



New Charter Applications 2016-17 Cycle

*Presentation to the School Reform Commission
Charter Schools Office*

February 8, 2017



PA Charter School Law (CSL) Requirements

- CSL specifies guidelines for reviewing charter applications
 - Demonstrated, sustainable support for the charter school plan by teachers, parents and other community members and students, including comments received at the public hearing
 - Capability of the applicant, in terms of support and planning, to provide comprehensive learning experiences to students
 - Extent to which the application considers the information specified in 1719-A and conforms to the legislative intent outlined in 1702-A of the CSL
 - Extent to which the charter school may serve as a model for other public schools
- CSL specifies rigid timeline for the application review process
 - Applications must be accepted through November 15
 - At least one public hearing must be held on each application within 45 days of the receipt of the application
 - A decision on each application must be made within 75 days but no sooner than 45 days from the date of the first hearing



Philadelphia 2016-17 New Charter Application Cycle

- Five (5) applications were received by the November 15, 2016 deadline
 - Two (2) applications were withdrawn by the applicants after submission
- The CSO utilized regional and national expert evaluators in addition to the expertise of internal District staff
 - Evaluators had expertise in curriculum, school operations, school finance, special education and the charter sector
- Initial public hearings were held in December 2016
 - Each applicant made a brief presentation
 - Public comments were made by 14 Philadelphia residents
- Second public hearings were held in January 2017
 - The CSO presented findings from the new charter application evaluation reports
 - SRC hearing officer and CSO questioned each applicant comprising 11 hours of hearing proceedings
- Written public comment was accepted through January 9, 2017
 - 12 letters and emails were received



Charter Applications Withdrawn

Wilbur Wright Aerospace & Aviation Academy

- Proposed school to be located in Strawberry Mansion
- Proposed to open in 2017-18 and serve 600 students in grades 9-12
- Application withdrawn by applicant on November 22, 2016

Metropolitan Philadelphia Classical Charter School

- Proposed school to be located in Cedarbrook
- Proposed to open in 2017-18 and serve approximately 675-700 students in grades K-12
- Application withdrawn by applicant on January 18, 2017

Deep Roots Charter School

Proposed in Application

Grade Range

K - 8

Total Enrollment

540

Location

Kensington/Harrowgate (19124)

Proposed Opening Year

2018-19

Targeted Students

Students residing in the Kensington catchment area (100%)

Academic Program

- College preparatory program with an emphasis on preparing students for highly selective college admissions
- Jounce teacher development model featuring continuous, rapid and real-time teacher coaching

Friendship Whittier Charter School

Proposed in Application

Grade Range

PreK - 5

Total Enrollment

695

Location

West Allegheny (19132)

Proposed Opening Year

2017-18

Targeted Students

Recruitment would focus on the West Allegheny community

Academic Program

- College preparatory, liberal arts focused academic program
- Emphasis on meaningful differentiation of instruction

KIPP Parkside Charter School

Proposed in Application

Grade Range

K - 8

Total Enrollment

860

Location

West Philadelphia/Parkside (19131)

Proposed Opening Year

2018-19

Targeted Students

Students residing in zip codes
19131 and 19139

Academic Program

- College preparatory program combining basic skill mastery and conceptual understanding with goal of students achieving college success
- Program focus on academics and character education, the latter concentrated on social intelligence, grit and curiosity