



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: Donald L. Hense – Friendship Public Charter School

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: 11/29/2018

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): Armstrong 101 O Street, NW; Blow Pierce Elementary 725 19th Street, NE; Blow Pierce Middle 725 19th Street, NE; Chamberlain Elementary 1345 Potomac Avenue, SE; Chamberlain Middle 1345 Potomac Avenue, SE; Collegiate Academy 4095 Minnesota Avenue, NE; Online 1351 Nicholson Street, NW; Southeast Elementary 645 Milwaukee Place, SE; Southeast Middle 645 Milwaukee Place, SE; Tech Prep Middle 620 Milwaukee Place, SE; Tech Prep High 2705 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE; Woodridge Elementary 2959 Carlton Avenue, NE; Woodridge Middle 2959 Carlton Avenue, NE
 - b) Year opened: 1998
 - c) Grade levels served (Currently and at maturation of charter agreement, if applicable): PK3 – 12th Grade
 - d) Date that charter will be eligible for possible renewal: June 30, 2028
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.

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.

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School is currently accredited. **May 1, 2022**

*If the school has multiple campuses or varying PMFs, please describe the academic performance of each campus here: **Friendship underwent a 20-year charter review in March 2018 and was deemed as meeting its goals and academic achievement expectations. For SY 2017-18, five campuses achieved Tier 1 status, several campuses ranked in the Top 10 for charter elementary and middle schools PMF performance, and one high school campus ranked in the Top 5 for charter high schools PMF performance. Most notably, Friendship Technology Preparatory High and Woodridge Middle increased their PMF scores by 23 and 20 points respectively. This is significant due to the higher proportion of Friendship students classified as at-risk compared to other Tier 1 schools.**

As it relates to PARCC outcomes, Friendship’s growth has outpaced the city average in ELA and is on par in math.

Below is a table of Friendship’s PMF performance.

Campus Name	SY 2017-18
Chamberlain Elementary	83.7%, T1
Woodridge Elementary	80.2%, T1
Blow Pierce Elementary	65.8%, T1
Southeast Elementary	55.3%, T2
Southeast Middle (4 th – 6 th)	N/A
Armstrong Elementary	48.9%, T2
FPCS Online K-8	54.8%, T2
Chamberlain Middle	62.1%, T2
Woodridge Middle	74.7%, T1
Blow Pierce Middle	56.4%, T2
Tech Prep Middle (7 th – 8 th)	44.0%, T2
Tech Prep High	77.9%, T1
Collegiate Academy	51.9%, T2

PROPOSAL

Friendship 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, 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.

Friendship acquisition of Ideal Academy PCS: Program Replication of Grades Served & Additional Facility or New Location

Friendship PCS was approached by Ideal Academy Public Charter School (Ideal) to consider assuming assets and operations of the school. Pending PCSB approval, Friendship PCS would assume operation of Ideal and its assets, and continue educational services in their facilities effective July 1, 2019. The PK3 -8 campus would become two campuses serving grades PK3 – 3rd and 4th through 8th. The academic program at our existing elementary and middle school campuses would be replicated at these sites. All students currently enrolled would be eligible to re-enroll without going through the My School DC Common Lottery.

Leadership of both LEAs have met to discuss the mission, school program, assets, and financials to determine if this proposed acquisition and replication are feasible and have entered into a memorandum of understanding.

Friendship Reconfiguration of Armstrong Campus: Program Replication of Grades Served & Campus Reconfiguration

For the reconfiguration and replication of the Armstrong campus from a PK3-5th to PK3 – 3rd and 4th – 8th campuses, this configuration replicates the current structure of our other Friendship elementary and middle campuses that have proven academically successful. The middle campus would grow a grade each year starting SY 2019-20 serving 4th through 6th grades. It also would support our re-enrollment efforts to keep the families of students who are promoted to the sixth grade instead of them withdrawing younger siblings to keep the children together at another PK3-8th grade school.

Friendship PCS has the infrastructure in place to support the increase in staffing (two additional teachers) annually at the middle campus as we are in the middle of our recruitment season as well as implement its educational programs as the campus grows to serve students in grades 6th – 8th.

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

Friendship was founded to ensure students receive a world-class education and become ethical, literate, well rounded, and self-sufficient citizens who contribute actively to their communities. This is an opportunity for Friendship to further its mission, which is aligned to Ideal's, by expanding its educational programming and services to include this school community. This amendment would also provide quality seats in this community.

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With regard to Armstrong, this reconfiguration and replication support our mission by ensuring students stay with us longer and are prepared for post-secondary options including getting to and through college.

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.

Since SY 2015-16, Friendship PCS has been 100% compliant according to PCSB's Annual Compliance Review and has received no board actions. In 2017, in response to an anonymous complaint the PCSB audited discipline data for discipline reporting and also audited data related to disproportionate suspensions. The PCSB found that all discipline data was accurately reported and that there was one attendance error (a student incorrectly coded) that was addressed by the school. For the audit on disproportionate suspensions, the context provided by Friendship PCS addressed the concern. DC PCSB staff closed both audits and determined that no corrective action was necessary.

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](#).*

Friendship PCS has a longstanding history of strong financial performance with a score of 95.1% on its most recent DC PCSB Financial Audit Review ("FAR") making it a Tier 1 financial performer, clean audits, and reserves. We have finished each year with a balanced budget and fully funded our reserves. All anticipated expenses are related to the operation of the school and will be funded with per pupil revenue from school operations. With existing contracts for goods and services, our assumption of Ideal PCS expenses will be at a lower cost given Friendship PCS economies of scale.

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.]*

Ideal and Friendship PCS were on the agenda for ANC 4B's meeting on November 26 to discuss the proposed partnership and to address any questions or concerns. The ANC voted unanimously in support of Friendship's assumption of Ideal.



Ideal has informed school leadership and staff and is issuing a notification and invitations to parents to engage with Friendship. Friendship has visited the school several times to interface with staff and learn firsthand about the culture, mission, values and academic progress of Ideal.

To date, there have been no concerns expressed about the replication or proposed acquisition.

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

Friendship's Board convened a special meeting of the executive committee on November 9, 2018, and approved a resolution to move forward with a charter amendment regarding Ideal. In addition, the Friendship Armstrong reconfiguration and replication amendment and the Ideal asset acquisition agreement and amendment will be discussed and voted on at the December Annual Meeting. Draft meeting minutes will be submitted to DC PCSB prior to its December 17 Public Meeting.