



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: Mary Wells - Digital Pioneers 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: 5/6/19

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): Digital Pioneers Academy PCS. Currently located at 2220 Branch Avenue SE, Washington, D.C. 20020; Proposing to relocate to 709 12th Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20003
b) Year opened: 2018
c) Grade levels served (Currently and at maturation of charter agreement, if applicable): Currently 6; Next year 6 and 7; Maturation 6-8
d) Date that charter will be eligible for possible renewal: June 30, 2033

- 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. Enter expiration date.

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

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**

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Digital Pioneers 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 22, 2019 (*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.

Digital Pioneers Academy PCS is proposing a charter amendment for a location change from 915 12th Street SE to 709 12th Street SE. We are creating this change in order to be able to house our charter to its full maturity of 360 scholars. Our current location does not have the capacity to house all of our scholars for next school year.

The new location will also be a stand alone location and we will not be sharing the building with other organizations as we have done this school year. We will be able to have greater space for instruction for our classrooms as well as additional spaces for services provided to our scholars.

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

The proposed amendment will allow for Digital Pioneers Academy to fully enroll for its forecasted 360 scholars in grades 6-8 in one location. This space will be able to accommodate our entire student body. It will also create additional spaces for our scholars to be able to participate in multiple "acceleration" or elective options. We currently are only able to offer robotics as our non-physical education elective offering. With the additional space we will be able to potentially offer additional accelerations that our scholars have shown interest in including chess, Spanish, studio art, and theater. This will allow our scholars to grow and develop in fields outside of Computer Science.

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.

Digital Pioneers Academy PCS has not received any notices of concerns, board actions, or community complaints. We also have not had an audit conducted yet due to us being in our first year of existence.

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



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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](#).*

Digital Pioneers Academy PCS has not had a Financial Audit Review yet. The proposed amendment would have an increased rent cost for our school as well as renovations and building maintenance costs. We will be able to still finance these costs with our per pupil facilities revenue.

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.]*

For the new community Digital Pioneers Academy PCS will be joining, we have reached out to Jessica Sutter, the State Board of Education representative for Ward 6 to discuss the transition. We are in the process of communicating with ANC 6B04 Commissioner Kirsten Oldenburg, ANC 6B Chair Chander Jayaraman, Tyler Elementary School Principal Brunson, and Tyler Elementary School Principal Brittany Thomas.

Digital Pioneers Academy PCS has already informed the East Washington Heights Baptist Church community, Kenneth Lesley the Education Committee Chair of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association, our local police officers, and other local stakeholders of us leaving our current location including our current neighboring Elementary Schools.

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

Our school's board of directors approved this proposed amendment by a vote of 7-0 (with 2 members not present). This vote passed on Thursday, April 18, 2019 via call at 6:00PM.