field trip season at ITDS! Here, PK3 is picking strawberries at Miller's Farm.

Calendar highlights

- **May 21:** Cookies and Conversations with Principal Inman (3-4pm)
- **May 22:** Half day for students
- **May 24:** Lower School Field Day (details below)
- **May 27:** Memorial Day; ITDS Closed
- **June 6:** Middle School Field Day (details below)
- **June 7:** Early Childhood Field Day (details below)
- **June 8:** Join ITDS in the Capital Pride Parade (details below)
- **June 11:** Trimester 3 Learning Showcase & Family Summer Celebration
- **June 12:** Half day for students; 8th grade promotion ceremony
- **June 13:** Half day for students; Last day of school, no FLEX aftercare
- **June 14:** Deadline to re-enroll for SY24-25

Announcements

- **ITDS Teacher Recognized:** On Monday, 4th Grade teacher Katie Soffer was recognized at the [8th Annual Office of the State Superintendent of Education \(OSSE\) Educator Awards Ceremony](#). Ms. Soffer is a state finalist for the 2024 Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching (PAEMST).
- **SUN Bucks, or Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT),** provides grocery-buying benefits to income-eligible families when schools are closed for the summer. [SUN Bucks benefits](#) will come in the form of a pre-loaded card with a one-time \$120 benefit for the summer that families can use to purchase groceries.
- **Enrollment ceiling increase request:** ITDS is submitting a request to the DC Public Charter School Board to increase our enrollment ceiling from 520 to 536. The request is to ensure that if we enroll a few more than 520 students, we will receive funding for those students. To meet our enrollment target of 520, we offer a few more than 520 seats because not all offers will be accepted. If we end up over 520, we currently would only receive funding for 520. We do not intend to enroll over 520 students - unless a few more students accept than we anticipate: we are not increasing our number of classrooms/grades and we are not changing our enrollment target of 520. Please reach out to Kate Keplinger (kate.keplinger@inspiredteachingschool.org) if you have questions or concerns.
- **8th grade portfolio defenses:** Our 8th graders are in the midst of defending their 8th grade portfolios. This capstone learning experience is one of the hallmarks of ITDS. Each student prepares a portfolio that shows how they have embodied the 4I's, and then defends it individually in an oral presentation for a panel of ITDS teachers and administrators (think 8th grade dissertation defense). Successful completion of the portfolio and the defense is required for students to participate in the promotion ceremony on June 15th. If you see an 8th grader, wish them well (or congratulate them if they are finished)!
- **Spring Field Days! Grade Bands will each have their own field day and are looking for family volunteers:**
 - **Middle School Field Day (6/6)** Thursday June 6th from 9:00- 2:30 PM Middle School Field day; sign up and volunteer to run a booth or station. Please sign up [here](#).

- **1st-4th grade Field Day (5/24)** Friday May 24 from 8am-11:30am We are looking for 10-12 family volunteers to support setup, running stations, and cleanup. If you are available for this time, we would love your help in making this day a fun and memorable event. Please email nicole.bodner@inspiredteachingschool.org and sade.neufville@inspiredteachingschool.org to express your interest or share any questions.
- **PK3-Kindergarten Field Day & Splash Park Day (6/7)** Friday June 7 from 9am-12:00pm We are looking for family volunteers to support setup, running stations, and cleanup. If you are available for this time, we would love your help in making this day a fun and memorable event. Please email monique.russell@inspiredteachingschool.org and sade.neufville@inspiredteachingschool.org to express your interest or share any questions.

Reminders

- **The Capital Pride Parade** 🏳️‍🌈 ITDS staff, families, and students please join us as we march in The Capital Pride Parade this year on June 8th. We are happy to continue participation in this tradition. Please let us know if you are coming by [filling out this form!](#)
 - When is the parade? Saturday, June 8, 2024.
 - Where is the parade? The Parade is anticipated to begin at 14th and T Streets NW and end at Pennsylvania Avenue and 9th Streets NW. Details on our meeting spot and other fun details can be found in the event's What's App (<https://chat.whatsapp.com/D5U0HcgJ8FG9b311SE9rMK>) and in future communications.
- **SY24-25 Flex Before & Aftercare registration is open: [Registration for Flex for SY24-25 is open](#). If you know you want aftercare, we encourage you to register as soon as possible.**
- **Re-Enroll at ITDS:** It is time to re-enroll your student for SY24-25! Re-enrollment can be completed online (through the [PowerSchool Family Portal](#)). Ms. Little will have open office hours each Thursday from 8am-9am and 3-4pm for any family who would like assistance with re-enrollment. **The deadline to re-enroll is June 14th.** If you know your student will not be returning in SY24-25 [please complete an end of year withdrawal form](#).

You are receiving this email because you have provided your email address to Inspired Teaching Demonstration School.

200 Douglas St. NE, Washington, DC 20002

inspiredteachingschool.org