

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FORM FOR
MODIFYING AN APPROVED CHARTER**

<u>EastSide Charter School of Wilmington, Inc.</u> Name of School	
<u>Charles S. McDowell</u> Chair of the Board of Directors	<u>c/o Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP P.O. Box 951 Wilmington, DE 19899</u> Mailing Address of the Chair of the Board of Directors
<u>(302) 984-6012</u> Telephone Number of the Chair of the Board of Directors	<u>(302) 778-6012</u> Fax Number of the Chair of the Board of Directors
<u>Lamont W. Browne</u> Head of School/Principal	<u>c/o EastSide Charter School 3000 Claymont Street Wilmington, DE 19808</u> School Mailing Address
<u>(302) 762-5834. Ext. 103</u> School Telephone Number	<u>(302) 762-3864</u> School Fax Number

December 19, 2012
Date Modification Application Submitted

Minor Modification Application Narrative

1. East Side Charter School’s Board of Directors wishes to modify the enrollment limits of the School’s current charter by 5.2% (20 students) for the 2013-2014 school year. The following chart shows the increase we seek:

Current and Proposed Enrollment Limits

Grade	Number of Students		
	2012-2013		2013-2014
	Current Charter	Current Enrollment	Anticipated Enrollment
K	57	57	60
1	60	55	50
2	60	55	50
3	60	40	50
4	53	58	36
5	32	28	50
6	32	45	40
7	16	32	40
8	16	22	30
Total	386	392	406

2. The reason for the request is due to natural growth of the school due to improved school climate and student achievement which has led to increased parent and student satisfaction and thus higher retention of students. The following tables show our current enrollment breakdown and 3 year enrollment projection assuming similar rates of retention and new applicants as the last two years.

2012-2013										
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Students	57	55	55	40	58	28	45	32	22	392
Classes	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	21
Class. Sz.	19	18	18	20	19	14	22	16	22	19

2013-2014										
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Students	60	50	50	50	36	50	40	40	30	406
Classes	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	23
Class Sz.	20	17	17	17	18	17	20	20	15	18

2014-2015										
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Students	60	55	46	46	46	32	46	37	38	406
Classes	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	23
Class Sz.	20	18	15	15	15	16	23	19	19	18

2015-2016										
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Students	60	55	50	43	43	43	40	43	35	412
Classes	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	22
Class Sz.	20	18	17	14	22	22	20	22	18	18

3. Before the 2011-2012 school year, a new Head of School was hired and with that change brought a substantial improvement in the quality of the teaching staff and the academic program provided. School leadership focused intently on the following elements: teacher recruitment and retention; instructional quality, instructional feedback and professional development; school climate; and parent involvement.
4. Student Achievement. As a result of this intense focus, EastSide saw a vast improvement in student achievement as demonstrated on the 2012 DCAS exam and MAP assessment described in the tables below:

DCAS Proficiency Scores	
Baseline Spring 2011	
Reading	Math
29%	39%
Delaware Flexibility Target	
Reading	Math
34%	44%
Spring 2012	
Reading	Math
49%	52%

EastSide DCAS Proficiency Rate Comparison				
	Reading		Math	
Grade	Spring 2011	Spring 2012	Spring 2011	Spring 2012
3	25%	56%	30%	59%
4	22%	49%	33%	50%
5	15%	39%	36%	56%
6	44%	49%	31%	38%
7	22%	57%	67%	55%
8	44%	39%	50%	56%

2011-2012 Years of Academic Growth

	Reading	Math
Grade 2	0.9	0.8
Grade 3	1.0	1.4
Grade 4	1.0	1.6
Grade 5	0.8	2.2
Grade 6	1.0	1.1
Grade 7	1.3	2.0
Grade 8	0.7	0.8

This represents overall growth for all EastSide students of 1.01 years on average in Reading and 1.40 years of growth in Math in a period that encompassed just 85% of the school year as measured by their performance on the MAP test.

5. School Climate. In addition to an improvement in the student achievement, school climate and student behavior improved dramatically as the out of school suspension rate improved significantly from the first half of the school year (September through January) to the second half of the school year (February through June).

Time Frame	Suspensions / 1000 days
September 2011–January 2012	8.32
February 2012 – June 2012	4.65*
September 2012 – November 2012	2.81

**This represents an improvement over the same time period of the previous year which was 5.292 suspensions per 1000 days.*

6. Parent Satisfaction. As a result of this relentless focus on putting our students first, Parent Satisfaction is at an all time high. A parent survey was administered to parents in May and June of 2012. We received roughly a 40% response rate of parents of non-graduating students. The results of the survey were very positive showing a high degree of trust and overall satisfaction that our parents have with the way EastSide is educating their children. Below is a sample of some of the survey questions and responses. To improve the response rate as well as to have information in order to make immediate adjustments, we will administer the parent survey in February or March of 2013.

Survey Question	Strongly Agree or Agree	Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Q2. My child is learning what he or she needs to know to succeed in later grades.	93.2%	2.8%
Q3. My child tries hard in his/her class.	94.6%	2.8%
Q4. I receive adequate and timely information about my child's learning goals and progress at school.	89.2%	10.2%

Q6. My child's teacher promptly returns my phone calls, messages, or email.	89.1%	7.5%
Q7. The school helps me understand how best to support my child's learning at home.	85.8%	12.3%
Q8. The school tells me about the expectations for student behavior.	95.5%	4.1%
Q9. Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled during times that are convenient for my schedule.	91.4%	5.4%
Q11. My child's teacher treats me with respect and dignity.	97.2%	1.4%
Q16. How likely are you to recommend EastSide to friends and community members?	87.2%	12.9%
Q17. How likely are you to return to EastSide Charter for the next school year?	88.4%	11.6%
Q34. How well the school is helping students learn.	91.7%	5.5%

7. Student Retention. This increase in parent and student satisfaction, has resulted in a high rate of student retention (81% of non-graduating students, with more (?) than 50% of those not returning due to a move or relocation). This high retention has led to a pattern of enrollment increase since the new Head of School was hired.

2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
347	375	401	392
		4% above authorized enrollment	2% above authorized enrollment

8. Class Size and Staffing. Average class size will remain below 18 students, with a maximum class size of 20 students. The overall student teacher ratio will be less than 12:1. For the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years, two additional teachers will be hired as a result of our student configuration and growth.
9. Facility. The facility at which EastSide resides has the current capacity to house the extra students without any additional capital expenses. We anticipated the potential for this growth and made minor facility renovations during the summer of 2012 to accommodate the two additional classrooms.
10. Financial Implications. For the first time in the history of EastSide, the school will have a total of four 7th and 8th grade homerooms. This requires us to hire two new teachers to accommodate our 23 classes for the 2013-2014 school year regardless of an increase in enrollment. Based on our current enrollment projection model, we will maintain 23 classes until the 2015 school year at which point we will drop down to 22 classes while maintaining the same enrollment. These changes will result

in a decrease of our anticipated budgetary surplus for FY13 and a substantial increase in surplus each year thereafter. The table below shows our current anticipated budgetary surplus and the change in our revenue, expenses, and surplus for each of the next three years.

	Additional Revenue	Additional Expenses	Anticipated Budgetary Surplus
2012-2013			\$182,800 - current
2013-2014	\$89,800	\$115,350	\$157,250
2014-2015	\$89,800	\$111,350	\$161,250
2015- indefinitely	\$89,800	\$58,950	\$213,650

ASSURANCES

The Board of Directors of this charter school assures that the school will:

- 1) Be in full compliance with **14 Delaware Code, Chapter 5 and 14 DE Admin Code, Section 275 in the Regulations of the Department of Education.**
- 2) Not discriminate against any student in the admissions process because of race, creed, color, sex, handicap, or national origin or because a student's school district of residence has a per student local expenditure lower than another student seeking admission.
- 3) Not operate in a sectarian manner or include religious practices in its educational program.
- 4) Participate in the Delaware Student Testing Program and meet the requirements for school accountability as described in state law.
- 5) Manage the school within all State administrative and financial systems listed in **14 Delaware Code, Section 512 (9).**
- 6) Initiate and maintain direct communication with other public and nonpublic schools to assure efficient notification and transfer and exchange of records.
- 7) The school's board of directors will not implement any modifications to the charter school program or operation without the express written consent of the Department of Education.
- 8) Notify the Department of Education in writing within 30 days when the school's administrative head or any member of the board of directors change.
- 9) Provide the Department of Education with copies of all the policies and bylaws of the school and the school's board of directors and inform the Department in a timely manner when bylaws change.
- 10) By September 1 of each school year, provide the Department of Education with evidence of the certification status of teachers employed at the school.
- 11) Employ only staff who have complied with the requirement of having a successful criminal background check and report to the Department of Education by September 1 of each school year that the school is in full compliance with state law related to this requirement.
- 12) Cooperate fully with Department of Education requests for reporting information and activities related to monitoring the school's compliance with the charter and applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

13) Comply with the provisions for a Performance Agreement, as required by the Secretary of Education.

14) Distribute copies of the Department's **Parent Guide to Delaware Charter Schools** to all parents seeking to enroll their child(ren) as well as to parents of enrolled children.

15) Conduct all meetings of the board of directors in a manner consistent with the Freedom of Information Act, especially the legal requirements of **29 Delaware Code, Sections 10002, 10003 and 10004**.

16) The Board of Directors will include a member who is a certificated teacher employed by the school and a member who is a parent of a student currently enrolled in the school, consistent with **14 Delaware Code, Section 512(1)**.

17) Comply with the requirements for reporting school crimes as described in **14 Delaware Code, Section 4112**.

18) Maintain on file a written statement signed by the parent or guardian of each enrolled child acknowledging that the child will attend the charter school for at least one complete school year.

19) Advise any person or entity offering a loan to the school that debts of the school are not debts of the State of Delaware and that neither the State nor any other agency nor instrumentality of the State is responsible for the repayment of any indebtedness.

As members of the Board of Directors of the Charter Holder, we hereby agree to these assurances as a condition of the approval of the charter modification.

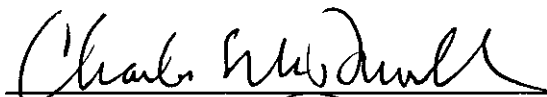
We have reviewed the Delaware Charter Law (14 Delaware Code, Chapter 5) and 14 DE Admin Code, Section 275 in the Regulations of the Department of Education (Regulation 275), and have based the responses in this application on the review of these documents.

December 19, 2012

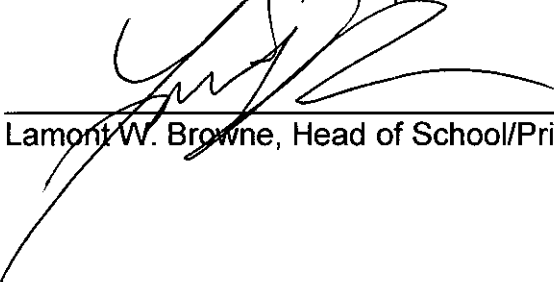
Date of Signature

EastSide Charter School of Wilmington, Inc.

Name of the Charter School



Charles S. McDowell, Chairperson of the Board of Directors



Lamont W. Browne, Head of School/Principal