



Via E-Mail

January 27, 2017

Laterica Quinn
DC Public Charter School Board
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Re: January 2017 Enrollment Ceiling Increase Request

Dear Members of the Board,

Enclosed please find KIPP DC's Charter Amendment Request for an Enrollment Ceiling Increase (the "Request").

As you will see, our Request seeks your approval to raise our overall enrollment ceiling by 2,970 students over the next nine years. Our plan to accomplish this plan is as follows:

- 1) PK3-8th Academy (Ward 7)** – We seek to serve 1,035 students at a state-of-the-art PK3-8th grade campus in partnership with the Nationals Youth Baseball Academy, which will have a sports-based curriculum and/or at Winston Education Campus, should we be awarded that site through an RFO process.
- 2) Hillcrest High School (Ward 7)** – We seek to serve 900 students at a new high school on a 12-acre property we own in the Hillcrest neighborhood.
- 3) Turnaround/Merger/Acquisition** – We seek to serve 1,035 students at a PK3-8th grade campus attained via a merger or turnaround of an existing charter school.

In sum, our growth plan would increase our enrollment ceiling from its current total of 6,584 students to 9,554 students.

There are three primary reasons why we are proposing this bold growth plan:

First, we are both determined and well-positioned to expand high-quality seats to students in the most educationally underserved communities. More than 17,000 students attend schools in the District of Columbia with combined proficiency rates lower than 20% on the 2015-16 Math and ELA PARCC assessments. More than half of these students attend school in Wards 7 and 8, where our schools have a 15-year history of academic achievement, and far outperform ward averages. These students deserve better options.



Second, our growth plan is designed to provide unique educational opportunities and support services to students that cannot be found at any other school in the city. With the proposed new PK3-8th Academy, we hope to have an opportunity to restore Winston Education Campus to the high-performing community school it should be. In conjunction with Winston, or in the alternative, we also have a chance to partner with the Nationals Youth Baseball Academy to utilize their state-of-the-art sports facilities and offer a sports-based curriculum unlike any other curriculum taught in the District. Regarding the proposed Hillcrest High School, our feeder demand will soon necessitate a second high school. To that end, we have purchased a 12-acre property where we can provide a college preparatory education and a college campus-like experience, thanks to the property's seclusion, opportunity for tree-lined views from each classroom, and dedicated road for pick-up and drop-off. Finally, to complete of our growth plan, we seek to add our seventh PK3-8th grade campus, ideally by turning around or merging with an existing charter school.

Third, this growth plan will help us continue to be leaders within the charter sector, especially in areas in which charter schools frequently come under criticism. We offer best-in-class services for special education students, as evidenced by our creation of the Learning Center, top-tier mental health services, and robust Special Education team. We welcome students at any year and any time, as evidenced by our backfilling throughout the year at every grade. We keep our students in school, as evidenced by our consistently strong attendance rates at all schools and all grades, despite our extended year and extended days.

In sum, we have an unrelenting focus on underserved populations. No matter where students come from or what challenges they face, we welcome them. Having successfully managed growth at an annual rate of approximately 20%, we also have the personnel, property, capacity, and financing to achieve this plan. For these reasons, we ask you to approve our Enrollment Ceiling Increase Request

Sincerely,

Terry Golden

KIPP DC Board Chair