

Philadelphia Charter School Applications

**Presentation to the School Reform Commission
February 18, 2015**

Overview of Basic Charter Terms

- Charter Application: Application to open a new charter school with its own unique leadership and governance
- Charter Expansion: Increase in an existing charter school's enrollment and/or grade levels served
- Renaissance Charter School: Former low-performing District school now managed by a charter operator
- Catchment area: A designated zone, based upon address or zip code, from which a district or charter school draws a given percentage of its students

PA Charter Law Requirements

- PA charter law contains clear guidelines for reviewing charter applications and rigid time requirements that must be adhered to for the application review process
 - 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 of the first hearing
- No school district in PA has ever received as many applications in a given year as Philadelphia received in 2014

Philadelphia Charter Application Process

- 40 applications from 32 operators were received on November 15, 2014
- To cope with the heavy volume of applications under the time constraints, the District recruited local and national expert evaluators in addition to utilizing the expertise of internal District staff
- Public hearings in December 2014 included public comments from 145 citizens and presentations from all applicants
- Public hearings in January 2015 included presentation of the District's evaluation reports as well as questioning of applicants
- Written public comment was accepted through February 16, 2015 and nearly 1400 letters and emails were received

ACES Business Entrepreneur Academy Charter School

- Grade Range:** 6 to 12
- Total Enrollment:** 500 by year 5 of charter, 700 total
- Location:** West Philadelphia (19151)
Serving students in West Philadelphia and city-wide
- Mission/Focus:** To empower urban youth to reach greater heights of excellence using the learned principles of business and entrepreneurship. Focus on project-based learning.
- Proposed Opening:** 2015

American Paradigm Charter School – Oxford Circle

Grade Range: K - 8

Total Enrollment: 900

Location: Former Fels School (19111)
Serving students in 19111 and 19124

Mission/Focus: To achieve and maintain academic excellence for all students, produce results that reduce persistent patterns of inequity, and create culturally proficient and caring learning communities.

Proposed Opening: 2016

American Paradigm Charter School – Port Richmond

Grade Range: K - 4

Total Enrollment: 500

Location: Former Sheridan West School (19124)
Serving students in 19134

Mission/Focus: To achieve and maintain academic excellence for all students, produce results that reduce persistent patterns of inequity, and create culturally proficient and caring learning communities.

Proposed Opening: 2016

ASPIRA Ramon E. Betances Charter School

Grade Range: K to 8

Total Enrollment: 550

Location: Former Cardinal Dougherty building (19120)
Serving students in 19134 and 19140

Mission/Focus: To empower our community through advocacy and the education and leadership development of our youth. Produce youth that, upon graduating from high school, are fully bilingual/biliterate and are socially conscious individuals dedicated to service.

Proposed Opening: 2015

Belmont Charter High School

Grade Range: 9 to 12

Total Enrollment: 500

Location: Former Leidy building (19104)
Serving students in West Philadelphia

Mission/Focus: To provide students with a well-deserved, high-quality education where innate talents are fostered within an individualized learning environment that emphasizes social, emotional, physical, and academic development.

Proposed Opening: 2015

Congreso Academy Charter High School

Grade Range: 9 to 12

Total Enrollment: 600

Location: North Philadelphia, 19133
Serving students in 19133, 19134, and 19140

Mission/Focus: To strengthen the community of Eastern North Philadelphia by providing a rigorous and responsive community high school program that is client-centered, data-driven, and culturally relevant, which prepares all students for high school graduation and college and/or career success.

Proposed Opening: 2016

Esperanza Elementary Charter School

Grade Range: K to 5

Total Enrollment: 800

Location: North Philadelphia, 19140
Serving students in 19134 and 19140

Mission/Focus: To prepare students for on-grade level understanding and skills by the end of 5th grade using a Common Core aligned curriculum designed to serve urban youth. To jumpstart students' educational journey towards either professional success or attendance at college with explorations of career fields in STEM, Humanities, and the Arts.

Proposed Opening: 2015

Franklin Towne Charter Middle School

Grade Range: 5 to 8

Total Enrollment: 600

Location: Frankford Arsenal, NE Phila. 19137
Serving students city-wide

Mission/Focus: To establish a happy and nurturing environment that both promotes and cultivates a positive learning experience for our children. Focus on life-long learning.

Proposed Opening: 2015

Friendship Public Charter School

Grade Range: K to 6 by year 5 of charter

Total Enrollment: 776 by year 5 of charter

Location: Possibly North Philadelphia
Serving students city-wide

Mission/Focus: To provide a world-class education that motivates students to achieve high academic standards, enjoy learning and develop as ethical, literate, well-rounded and self-sufficient citizens.

Proposed Opening: 2016

Germantown Community Charter School

Grade Range: 6 to 12

Total Enrollment: 1050

Location: Former Germantown High School building
Serving students in 19138 and 19144

Mission/Focus: To meet the educational, job training, and cultural needs of students and the community through a transformed and transformational GHS Campus.
Hospitality/tourism and building/construction career academies model.

Proposed Opening: 2016

Girls' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School

Grade Range: 6 to 12

Total Enrollment: 1450

Location: West Philadelphia (three locations)
Primarily serving students in 19139, 42
and 43

Mission/Focus: To provide girls in grades 6 to 12 in Philadelphia with a rigorous, free education that prepares them for college matriculation and sets high standards for achievement, character development, and conduct.

Proposed Opening: 2015

Global Leadership International Academy Charter School

Grade Range: K to 12

Total Enrollment: 1100

Location: West Philadelphia, 19131
Serving students in 19139, 42, and 43

Mission/Focus: To nurture self-directed and self-assured scholars ready for college and career. Internationally-focused curriculum with the infusion of global perspectives.

Proposed Opening: 2015

Green Woods Charter School at Overbrook Farms

Grade Range: K to 8

Total Enrollment: 723

Location: West Philadelphia: 19151, 31, 21 or 39
Serving students in the above zip codes

Mission/Focus: To create active young stewards of the natural world.

Proposed Opening: 2016

Independence Charter High School

Grade Range: 9 to 12

Total Enrollment: 800

Location: West Philadelphia, 19104
50% of students from 19139 and 19143

Mission/Focus: A dual immersion high school offering the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme, the IB Diploma Programme and the IB Career-related Certificate Programme. Provides high quality learning experiences that promote academic excellence, global responsibility and second language acquisition for a diverse populations of Philadelphia students.

Proposed Opening: 2016

Independence Charter School West

Grade Range: K to 8

Total Enrollment: 900

Location: West Philadelphia, 19142
50% of students from 19139 and 19143

Mission/Focus: A dual immersion school serving a highly diverse student population in grades Kindergarten through 8. Provides high quality learning experiences that promote academic excellence, global responsibility and second language acquisition for all students.

Proposed Opening: 2016

Innovative Dimensions in Education STEAM Charter School

Grade Range: 6 to 12

Total Enrollment: 810 by year 5 of the charter, 960 total

Location: West Philadelphia
Serving students in 19139 and 19143

Mission/Focus: To equip adolescent female students with intellectual strategies and experiences to develop their cognitive ability, Socratic questioning, and proficient application of knowledge in a global society. STEAM curriculum focus.

Proposed Opening: 2016

Keystone Preparatory Charter School

Grade Range: K to 12

Total Enrollment: 1300

Location: Tacony, NE Philadelphia
Serving students citywide

Mission/Focus: To provide a comprehensive and high-quality education and to foster an in-depth understanding of math and science. IB diploma program at the secondary level.

Proposed Opening: 2016

KIPP DuBois Charter School

Grade Range: K to 12

Total Enrollment: 1380

Location: West Philadelphia, 19131
Serving students in 19131 and 19139

Mission/Focus: To develop the character, knowledge, and skills of our students so they will succeed in college, giving them the freedom to shape their futures and positively affect their communities.

Proposed Opening: 2015

KIPP North Charter School

Grade Range: K to 12

Total Enrollment: 1380

Location: North Philadelphia, 19132
Serving students in 19121 and 19132

Mission/Focus: To develop the character, knowledge, and skills of our students so they will succeed in college, giving them the freedom to shape their futures and positively affect their communities.

Proposed Opening: 2015

KIPP West Charter School

Grade Range: K to 12

Total Enrollment: 1380

Location: West Philadelphia, 19143
Serving students in 19142 and 19143

Mission/Focus: To develop the character, knowledge, and skills of our students so they will succeed in college, giving them the freedom to shape their futures and positively affect their communities.

Proposed Opening: 2015

Leon H. Sullivan Opportunities Charter School

Grade Range: K to 12

Total Enrollment: 1075

Location: North Philadelphia, 19121
50% of students from 19121

Mission/Focus: To provide a rigorous competency and standards based educational program, as well as enriching life experiences to students in Kindergarten through Grade 12.

Proposed Opening: 2015

Liguori Academy Charter School

Grade Range: 9 to 12

Total Enrollment: 1200

Location: 19129 or 19125

Targeting students at risk of dropping out

Mission/Focus: To empower graduates academically, technically, personally and socially and to build pathways to help graduates gain access, through education and training, to employment in technology-related fields in Energy, Information & Communications, Healthcare, and Business & Professional Services.

Proposed Opening: 2016

MaST Community Charter School - Roosevelt

Grade Range: K to 12

Total Enrollment: 2925

Location: Northeast Philadelphia, 19116
Serving students citywide

Mission/Focus: To create innovative pathways for students pursuing knowledge focused on Mathematics, Science, and Technology. STREAM curriculum focus.

Proposed Opening: 2015

Mastery Charter School - Gillespie

Grade Range: K to 8

Total Enrollment: 756

Location: North Philadelphia, 19140
Serving students in 19121, 32, and 40

Mission/Focus: The school will be a joyful, authentic community where students learn how to think critically and act independently so they are truly prepared for post-secondary success.

Proposed Opening: 2016

Mastery Charter School – North Philadelphia

Grade Range: K to 8

Total Enrollment: 756

Location: North Philadelphia
Serving students in 19121, 32, and 40

Mission/Focus: The school will be a joyful, authentic community where students learn how to think critically and act independently so they are truly prepared for post-secondary success.

Proposed Opening: 2016

New Foundations Charter School - Brewerytown

Grade Range: K to 12

Total Enrollment: 1075

Location: Brewerytown, 19121
Serving students in 19121 and 19130

Mission/Focus: To provide K – 12 students with the academic, social, and emotional foundations and skills necessary to become high-achieving, socially competent stewards of their communities.

Proposed Opening: 2016

Phase 4 America Charter School

Grade Range: K to 8

Total Enrollment: 675

Location: North Philadelphia
Serving students citywide

Mission/Focus: To create competent and caring learning communities where excellence is the norm without excuses. Focus on single-sex classes.

Proposed Opening: 2015

Philadelphia Career and Technical Academy Charter School

Grade Range: 9 to 12

Total Enrollment: 600

Location: Germantown Avenue, 19144
Serving students in 19140, 44 and citywide

Mission/Focus: To provide Philadelphia youth with an alternative to traditional education in grades 9 to 12. Focus on STEM-related college readiness and vocational education.

Proposed Opening: 2016

Philadelphia Music and Dance Charter School

Grade Range: K to 12

Total Enrollment: 925

Location: Former West Philadelphia High building
Serving students citywide

Mission/Focus: To create a safe, caring and high performing school community for a diverse student body where their individual needs are recognized and supported by a highly qualified staff and a rigorous academic program enhanced by technology and performing arts.

Proposed Opening: 2015

PHMC Preparatory Charter School

Grade Range: K to 12

Total Enrollment: 1000

Location: West Philadelphia
Serving students in 19142 and 19143
50% special education students

Mission/Focus: To serve students in grades K to 12 who could most benefit from alternative approaches to learning. Focus on dyslexia and dyscalculia.

Proposed Opening: 2015

String Theory Charter School – East Falls

Grade Range: K to 9 by year 5 of charter, K-12 eventually

Total Enrollment: 1000 by year 5 of charter, 1300 overall

Location: East Falls, 19129
Serving students citywide

Mission/Focus: To educate each student according to age and development so that learning and growth are united; to integrate the developing mind and body of the student with academics and the performing arts and sciences.

Proposed Opening: 2015

String Theory Charter School – Grays Ferry

Grade Range: K to 9 by year 5 of charter, K-12 eventually

Total Enrollment: 1000 by year 5 of charter, 1300 overall

Location: Grays Ferry, 19146
Serving students citywide

Mission/Focus: To educate each student according to age and development so that learning and growth are united; to integrate the developing mind and body of the student with academics and the performing arts and sciences.

Proposed Opening: 2015

String Theory Charter School – Port Richmond

Grade Range: K to 9 by year 5 of charter, K-12 eventually

Total Enrollment: 1000 by year 5 of charter, 1300 overall

Location: Former Charles Carroll School, 19134
Serving students citywide

Mission/Focus: To educate each student according to age and development so that learning and growth are united; to integrate the developing mind and body of the student with academics and the performing arts and sciences.

Proposed Opening: 2015

String Theory Charter School – Southeast

Grade Range: K to 9 by year 5 of charter, K-12 eventually

Total Enrollment: 1000 by year 5 of charter, 1300 overall

Location: Former A. Vare Elementary, 19148
Serving students citywide

Mission/Focus: To educate each student according to age and development so that learning and growth are united; to integrate the developing mind and body of the student with academics and the performing arts and sciences.

Proposed Opening: 2015

Sustainable Roots Academy Charter School

Grade Range: K to 12

Total Enrollment: 1300

Location: North Philadelphia, 19125
Serving students in 19134

Mission/Focus: Graduates are inspired and prepared to be principled leaders and thoughtful problem solvers who have a global perspective, a broad understanding of sustainability, and a commitment to improve our communities. Focus on environmental awareness.

Proposed Opening: 2016

TECH Freire Charter School

Grade Range: 9 to 12

Total Enrollment: 580

Location: North Philadelphia, 19132
Enrolling 60% of students from 19121, 34,
39, 40, 42 and 43

Mission/Focus: To provide a college-preparatory learning experience specializing in computer science and entrepreneurship with a focus on real-world learning, critical thinking, and problem solving.

Proposed Opening: 2016

The Partnership School for Science and Innovation - MaST

Grade Range: K to 12

Total Enrollment: 1500

Location: Center City

Serving students in Center City and in 19121, 32, 39, 40 , 42, and 43

Mission/Focus: To provide a high-quality public education option competitive with high-performing suburban counterparts, and to develop students' learning abilities using the STREAM curriculum.

Proposed Opening: 2016

The Pavilion Charter School for Exceptional Students

Grade Range: PreK to 5

Total Enrollment: 600

Location: North Philadelphia
Serving special needs students citywide

Mission/Focus: To provide an intense specialized education, rigorous research-based instruction and therapeutic curriculum aligned to the common core standards to high incidence populations of students with cognitive disabilities.

Proposed Opening: 2015

Urban STEM Academy Charter School

Grade Range: 5 to 12

Total Enrollment: 1000

Location: Northwest Philadelphia, 19138
Enrolling students from 19121, 34, 39, 40,
42 and 43 and citywide

Mission/Focus: To prepare students from economically challenged Philadelphia neighborhoods to become skilled, responsible, and successful participants in our technology-based society. STEM focus.

Proposed Opening: 2015