

**DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**APPLICATION TO MODIFY AN APPROVED**  
**CHARTER**  
**Minor Modification for Delaware Design Lab**  
**High School Inc.**  
**August 2018**

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Modification Chart

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

## 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 Delaware Design-Lab High School, Inc. (DDLHS or the school) seeks to modify the following provisions of the original charter, as amended by Major Modification on March 17, 2017; April 19, 2018; and other minor modifications (collectively the Amended Charter):

In Section 1, Page 1 of the Executive Summary of the original charter application the school is named Delaware Design-Lab High School, Inc. and requests its name now be Design Thinking Academy. The formal corporate name will be Design Thinking Academy, Inc.

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

The Board requests the Modification be made retroactively to July 23, 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 schools 2017 Annual report attached hereto as Exhibit A.

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 Design-Lab name is a trademark of the Design-Lab Schools, LLC, which is no longer affiliated with the school. In an effort to establish the school as an independently operated organization, a new name and brand have been identified, Design Thinking Academy. This was unanimously passed at the July 23, 2018 Board of Director's meeting. Please see the minutes, Attachment B.

Design Thinking remains the signature instructional practice of the school. The new name identifies the pedagogy and provides the school with the opportunity to develop curriculum and pathways that align with student voice and choice and the rapidly changing industries of the future.

The school will be amending its corporate filing to reflect the name change.

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.

It is unlikely the name will impact operations of the school, impact student achievement, staffing, facilities, or the financial viability of the school. The school is scheduled for renewal in the Fall of 2018 and will assess the early impacts of the name change at that time.

The school is hopeful that the name change will positively impact student recruitment and retention. The school is currently experiencing a renaissance with the introduction of its first Strategic Plan, opening as an "XQ Superschool" (in concept only not an actual building), a new robust focus on design thinking implementation across all content areas and within administration, and finally the new branding. These exciting new changes may attract new positive attention and draw students to the school.

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.

The Board anticipated these changes and budgeted carefully to accommodate the need for branding, new signage, marketing materials, IP address, and sports uniforms. All of the costs are within the budget and offer no fiscal challenges to our school.