



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: Terry Golden

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: 9/23/2019

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:

- I. Hamilton Facility, 1405 Brentwood Parkway, NE
a. KIPP DC College Preparatory 9th-12th (2009)
II. Benning Facility, 4801 Benning Road SE
a. LEAP Academy PK3-PK4 (2007)
b. Promise Academy K-4th (2009)
c. KEY Academy 5th-8th (2001)
III. Douglass Facility, 2600 Douglass Road SE
a. Discover Academy PK3-K (2009)
b. Heights Academy 1st-4th (2011)
c. AIM Academy 5th-8th (2005)
IV. Shaw Facility, 421 P Street NW
a. GROW Academy PK3-K (2010)
b. Lead Academy 1st-4th (2012)
c. WILL Academy 5th-8th (2006)
V. Webb Facility, 1375 Mt. Olivet Road NW
a. Connect Academy PK3-K (2013)
b. Spring Academy 1st-4th (2013)
c. Northeast Academy 5th-8th (2014)

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.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD
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VI.	Smilow Facility, 5300 Blaine Street NE		
	a. Arts and Technology Academy	PK3-K	(2014)
	b. Quest Academy	1st-4th	(2014)
	c. Valor Academy	5th-8th	(2015)
VII.	Somerset Facility, 3301 Wheeler Road SE		
	a. Honor Academy	4th-8th	(2019)
	b. KIPP DC Somerset College Preparatory	9th-12th	(2019)

KIPP DC's charter will be eligible for possible renewal on June 30, 2031.

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. **Until December 2019**

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

** KIPP DC is the highest performing PK-3 through 12th grade LEA in the District and a driving force behind closing the opportunity gap. Students who are classified as at-risk perform at a high level with 32% and 36% meeting or exceeding expectations on the PARCC assessment for ELA and math, respectively. KIPP DC students classified as at-risk significantly outperform their similarly classified peers throughout the city. At KIPP DC, we believe all students have the right to rigorous, relevant, and joyful learning experiences that will empower them to be successful in college, careers, and life.

KIPP DC operates the most Tier 1 schools of any network. Eight of KIPP DC's ten elementary and early childhood schools are currently Tier 1. Notably, the Department of Education recognized Promise Academy as a National Blue Ribbon school in 2018. Promise Academy was one of two schools with 50% or more students designated at-risk where at least 50% of students met or exceeded expectations on both the Math and ELA sections of the PARCC. In the Math section, Promise Academy is the highest performing charter school in the city.

KIPP DC also has a track record of success in restarts. We are proud of our work restarting Arts and Technology Academy (ATA), which was on the verge of closing due to poor performance but is now a Tier 1 school (85% on the PMF).

PROPOSAL

KIPP DC 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_____, 20_____ (*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.

KIPP DC is committed to educating District students in all grades and from all backgrounds to develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to become thoughtful, intentional citizens in the competitive world. In February 2019, the Public Charter School Board approved a set of amendments to KIPP DC’s charter to enable KIPP DC to restart Somerset Prep PCS as Honor Academy and KIPP DC Somerset College Preparatory at the 3301 Wheeler Road campus (the “Wheeler Campus”). Currently, Honor Academy welcomes students in grades 4th – 8th, and KIPP DC Somerset College Preparatory welcomes students in grades 9th – 12th.

We seek approval to expand the grades offered at the Wheeler Campus to include grades PK-3 through 3rd, consistent with our other five other PK-3 – 8th grade campuses. KIPP DC seeks this grade expansion for a number of reasons:

First, we want to further enable Honor Academy students and their younger siblings to attend school at the same location. As any parent can attest, the logistics of pick up and drop off for one student is difficult, and even more so for multiple students. Accordingly, given the many barriers our students and families face in arriving on time to school each day, we consider our mission to help streamline our families’ pick up and drop off locations to be a critical component of our work. Currently, roughly one-third our Wheeler Campus students are siblings of KIPP DC students at other locations, which means a meaningful percentage of families at our Wheeler Campus will benefit from the option to send their students to school at the same location.

Second, we are eager to begin working with our students as early as possible. The sooner students and families begin with KIPP DC, the greater impact our incredible teachers and support staff can make in our students’ lives.

Third, and most fundamentally, we want to help offer more seats to students seeking a quality public school option in Ward 8. According to the PCSB’s 2017 Analysis on Charter Programs, Need, and Growth report, there is significant unmet demand for high quality seats in PK-3 through third grade generally, and particularly in Ward 8, where our Wheeler Campus is located. Specifically:

- *Ward 8 is a Green Zone*
 - The report identifies Ward 8 as a “Green Zone” where more high-quality seats are needed by 2021-2022. The report identifies a gap of 3,101 seats between future

need for high quality seats and expected growth in future high-quality seats. This gap is the largest in the city.

- *Expected Population Growth*
 - The District's PK-8th school-age population is expected to grow by over 10,000 students between the 2016-2017 school year and the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Approximately 85% of this growth will occur in grades Pre-K through fifth.
- *Surplus of Applicants*
 - In the 2017-2018 Common Lottery, there were 5,432 more unique applicants to public charter schools than seats offered by public charter schools.
 - Regarding KIPP DC applications specifically, the current waitlist at our nearest campus on Douglass Road is approximately 450 students across grades PK-3 through third.

Even more locally, Neighborhood Cluster 39, where our Wheeler Campus is located, has the largest population of school-aged children in the city according to the DC Office of Planning. Further, the DC Office of Planning projects that Cluster 39 will have the third largest absolute growth in school-aged population of any neighborhood cluster over the coming years (a finding consistent with PCSB's "2017 Analysis on Charter Programs, Need and Growth in Washington, DC"). In December 2018, DC PCSB voted to revoke the charter for DC Congress Heights (formerly Democracy Prep), a school serving approximately 650 students in grades PK-3 – 8th. This school is less than 0.5 miles from the Wheeler Campus. The students who are attending this school will need to attend a new school for the 2020-2021 school year, further increasing demand for quality seats. In addition, Cluster 39 contributes the second highest number of current KIPP DC students (540) among all neighborhood clusters in the city, indicating strong demand for KIPP DC seats among the large and growing school-age population this area. Finally, Cluster 38 (which borders Cluster 39) has the fifth largest population of school-aged children in the city and is projected to have the fourth largest absolute growth in school-aged population over the coming years (also consistent with PCSB's study).

Approximately 30% of our 6,800 current students live in Ward 8, with an additional 1,000+ on our waitlist. Based on demand for KIPP DC seats in Ward 8 broadly and Cluster 39 specifically, we believe that expanding the seats we can offer at our Wheeler Campus will allow us to fulfill a large portion of the unmet need for quality seats in Ward 8 at the Somerset site.

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

As mentioned above, KIPP DC is committed to ensuring that every student has a high-quality public school option close to where they live, and that parents have the opportunity to send their students to the same location if they wish. This is one of the reasons that KIPP DC operates a PK-3 – 8th grade campus model at five other locations in the District. By offering a complete PK-3 – 8th grade experience at our Wheeler Campus, we will be better able to accomplish our mission of empowering students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to become Washington, DC's next generation of leaders. KIPP DC places an emphasis on instructional

alignment from PK-3 – 12th grade. This model ensures that students are familiar with the physical space, the staff, and expectations for the school day. The campus model allows teachers to collaborate across grade levels and work together to address instructional gaps.

Notably, when KIPP DC restarted Arts & Technology Academy in the 2014-2015 school year, the Smilow campus, where ATA is located, served grades PK-3 – 4th. Over the past four years, KIPP DC has successfully expanded the grades served at our Smilow Campus so that students in grades PK-3 – 8th can all attend school at this campus, as at our other campuses.

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.

Throughout our 19 years, KIPP DC has maintained a strong academic achievement record, consistently exceeding district averages. We have been fortunate to have PCSB unanimously approve our application for 15-year renewal on November 16, 2015, our charter renewal on July 1, 2016, and our previous charter amendment requests, including our most recent ECI request in February 2019.

During the past three years, PCSB has issued KIPP DC two notices of concern, both of which were for truancy. To address this critical issue, KIPP DC created the role of attendance coordinator and hired an attendance coordinator at each of our then-six campuses in the middle of the 2018-19 school year, along with an individual who closely manages the team’s work and portfolio. Our attendance coordinators provide support for school leaders and office managers to monitor attendance, contact parents, and work with families to ensure high student attendance. As a result of these efforts we’ve seen a 20% decrease in our chronic absenteeism rate at our high school, along with a 3% increase in our attendance rate to hit 90%.

KIPP DC enrollment has remained strong throughout our almost-two decade history, and we’ve successfully completed OSSE’s enrollment audit each year. While some community complaints are inevitable, we take the resolution process extremely seriously. Our team investigates each complaint to ensure our staff has taken appropriate actions, and work closely with PCSB staff to provide as much clarity as possible around the parent or community member’s concerns.

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](#).

KIPP DC's ultimate plan for the site is to operate three schools with a total enrollment of 1,059 students, as follows:

- An early childhood school enrolling 324 students in grades pre-school, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten;
- An elementary school enrolling 408 students in grades 1st – 4th; and
- A middle school enrolling 327 students in grades 5th through 8th.

KIPP DC's plan is to open an elementary and early childhood school at the Wheeler Campus in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years, respectively.

As we do at other campuses, local and federal per pupil allowance will cover all school operating costs. We anticipate per pupil costs to be higher in the first two to three years of transition but expect this to be covered by philanthropic support already received as we get to a run rate sustainable model. Please see KIPP DC's proposed 5-year Operating Budget, **Attachment A**.

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.]

KIPP DC is committed to engaging the community as critical stakeholders in our work. Throughout the process of expanding to Somerset, we have regularly engaged both internal and external stakeholders, and look forward to continuing to engage on these growth plans in the month to come.

In November 2018, when KIPP DC reached an agreement with Somerset PCS's Board to operate at the Wheeler Campus, KIPP DC and Somerset agreed that elementary and early childhood grades would eventually be added to the campus, as reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding we submitted to PCSB at the time. KIPP DC considered applying for a charter amendment to add early childhood and elementary grades in SY 2019-2020 and discussed this possibility at length with Somerset staff, families and the surrounding community. Ultimately, we decided to prioritize the needs of the existing Somerset student community and stabilize the school as quickly as possible, which is why we held off on submitting an application to expand to grades PK-3 – 3rd until now.

More recently, we have presented our growth plan internally to KIPP DC's Board of Trustees, school and headquarters leadership, who have all been supportive of our hope to expand the grades we serve at the Wheeler Campus. As mentioned in Question 6, our Board unanimously approved of this plan, acknowledging the opportunities it will provide to KIPP DC families. Externally, we have engaged with supporters such as Single Member District ANC Salim Adofo, Achievement Prep CEO Shantelle Wright and Eagle Academy CEO Joe Smith. In addition to taking these steps, we intend to present at ANC 8C and 8E, the Congress Heights

Civic Association, as well as have a listening session with the neighbors adjacent to the Wheeler Campus.

Beyond this grassroots work, we are working internally with our families to receive their feedback on our current turnaround work at Somerset College Prep and Honor Academy, as well as how to ensure our expansion of grades served at the campus is rolled out as seamlessly as possible. To that end, we are currently hosting a visioning series with parents at each campus to inform them of our growth plans and imagine with them how best the next phase of KIPP DC can educate their student.

We hope that, over time, KIPP DC can be seen as an anchor on the Congress Heights community. That is just one reason why, on August 24, 2019, approximately 300 new and returning Somerset families and friends joined KIPP DC staff and community partners at the Congress Heights Gateway Pavilion for the Somerset Back to School Welcome event. This welcome event was an opportunity to introduce Somerset families to KIPP DC, and demonstrate our commitment to the community. We also hosted a Back to School Event with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority on July 27th at our nearby Douglass Campus, which was open to the entire Ward 8 Community, and where students were able to receive free backpacks and groceries.

So far, the feedback we have received about the progress of our Wheeler Campus has been largely positive, though we know there is always more work we can and will do.

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

KIPP DC's Board of Directors unanimously approved the proposed charter amendment at its meeting on September 11th, 2019. Please see the meeting minutes located under **Attachment B**.