

Appendix XVI: Minor Modification for Enrollment

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

East Side Charter School of Wilmington, Inc.
Name of School

Charles S. McDowell
Chair of the Board of Directors

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September 30, 2014
Date Modification Application Submitted

Minor Modification Application Narrative

1. East Side Charter School’s Board of Directors wishes to modify its charter with respect to enrollment as follows:
 - a. Increase the enrollment limits by 4.98% (20 students).
 - b. Provide an enrollment preference for siblings of current students.
 - c. Provide an enrollment preference for students living within a 5 mile radius of the School.
 - d. Provide an enrollment preference for children of employees of the School who work regularly at least 30 hours per week. .

Current and Proposed Enrollment Limits

	Number of Students		
Grade	Current Charter	Current Enrollment	Proposed Enrollment
K	60	59	63
1	50	45	54
2	50	53	48
3	50	59	50
4	36	43	56
5	50	41	40
6	40	52	34
7	40	36	48
8	30	33	33
Total	406	421	426

2. Authorization for increased enrollment is requested to accommodate the increased organic growth within the School resulting from 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 4 year enrollment projection assuming similar rates of retention and new applicants as experienced during the last three years.

2014-2015										
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Students	59	45	53	59	43	41	52	36	33	421

2015-2016										
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Students	63	54	48	50	56	40	34	48	33	426*

2016-2017										
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Students	63	58	50	50	50	52	35	32	45	435*

2017-2018										
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Students	63	58	52	50	48	48	47	33	30	429*

2018-2019										
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Students	63	58	52	50	50	46	46	44	31	440*

*With an authorized enrollment of 426, taking into account the allowable 5% excess, permissible enrollment would be up to 447.

3. A goal of EastSide Charter is to become a full service community school by providing a venue for the delivery of a range of services to our nearby community. Thus the enrollment preferences are to enhance our connection with our key constituents: our existing student families, our employees and our neighborhood.
4. Under the continued leadership of our Head of School, the school continues to place a substantial focus on the quality of the teaching staff and the academic program provided. School leadership focuses intently on the following elements: teacher recruitment and retention; instructional quality, instructional feedback and professional development; school climate; and parent involvement.
5. Student Achievement
 EastSide Charter School has made significant gains in student achievement over the past three school years. Our academic performance framework score has increased drastically since 2011, rising from 37.5% to 71.9%, far above our goal and the “meets standard” benchmark of 63%. Of the metrics that factor in to our Academic Performance Framework score, 18 out of 18 increased from 2011, with 16 out of 18 cells having a higher rating than in 2011. This does not include our Mission Specific Goal which had a target of 1.15 years of academic growth each year, for our students. On average, EastSide students make 1.48 average years of academic growth in Math and 1.7 average years of academic growth in ELA, thus exceeding that standard as demonstrated on our Academic Performance Framework report. With an intense focus on personnel recruitment and staffing, professional development, and rigorous curriculum and instruction, our students have made significant strides. By continuing our intense focus on these areas, we expect to see further improvement in the quality of our instruction, the impact of our leadership, and the preparedness of our students.

Below are several tables that outline the significant improvement in our school's academic achievement followed by a brief narrative noting our strengths and opportunities for growth.

DCAS Proficiency					
	2010-2011			2013-2014	
Math	37%		➔	64%	
ELA	28%			58%	

We are thoroughly happy with these results and have exceeded our annual internal goals each year. While we are still below the state average and strive to “Exceed Standards”, our annual progress has been consistent and we expect to continue getting closer and eventually achieve that goal.

Fall to Spring Growth Targets					
	2010-2011			2013-2014	
Math	39%		➔	75%	
ELA	27%			62%	

For each of the past three years, we have seen a dramatic rise in the number of students meeting their growth targets. Between the '12-'13 and '13-'14 school years, a total of 14 educators earned the state's Retention Bonus for their instructional performance.

Year	AYP Status
2010-11	Meets
2011-12	Meets
2012-13	Meets
2013-14	Meets

2013-2014 Academic Performance Framework Summary

Year	1.a. Growth		1.b. Bottom 25%		1.c. Growth to Prof		2.a. Prof		2.b. Overall Subgroup		2.c. District		2.d. Similar Schools		3.a. AYP	4.a. SAT	4.b. Grad Rate	5.a. Mission Specific	OVERALL RATING/SCORE	
	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA	Math	ELA						
10-11	F	F	M	F	D	F	F	F	D	F	F	F	D	F	M	N/A	N/A	N/A	F	37.5%
11-12	D	D	D	D	D	D	F	F	D	D	F	F	D	D	M	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	46.9%
12-13	M	D	M	M	M	M	D	F	D	D	D	D	M	M	M	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	61.9%
13-14	M	M	E	M	M	M	D	D	D	D	D	D	M	M	M	N/A	N/A	E	M	71.9%

6. Climate

In addition to the improvement in our student achievement we have likewise seen a dramatic improvement in the total number of suspensions (per 1000 school days).

Suspensions (per 1000 school days)	
School Year	Total Suspensions
2011 - 2012	6.29
2012 - 2013	3.46
2013 - 2014	1.31

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.

September 30, 2014

Date of Signature

East Side 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