



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: Joel Goering – Briya 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 type="checkbox"/> Additional Facility or New Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Governance Structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goals and Achievement Expectations | (Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation or Management) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mission or Education Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduation Requirements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum, Standards or Assessments | <input type="checkbox"/> Competency-Based Learning Application |

SUBMISSION DATE: December 6, 2017

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):
Briya operates as one campus. This mission related amendment would cover all facilities: 2333 Ontario Road NW, 3912 Georgia Ave NW, 100 Gallatin Street NE, and our temporary space during construction at 4300 13th Street NW.
 - b) Year opened: **chartered 2005 and enrolled students 2006**
 - c) Grade levels served (Currently and at maturation of charter agreement, if applicable): **pre-kindergarten and adult**
 - d) Date that charter will be eligible for possible renewal: **2020**
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. **December 2018**

*If the school has multiple campuses or varying PMFs, please describe the academic performance of each campus here: **Briya performance is monitored via the Early Childhood Only and Adult PMFs. Briya has scored Tier 1 on both frameworks each year.**

For questions, please contact DC PCSB staff person Laterica (Teri) Quinn at (202) 328-2660.



PROPOSAL

Briya Public Charter School 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.

The proposed amendment to the charter is to update the language of the mission to reflect new terminology being used in the field and to shorten the length of the statement. This is not a material change to the mission.

The current mission is:

To provide a high-quality education for adults and children that empowers families through a culturally sensitive family literacy model.

The proposed streamlined language that keeps the same meaning is:

To strengthen families through culturally responsive two-generation education.

The new language is the result of months of stakeholder engagement. As part of our upcoming Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools reaccreditation process, the staff, students, and Board have thoughtfully reflected on the mission to come up with updated language.

In the fall of 2017, a team of staff members representing the school's various programs (adult education, early childhood education, and administration) reviewed staff, student, and Board survey results related to our mission and made recommendations to the school's Strategy Team. The major recommendation was to hold a workshop to engage staff in the review of the mission with the goal of shortening and clarifying the language.

The Strategy Team, which is leading Briya's Middle States re-accreditation effort, helped lead a series of meetings with staff in each department (adult education, early childhood education, and administration) during professional development sessions in the fall of 2017. Based on discussions about the mission and vision of the school, the Strategy Team created a revised mission that incorporates stakeholder feedback. The revised mission was presented to the Briya Board of Trustees for their consideration and approval. The Board discussed and voted to approve the new mission at their November 2017 meeting.

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

The amendment is to update the language of the mission to reflect new terminology that has developed in the field since the original mission was written and to shorten the mission so it is

easier for students and staff to remember. These simple changes in word choice are not a material change to the mission. By making the language more current and shortening the mission, we are better enabling students and staff to remember the mission and strengthen their connection to it. By shortening it, we will be able to include it on communications materials, including banners in classrooms, making the mission more present in our everyday interactions.

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.

Briya PCS has consistently performed well on all accountability measures across the board – for student performance, fiscal stewardship, and legal and regulatory compliance. No PCSB audits, notices of concern, or other board actions have been issued against the school in the last three years. At our ten year charter review in November 2015, the Board voted unanimously to continue the charter for an additional 5 years and noted that the school has consistently met 100% of the goals of the charter each year.

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](#).

N/A – Per the instructions above, this question does not apply to Mission amendments.

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.]*

N/A – Per the instructions above, this question does not apply to Mission amendments.

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

The Briya Board voted to approve the change to the mission on November 8, 2017. The meeting minutes and vote results are attached. The relevant section is found on page 2 of the meeting minutes.



Section B2. Mission or Educational Philosophy

***ONLY complete this section if applying to amend Mission/Educational Philosophy.**

A school should apply to amend its mission or education philosophy when it is proposing a material change to its current mission that directly affects students and families. Changes include adding or removing components of the mission, such as second language acquisition, a specific curriculum listed in the mission (e.g., Core Knowledge, Expeditionary Learning, STEM), or specific outcomes (e.g., Career and Technical Education/Certification, International Baccalaureate Diploma). Changes that are revisions in syntax do not require a petition and public hearing. These changes, however, will need to be approved by the DC PCSB Board and memorialized in an executed charter agreement amendment.

A change in a school's mission/education philosophy must happen prior to the start of a school year. DC PCSB will not consider proposed amendments to a school's mission/education philosophy during the year prior to or during the year of a high-stakes review or renewal. Revisions to a school's mission or education philosophy will generally be approved if the school demonstrates a need for the change in the mission through:

- Family support (e.g. petition with signatures, letters of support, minutes from PTO/PTA meeting(s));
- Staff support (e.g. application with signatures, letters of support, minutes from staff meeting(s));
- An explanation of how the revised mission will directly improve student outcomes and future success;
- Evidence that the amended mission is supported by the curriculum, instruction, and school day.

1. What is the school's current mission statement and/or educational philosophy?

To provide a high-quality education for adults and children that empowers families through a culturally sensitive family literacy model.

2. What are the proposed changes to the school's mission statement and/or educational philosophy?

**The proposed streamlined language that keeps the same meaning is:
To strengthen families through culturally responsive two-generation education.**

3. How will the new mission and/or educational philosophy impact the school's existing curriculum, operations, and education experience for families?

It will not impact the curriculum or operations. It will make the mission more accessible for families. The only changes are to shorten the length and update the language to reflect changing language in the field. Having a shorter mission will enable our communications team to use the mission more broadly. Currently plans include putting banners with the mission in classrooms

and updating the mission on our website and social media accounts.

- 4. Describe how the School came to this decision to change its mission, and describe the involvement of the greater community in its revision, including parents, staff, and others.**

Briya's decision to change our mission was based on several factors including:

- the need for periodic review and updating to reflect current language about family literacy, now commonly referred to as two-generation education**
- a long-term concern on the part of administration that the school needs a shorter mission statement which would be easier for students to remember**
- results of a school-wide survey issued to students, staff, and Briya Board members in the spring of 2017**

The new language is the result of months of stakeholder engagement. As part of our upcoming Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools reaccreditation process, the staff, students, and Board have thoughtfully reflected on the mission to come up with updated language.

In the spring of 2017, all staff, students, and Board members took a survey about Briya. Several survey questions were about the mission. The survey data and comments were analyzed and played a central role in the conversations around the mission. In the fall of 2017, a team of staff members representing the school's various programs (adult education, early childhood education, and administration) reviewed staff, student, and Board survey results related to our mission and made recommendations to the school's Strategy Team. The major recommendation was to hold a workshop to engage staff in the review of the mission with the goal of shortening and clarifying the language.

The Strategy Team, which is leading Briya's Middle States re-accreditation effort, helped lead a series of meetings with staff in each department (adult education, early childhood education, and administration) during professional development sessions in the fall of 2017. Based on discussions about the mission and vision of the school, the Strategy Team then held a series of meetings open to all staff to create a revised mission that incorporated stakeholder feedback. Meetings were held after class and at different facilities around the city to encourage broad stakeholder participation. The revised mission was presented to the Briya Board of Trustees for their consideration and approval. The Board discussed and voted to approve the new mission at their November 8, 2017 meeting.