A Note for Completing the Graduation Requirements
Charter Agreement Amendment Application

Overview
This application is for a school seeking approval from the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) to adopt graduation requirements in its charter agreement. Graduation requirements specify the courses and credits (e.g., Carnegie Units) a student must complete to earn a high school diploma.

Standard for Approval
DC PCSB uses its *High School Graduation Requirements Approval Process Policy* (*Graduation Requirements Policy*) to evaluate graduation requirements amendment requests. Consult the policy for the precise standard for approval.[1] In summary, DC PCSB staff will generally recommend that its Board approve graduation requirements amendment requests when the proposed graduation requirements are equivalent to or surpass the requirements outlined in Section 2203 of the D.C. Municipal Regulations (DCMR) Title 5-A, Chapter 22, which are listed below:

> A total of twenty-four (24) Carnegie Units in corresponding subjects and required volunteer community service hours shall have been satisfactorily completed for graduation.

Courses	Unit(s)
English	4.0
Mathematics; must include Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II at a minimum	4.0
Science; must include three (3) lab sciences	4.0
Social Studies; must include World History 1 and 2, United States History; United States Government, and District of Columbia History	4.0
World Language	2.0
Art	0.5
Music	0.5
Physical Education/Health	1.5
Electives	3.5
Courses	**Unit(s)**

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[1] See the *Graduation Requirements Policy* here: https://bit.ly/3gXEjjb.

Additionally, DC PCSB staff will generally recommend that its Board approve the charter agreement amendment request provided the proposed graduation requirements are consistent with the school's mission and the school demonstrates current students will remain on track for graduation.

Contact
Before completing the application, please contact Abby Getzel at agetzel@dcpcsb.org to discuss the proposed change.

Contact Melodi Sampson at msampson@dcpcsb.org if you have general questions about the charter agreement amendment process.

SCHOOL NAME: Digital Pioneers Academy
SUBMITTER: Mary Wells
SUBMISSION DATE: 6/24/21

SCHOOL BACKGROUND

Campus name(s) and location(s): Digital Pioneers Academy - Capitol Hill Campus, 709 12th St SE

Digital Pioneers Academy - Johenning Campus, 4025 9th St SE (facility 1) and 709 12th St SE (facility 2)

Year(s) opened: 2018

Grade served: 6, 7, 8, 9

Date the charter will be eligible for renewal: 2032-33

When did the school's board approve the proposed change(s)? Please attach minutes from the meeting and vote results. June 24, 2021 -- Unanimous Approval.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Describe the proposed graduation requirements and include them as an attachment to the application submission.

    The graduation requirements for Digital Pioneers Academy are directly related to our mission of developing the next generation of innovators. DPA graduation requirements are rigorous and mission-driven. Scholars will exceed DCPS' graduation requirements by 2.5 credits. In addition, they will need to graduate with 2 computer science credits in direct service of the mission. Finally, scholars will need to attempt at least 2 AP classes to be college- and career-ready.

2. If the proposed graduation requirements differ from the DCMR-outlined requirements, complete 2a. and 2b.
    a. Provide a crosswalk demonstrating how the proposed graduation requirements align with DCMR graduation requirements.

Courses	Unit(s)	DPA Crosswalk
English	4.0	English (4.0)
Mathematics; must include Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II at a minimum	4.0	Mathematics (4.0)
Science; must include three (3) lab sciences	4.0	Science (4.0)
Social Studies; must include World History 1 and 2, United States History; United States Government, and District of Columbia History	4.0	Social Studies (4.0)
World Language	2.0	Foreign Language (2.0)
Art	0.5	Art (0.5)
Music	0.5	Music (0.5)
Physical Education/Health	1.5	Health/PE (1.5)
Electives	3.5	Senior Capstone (1.0), Internship (1.0), Computer Science (2.0), Leadership Development (2.0).
Total	**24.0**	**26.5**

b. How will the school ensure students transferring into or exiting the school will be able to carryover credits from or to schools that follow DCMR graduation requirements?

Most of DPA's requirements mirror those of DCMR, but scholars coming from schools that do not require credits such as computer science or leadership will be able to satisfy those credits through other electives through a waiver process. If scholars transfer into schools with DCMR requirements, they can use computer science or leadership credits as elective credits.

3. How will the school ensure it maintains fidelity to its mission under the proposed graduation requirements?

The school's mission is to develop the next generation of innovators, who are prepared to be college- and career-ready, and we do this through our unique program that includes computer science. Beyond the DCMR graduation requirements, we will require that scholars attain credits in leadership,

computer science, internship and senior capstone, all of which contribute to the innovation we want our graduates to strive for by the time they leave us.

4. If the school grants waivers from a school-specific graduation requirement, describe the process by which the school's board will approve each student waiver.

   The school's board will approve each graduation requirement waiver in September and February of the scholar's graduation year. The scholar and family must complete the waiver request with appropriate reasoning (i.e. transferred in 10th grade and did not have time to meet all the credits), the principal and CEO must sign off on it, and then the full board must vote to approve the waiver request.