



Part I: General Information

All applicants must complete this section

SUBMITTED BY: **Michela English – DC Preparatory Academy PCS**

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: **8/13/2019**

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:
 - a) Campus name(s) and location(s): *Anacostia Middle Campus, Anacostia Elementary Campus, Benning Elementary Campus, Benning Elementary Campus, Edgewood Elementary Campus, Edgewood Middle Campus* **Click here to enter text.**
 - b) Year opened: **2002**
 - c) Grade levels served (Currently and at maturation of charter agreement, if applicable): **PS-8**
 - d) Date that charter will be eligible for possible renewal: **2032**
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. **June 20, 2021**

*If the school has multiple campuses or varying PMFs, please describe the academic performance of each campus here: All Campuses are Tier 1

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.

PROPOSAL

DC Preparatory Academy 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, 2020 (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.

Anacostia Middle Campus: DC Prep began planning for AEC during the 2017-2018 school year. DC Prep plans to sublease the ground floor of the Birney School for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. The Campus will open with a fourth grade for the fall of 2020. Over the past year, DC Prep has worked with neighbors, the school community for the current elementary school at 1409 V St. SE. DC Prep plans to continue collaborating with its new neighbors, the landlord Building Pathways, Excel School, and various neighbors. Building Pathways is an experienced property management contractor and has supported several projects throughout the city.

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

DC Prep's mission is to bridge the educational divide in the nation's capital by increasing the number of students from underserved communities with the academic preparation and personal character to succeed in competitive high schools and colleges. DC Prep currently operates five tuition-free public charter schools that are open to any child in Washington, enrolling over 1,700 students in grades Preschool – 8th grade. Historically, 98% of DC Prep students are African-American, and 2% are Hispanic; over 80% of students live in poverty, as measured by eligibility for free/reduced-price meals. DC Prep is the highest-performing network of public charter schools in Washington, DC.

Anacostia Middle Campus: Because of our "grow up" enrollment process at our Anacostia Elementary Campus, we plan to open a middle school for this school community for our rising 4th-grade students in the fall of 2020. We anticipate the full capacity of 330 students by 2024, when our current AEC 3rd grade students will be in 8th grade.

Every DC Prep 8th grade graduate (over 290) has been accepted by a college-prep high school, with over two-thirds admitted to selective schools including Benjamin Banneker, Choate Rosemary Hall, Sidwell Friends School, and School Without Walls, among others. Moreover, 96% of DC Prep's first six graduating classes have earned their high school diplomas. Also, 80% have matriculated to college, enrolling in schools such as George Mason, Georgetown, Gettysburg, Hampton, Vanderbilt, University of Maryland, and Howard.

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.

N/A

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](#).*

DC Prep has executed a sub-lease for the facility that will house the Anacostia Middle Campus. The sub-lease will commence from July 2020. With the proposed amendment, DC Prep will begin operating AMC at the beginning of SY20-21. In addition to occupancy costs for the new location, DC Prep will also invest in program and operations staff each year as we continue to grow and add grades at AMC. We expect a financial model similar to our existing elementary and middle school programs, which are sustainable on per pupil local funds along with federal support and private fundraising. Our 5-year consolidated budget is included as 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.]*

DC Prep has worked with community stakeholders, including the former commissioners for both our and future site. DC Prep has met with parishioners of St. Teresa, the previous and current Ward 8 Councilmember and presented at the Anacostia Historic District Community Meeting.

Since the spring of 2016, DC Prep hosted tours of the future site collecting feedback from neighbors regarding potential concerns. From the meeting and visits with various stakeholders, DC Prep conducted a traffic study to help plan the safest routes for arrival and dismissal. The school hosted a community block party to celebrate the groundbreaking with neighbors, local policymakers, and the school community.

DC Prep has attended the Ward 8 Ed Council and supported the Ward 8 Safe passage initiatives.

This group of neighbors, businesses, and churches represent the immediate neighbors to the new site.

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

The DC Prep Board approved the sublease for the AMC temporary location in January 2019. The vote was unanimous.