

May 14, 2014

To whom it may concern:

EastSide Charter School intends to apply for charter renewal by September 30, 2014. The school is one of Delaware's fastest growing and rapidly improving schools in recent years. EastSide has met the standards on the Financial and Organizational Performance Frameworks each of the last two years and increased the number of cell targets met on the Academic Performance Framework from 1 in 2010-2011 to 7 in 2012-2013 with 12 cells meeting the target or increasing from the previous year. This is just part of the story that demonstrates the tremendous progress and success our school has had over the last 3 years.

Under new school leadership as of July 2011, EastSide has seen a 22 point growth in DCAS math proficiency scores and a 27 point growth in ELA from the spring of 2011 to the spring of 2013. In 2013 79% of EastSide Students made significant progress in math and 75% of students made significant progress in ELA as measured by the state. These numbers represented 20 and 34 point improvements in math and ELA respectfully over a two year period.

The school has made significant progress in academic performance, moving from a "Falls Far Below Standard" rating to a "Does Not Meet Standard" rating, specifically increasing its overall score from 35.9% in 2011 to 61.3% in 2013. We are proud that this 24.4 point growth represents the highest growth of all Delaware charter schools over that time frame (average charter school growth was 10%). The school is well on its way to exceeding the minimum score needed to meet the state standard in the Academic Performance Framework following the 2013-2014 school year.

Financially, EastSide has met standards for the past two years and has recently hired a new Finance Director for 2014-2015 to ensure financial compliance and efficiency. The school has also met organizational performance standards for the past two years and is on track to continue meeting standards for organizational efficiency in the future.

EastSide is humbled to be considered a model for urban school turnaround, with our year highlighted by a visit from Governor Jack Markell, Delaware Secretary of Education Mark Murphy and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, each of whom eagerly touted EastSide as a model for school culture, staff commitment, and innovative practices with the suggestions of state-wide replication. We recognize that we have not yet achieved our ultimate goal – to be the highest performing public school in the state – and we still have significant room to grow. However, we are confident that we have the staff, the leadership, the drive, the commitment, and the will to do everything it takes to ensure that every child in our school receives a high quality education that prepares our students for life-long personal success. We appreciate the Department's work to ensure the quality of charter schools across the state and look forward to displaying EastSide's quality improvements and future plans during the charter renewal process.

Sincerely,



Lamont W. Browne, Ed. D
Head of School/Principal

