



FIRST STATE MILITARY ACADEMY

MINOR MODIFICATION

16 NOVEMBER 2018

**DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
APPLICATION TO MODIFY AN APPROVED CHARTER
2019-2020**

DE Department of Education
Charter School Office
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901
Phone: (302) 735-4020
Fax: (302) 739-4483



First State Military Academy

C. Scott Kidner, Chairman of the Board
Patrick R. Gallucci, Commandant
Colonel Robert E. Wallace, USMC (Ret.)
Cassandra R. McKay, Director of Personnel and Administration
Arles D. Wood, Operations Officer



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Table of Contents

Letter.....Page 3
 Section A Core Questions.....Page 4
 Section B Core Questions.....Page 5



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Minor Modification

November 10, 2018

Charter School Office
Mr. John Carwell
Delaware Department of Education
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901-3639

Dear Mr. Carwell;

Attached you will find First State Military Academy's (FSMA) minor modification seeking to alter our enrollment by decreasing the number from 500 to 475.

We are seeking this modification to reflect our ongoing commitment to our Cadets and their families by maintaining the 1 to 25 teacher to cadet ratio. Additionally, we have maximized all usable space on our campus for classrooms, such that by seeking over 500 cadets, we believe, will have a negative impact upon both our culture as well as our physical plant.

As you review the attached, please do not hesitate in contacting myself or Patrick Gallucci, our Commandant, with any questions or issues unresolved in this document.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Scott Kidner".

C. Scott Kidner
Board Chairman



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Minor Modification Application to the Delaware Department of Education

Section A Core Questions:

1. What modification does the school's Board of Directors want to make to the term(s) of the charter? Identify the page number(s) on which the term(s) is/are stated in the currently approved charter. If the term(s) of the charter the school wants to modify is/are conditions placed on the charter by the Secretary of Education and members of the State Board of Education, state the condition(s) and the date(s) on which the condition(s) was/were placed on the school's charter.

The Board of Directors of First State Military Academy requesting to change our enrollment with a decrease from 500 to 475.

2. What is the effective date of the proposed modification?

The effective date for this modification is to the first day of the 2020 fiscal year.

3. The authorizer will review your most recent Performance Review Reports as part of your application. Discuss the school's academic performance, compliance with the terms of its charter, and financial viability as measured by the Performance Framework.

This move will assist with our academic performance. We currently have enough space to house 475 cadets in our classrooms. This will keep our class sizes at or below 25. Increasing our enrollment to 500 will force us to enlarge class sizes which will have a negative effect on our academic performance.

4. Describe the rationale for the request(s). Discuss any relevant research base or evidence that supports this type of request. (Attachments may be provided)

Lack of physical space.



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5. Describe how the proposed modification will impact the operation of the school. Include how student achievement, staffing, facilities, and financial viability of the school may be impacted in the current school year and for the remainder of the school's charter term.

The reduction will allow us to stay with ten school buses. If we add more cadets then the school may be forced to an additional bus.

5. Indicate the projected impact, if any, of the proposed modification on the schools present financial position, and its financial position going forward. If the modification promises to create financial challenges, indicate how those will be remedied.

The budget submitted at renewal are estimating our growth to 475.

Section B Questions:

1. Describe the nature and extent of the proposed changes to the school's current grade configuration, if applicable. Indicate whether you seek to add or cease offering a grade or grades, substantially increase or decrease current enrollment practices and/or projections for future enrollment, etc. *(Please make sure to indicate whether you seek an increase or reduction of enrollment of between 5 and 15% or more than 15% of the currently approved total enrollment and note that modification requests that fall into those ranges must be received by the Department of Education's Charter School Office between November 1 and December 31.)*

There is no change with the current grade configuration. The school's goal is to enroll 125 to 135 ninth graders every year. Through the normal process of attrition, the number of cadets in eleventh and twelve grade are reduced.

2. If your proposed modification involves an expansion of greater than 15% of your currently approved enrollment and the change will be effective within 18 months of the date of this application, identify the impacts of this expansion on the surrounding school districts and community for consideration.

****Please note:** In addition to meeting the approval criteria established in 14 Del. C. § 512, an authorizer considering a charter school's application for expansion by more than 15% occurring less than 18 months from the date of the modification application shall also consider impact of



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the proposed new school or expansion. **“Impact”** is the positive and negative effect that a new charter school or charter school expansion, if it should be approved, is projected to have upon the surrounding area and the education system of the state. Information regarding Impact may, by itself or in combination with other factors, form the basis for conditions being placed on the approval of a new charter school or modification. Impact shall include educational, financial, and community information.

Pursuant to 14 Del. C. § 511(b)(4), “information regarding impact may, by itself or in combination with other factors, form the basis for conditions being placed on the approval. Those conditions may include but shall not be limited to restrictions or prohibitions on geographic location, programmatic offerings, academic focus or emphasis, and grade levels served.”

For each application, members of the public will have the opportunity to submit public comments that describe the positive and negative impact that the proposed charter school will have on the surrounding area and the education system of the state. Based on the information submitted in these public comments, the Department of Education and the State Board of Education may propose conditions relating to impact. A charter applicant will have opportunities to respond to any proposed conditions at the CSAC Final Meeting, a public hearing, and in writing prior to the decision on whether the charter is approved.

3. Describe the projected impact of the enrollment modification on the school’s program, mission, culture and offerings (both academic and non-academic).

We believe the decrease in total cadet population will positively impact the culture, will maintain our commitment to 1 to 25 cadets or less, will reduce our transportation needs,, but will not have any impact upon our mission or offerings.

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