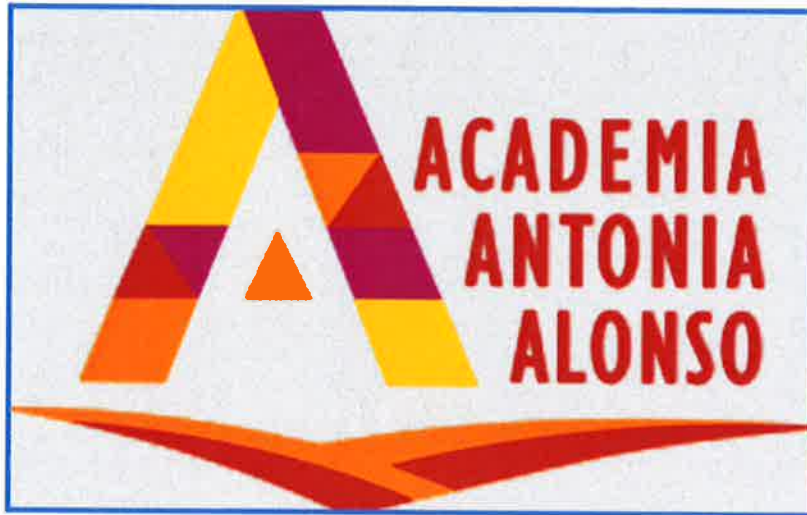


ACADEMIA ANTONIA ALONSO CHARTER SCHOOL



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

APPLICATION TO MODIFY AN APPROVED CHARTER

FEBRUARY 6th, 2018

DE Department of Education

Charter School Office

401 Federal Street, Suite 2

Dover, DE 19901

Phone: (302) 735-4020 Fax: (302) 739-4483

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Modification Chart.....p. 3
Section A Core Questions.....p. 4
Section F Questions.....p. 6

Appendix A –

Annual Report 2016-2017.....p. 8

Appendix B-

Letter from Innovative Schools.....p.9

CHARTER SCHOOL MODIFICATION APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Table 1

Minor Modification (Section A Only)	Major Modification (Section A AND additional questions identified below)
Enrollment change (increase or decrease) between 5 and 15%	Performance Agreement Section A only
Change agreement with EMO/CMO	Enrollment change (increase or decrease) of greater than 15% Section B
Start date (one-time) delay	Grade Configuration (adding grade levels or reducing grade levels) Section C
Name of charter school	Educational Program (i.e. curriculum) Section D
Existing or planned school facilities or structures (including any plan to use temporary or modular structures)	Mission (includes At-Risk designation) Section E
Change in terms to current site facility arrangement (i.e. lease to purchase)	X Replace, remove, or add EMO/CMO, or transfer of authorizer Section F
Educator Evaluation Process	Enrollment Preferences Section G
A change to the current authorized number of hours, either daily or annually, devoted to actual school sessions.	Location change Section H
Other	Goals for student performance Section I

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.

With this submission, the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School ("La Academia" or the "School") seeks to modify the following provision of the Original Charter Application submitted in 2012, to be amended by this Major Modification submitted to the Delaware Department of Education on February 6th, 2018.

La Academia is requesting to remove the Charter Management Organization, "Innovative Schools" as the School's CMO. Innovative Schools has been the designated CMO for La Academia from 2012 to February 1st, 2018 as indicated on pages 5 and 61 of the School's Original Charter Application, submitted to the DDOE in 2012. On January 24th, 2018, the Chairman of the Board for Innovative Schools provided a letter to the Board President of La Academia, informing the School that Innovative Schools would no longer be providing back office support as a service to Charter Schools in the state of Delaware and therefore discontinuing services to La Academia effective February 1st, 2018.

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

The Board requests that the Modification be approved retroactively to February 1st, 2018. Given that the Board President was made aware of the discontinuation of services by an informal phone call made by a Consultant of Innovative Schools in mid- January of 2018 and a formal letter was subsequently provided on January 24th, 2018, La Academia was able to submit the Major Modification on February 6th to the Delaware DOE. As such, La Academia is requesting approval of the request retroactively, effective February 1st, 2018.

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.

Please see the School's 2016-1017 Annual Report, provided in Appendix A, page 8 of this document.

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*).

The board of La Academia intended to contract with Innovative Schools as their Charter Management Organization (CMO) for at least the first five years of the school's existence or until the School had built capacity to no longer need the services provided by Innovative Schools.

Innovative Schools initially provided consultation and support to implement Expeditionary Learning, staffing and administrative back office support services to La Academia. The contractual relationship between La Academia and Innovative Schools was intentionally created so that Innovative Schools could help La Academia build capacity over the first several years of the School's existence. Innovative Schools was contracted to help build the capacity of La Academia's operations and staff, so that the School could sustain the administrative functions of the school independent of a CMO by or around the time of the school's first charter renewal.

Over the first four years of La Academia's existence, the school has worked diligently to build capacity such that all of the original services provided by Innovative Schools and noted in the above paragraph, have diminished to solely accounting and bookkeeping services as of January 31, 2018. At this time, La Academia has the capacity to hire its own accountant and bookkeeper, which are the only remaining services that Innovative Schools had been providing La Academia currently.

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 two Innovative School employees that were providing the School with back office support are no longer employed by the CMO effective February 1st, 2018. The two Innovative School employees that were providing back office to the School will be working respectively as a part-time employee of La Academia and the other will serve as an external consultant hired by the school, a bookkeeper and an accountant respectively and effective February 1st, 2018. Given that these two individuals have had a positive and effective working relationship with the School, the aforementioned services provided by these two individuals will continue without interruption through the school year. The only change being made at this time is that La Academia will directly employ the accountant and the bookkeeper.

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

Given that La Academia will be directly employing the accounting and bookkeeping services, these two remaining services that were being contracted through Innovative Schools will offer a fiscal benefit to the School. La Academia actually will be incurring less cost for said services given that the overhead charged by Innovative Schools for providing these two services will be eliminated, which in turn favors La Academia fiscally.

Section F Questions:

1. If you are seeking to transfer your current authorizer to another, detail the rationale and identify the projected benefits to the school and its students. Identify the prospective challenges and indicate your plans for remediation.

The Board has worked to support the La Academia in building capacity of all of the administrative functions and operations of the school. At this time the School is prepared to directly employ an accountant and bookkeeper. These were the only remaining services that Innovative Schools was currently providing the school.

2. Detail the reason(s) for seeking to add, replace or remove EMO/CMO. Identify any prospective challenges and indicate your plans for remediation. Include the projected benefits. (Note: Pursuant to 14 DE Admin. Code 275.9.4.3, an application to replace, remove or permit the school to operate without an educational management organization providing administrative, managerial or instructional staff or services to the charter holder at any time before the first Instructional Day I considered an application for a new charter and shall not be processed or considered as a modification application).

Academia Antonia Alonso's original charter application stated on p.61 of the application, that the contractual relationship between La Academia and Innovative Schools was created so that Innovative Schools could help La Academia build capacity over the first several years of the School's existence. Innovative Schools was contracted to help build the capacity of La Academia's operations and staff, so that the School could sustain the administrative functions of the school independent of a CMO by or around the time of the school's first charter renewal.

The Board of La Academia has been focused on developing capacity for the School over the past several years and has successfully achieved this goal. The

two remaining back office support positions regarding accounting and bookkeeping functions which are the last two remaining services that Innovative Schools was providing La Academia, can now be absorbed and taken on by the School. As noted previously, there is fiscal benefit to directly employing these services as the overhead paid to Innovative Schools for these services has been eliminated.

3. If the proposed modification will entail costs that the school is not currently carrying, please identify them and present financial information indicating that such costs are viable and how the school will address them.

As noted in question number 2 above, there is no additional cost to the School and in fact the cost of accounting and bookkeeping services which were the remaining services provided by the CMO, will be slightly reduced with the elimination of overhead costs incurred with the CMO as intermediary of said services.

4. If the school seeks to add or replace an EMO/CMO, please present evidence that its program is sound, and that affiliation with that organization is likely to improve academic performance for students.

La Academia does not seek to add or replace the CMO at this time. The School has built capacity and will no longer require the back office support services previously provided by its CMO, Innovative Schools.