



New Charter Applications 2015-16 Cycle

*Presentation to the School Reform Commission
Charter Schools Office*

February 16, 2016



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 confirms to the 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 time requirements 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 2015-16 New Charter Application Cycle

- 14 applications from 13 operators were received by November 15, 2015
- The CSO utilized regional and national expert evaluators in addition to utilizing the expertise of internal District staff
 - Evaluators had expertise in curriculum, school operations, school finance, special education, English as a Second Language and the charter sector
- Initial public hearings were held in December 2015
 - Public comments were made by 39 citizens as well as a presentation from each applicant
- Second public hearings were held in January 2016
 - Formal presentation of the District's evaluation reports
 - Questioning of applicants by SRC hearing officer and CSO comprising 37 hours of hearings
- Written public comment was accepted through January 25, 2016
 - More than 1400 letters and emails were received



Overview of Charter Terminology

Charter Application

- Application to open a new charter school which would operate independently under its own school leadership and governance structure

New Charter

- Authorization to open and operate a new charter school under the terms and conditions of a written charter

Charter Amendment

- Modification to an existing charter that could include changes to grade configuration, maximum enrollment or the academic program design of the charter school

Belmont Charter High School

Proposed in Application

Grade Range	9 – 12
Total Enrollment	500
Location	Belmont (19104)
Proposed Opening Year	2016-17*
Targeted Students	BCS 8 th graders; otherwise citywide
Academic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• College and career readiness program with focus on basic job training• Individualized learning environment focused on social, emotional, and academic needs of students facilitated by community partnerships

*Applicant requests delay in opening to 2017-18SY.

Chestnut Hill Innovation Charter School

Proposed in Application

Grade Range	K - 8
Total Enrollment	675
Location	West Mount Airy (19119)
Proposed Opening Year	2016-17
Targeted Students	Students on waitlists or in overcrowded neighborhood District-operated ESs
Academic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• STEM infused curriculum with hands-on experiences and use of technology to deliver and support instruction• Whole child focus for student academic and personal growth• Spanish instruction for all students

Esperanza Elementary Charter School

Proposed in Application

Grade Range	K -5
Total Enrollment	800
Location	Hunting Park (19140)
Proposed Opening Year	2017 - 18
Targeted Students	Initial preference for students on waitlist in year two; otherwise citywide enrollment
Academic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on serving at-risk students to encourage them on their educational journey towards career or college success• Engage students via explorations of career fields in STEM, humanities and the arts leveraging the majors model in the operator's existing high school

FACTS-2 Charter School

Proposed in Application

Grade Range	K -8
Total Enrollment	847
Location	Chinatown (19123)
Proposed Opening Year	2017 - 18
Targeted Students	100 seats reserved for qualified Newcomers in sheltered ESOL; otherwise 25% set aside for ELLs citywide
Academic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Folks arts infused and culturally responsive academic plan to tap into students' multiple ways of learning, providing opportunities for visual and physical learning• Serve ESOL students in a mixed environment of native English speakers and ELLs with a sheltered ESOL program for Newcomers

Global Leadership Academy International Charter High School

Proposed in Application

Grade Range	9 - 12
Total Enrollment	600
Location	West Philadelphia (19131)
Proposed Opening Year	2016 - 17*
Targeted Students	Initially GLACS 8 th graders; also students residing in 19104, 19121, 19131, 19132, 19139, 19143 and 19151 zip codes
Academic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on international studies with a foundation in leadership development, civic responsibility and inquiry-based training STEM-infused curriculum with a technology focus and global languages

*Applicant requests delay in opening to 2017-18SY.

KIPP North Philadelphia Charter School

Proposed in Application

Grade Range	K - 12
Total Enrollment	1380
Location	North Philadelphia/Strawberry Mansion (19132)
Proposed Opening Year	2017 -18
Targeted Students	Students residing in 19121 and 19132 zip codes
Academic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College preparatory program combining basic skill mastery and conceptual understanding of content with goal of students getting to and through college Program focus on academics and character education, the latter concentrated on social intelligence, grit and curiosity

KIPP Parkside Charter School

Proposed in Application

Grade Range	K - 8
Total Enrollment	860
Location	West Philadelphia/Parkside (19131)
Proposed Opening Year	2017 -18
Targeted Students	Students residing in 19131 and 19139 zip codes
Academic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• College preparatory program combining basic skill mastery and conceptual understanding of content with goal of students achieving college success• Program focus on academics and character education, the latter concentrated on social intelligence, grit and curiosity

Montessori Charter School of Philadelphia

Proposed in Application

Grade Range	K - 8
Total Enrollment	492
Location	Southwest Philadelphia (19142)
Proposed Opening Year	2016 - 17
Targeted Students	Initially, students enrolled at PMCS; otherwise citywide
Academic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Montessori-based academic program proposed to nurture the development of healthy, intrinsically motivated children• Individualized education model with curriculum organized as a spiral of integrated studies

Ramon E. Betances Charter School

Proposed in Application

Grade Range	K - 8
Total Enrollment	675
Location	Olney (19120)
Proposed Opening Year	2016 - 17
Targeted Students	Students residing in the 19134 and 19140 zip codes
Academic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replication of the ASPIRA model with differentiated instruction using flexible student groupings as well as hands-on project centered learning• Emphasis on bilingualism, bi-literacy and biculturalism

Russell Byers Academy Charter School

Proposed in Application

Grade Range	6 - 8
Total Enrollment	320
Location	Center City (19103)
Proposed Opening Year	2017 - 18
Targeted Students	RBCS 5 th graders with 25% seats for Olney, Strawberry Mansion and Kensington students
Academic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inquiry-driven model with a foundation in Expeditionary Learning• Four pillars of model are project-based learning, whole child, community partnerships and "ours for life", the latter meaning the school would guide future student success

Southwest Leadership Academy Charter School for Girls

Proposed in Application

Grade Range	K - 8
Total Enrollment	504 (at scale; 448 in year 5)
Location	Southwest Philadelphia/Kingsessing (19143)
Proposed Opening Year	2017 - 18
Targeted Students	100% females; citywide
Academic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-gender model serving young women with a focus on academic achievement, student engagement and leadership development Curricular plan would combine school developed and third party curriculums via the Understanding by Design model

The Pavilion Charter School for Exceptional Students

Proposed in Application

Grade Range	K - 5
Total Enrollment	500
Location	North Philadelphia (19133)
Proposed Opening Year	2016 - 17
Targeted Students	100% special education, primarily high-incidence students; citywide
Academic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STEM-focused curriculum which allows students to master the basics supplemented with teaching the essential elements of moral knowledge and character development Educational philosophy founded on high expectations, parent participation and exceptionalism