



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)

- 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)
- Graduation Requirements
- Competency-Based Learning Application

SUBMISSION DATE: 2/13/2020

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 19<sup>th</sup> Street, NE; Blow Pierce Middle 725 19<sup>th</sup> 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 – 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.



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- 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 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.

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

**PROPOSAL**

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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.**

Effective June 30, 2020, Achievement Prep Public Charter School is closing its middle school campus located at 908 Wahler Place SE and will not have immediate use for the vacant portion of the facility. Friendship proposes to lease the facility for SY20-21, operating a new middle school campus there for grades 4-8. The new Friendship campus will help meet urgent demand for higher performing middle seats in the area while also providing the additional capacity Friendship needs as it completes the expansion of its nearby Southeast facility for SY21-22. In planning for the proposed amendment, Friendship has secured letters from hundreds of families documenting their intent to apply if Friendship opens the campus, engaged in multiple meetings with families soon to be displaced from the closing middle school, negotiated a lease, brought in its middle school leaders to assess the needs of middle school students in the area, secured a strong transformative campus leader and begun the necessary curriculum, assessment, culture, operations and other planning necessary.

- 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 to ensure that urgent demand for high quality middle school seats is met and that students receive a world-class education in accordance with our mission. We have the capacity to serve additional middle school 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). 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,**



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***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 new campus 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 new campus with families, school staff and leaders who would potentially be impacted. The Friendship school community has expressed support of the decision to ensure middle school students, especially those who may be displaced from an impending closure, have access to a Friendship campus. Friendship has also participated with Achievement Prep in the Special Board Meeting it held publicly on the closing of its middle school campus and the possibility that Friendship would open a campus in the same location. The meeting was well attended and parents expressed concerns about the school closing in general; however, they also expressed support for a Friendship campus at the location. The parents also received a letter from Shantelle Wright, Founder and CEO of Achievement Prep, and Friendship has been onsite to provide information and answer questions about our programming. Friendship began outreach to the ANC at our nearby Southeast campus and the ANC covering the Wahler Place location. The ANC was formally notified on February 14, 2020.

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

Friendship Trustees were informed of the proposed new campus on January 27, 2020 and expressed support for Friendship to proceed. The Executive Committee of the Friendship Board met February 3, 2020 and February 10, 2020 to discuss operating a campus at 908 Wahler Place and the options for doing so. During the February 3, 2020 discussion, the Committee voted to approve the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with Achievement Prep for the campus location. On February 14, 2020, the Committee voted to approve the proposed amendment to open a new campus at 908 Wahler Place for grades 4 to 8 for school year 2020-21. If DC PCSB approves the request, the FPCS BOT will ratify the Committee's vote. Friendship PCS is keeping the PMF as its goals for all campuses, including this new campus.