



A Springfield Public Charter School
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"Educating tomorrow's leaders today through academic achievement and character development"

Commissioner Mitchell Chester
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148-4306

Dear Commissioner Chester,


I am writing to inform you that New Leadership Charter School ("NLCS") is withdrawing its Application for Renewal based on a vote of the Board of Trustees. NLCS was one of the very few charter schools that was initially established as a Horace Mann Charter School. After being in existence for fifteen (15) years, the Board of Trustees of NLCS has concluded that it is simply not feasible to operate NLCS as a Horace Mann Charter School and achieve a level of academic success consistent with the expectations of the Board, NLCS administration and faculty, parents and students. The Board reached this conclusion after dealing with a wide range of issues that adversely affected the ability of the school to achieve its mission and vision. Unfortunately, the Board has concluded that too many factors outside of the control of NLCS, including facility and financial issues, would continue to exist if NLCS continued as a Horace Mann Charter School. While the Board explored the option of converting NLCS to a Commonwealth Charter School, there is no clear pathway to accomplishing that goal without disrupting the students and faculty currently at NLCS.

The Board is proud of the accomplishments of NLCS students over the past fifteen (15) years. The Board believes that this decision is in the best interest of its students and faculty at this point in time.

The Board of Trustees intends to close NLCS after completion of the 2012-2013 school year. The Board will work with the Springfield Public Schools in connection with the assignment of NLCS students to an appropriate school within the Springfield Public School district, and assist the district in any matters related to students, staff transfers or assignments.

The Board of Trustees has also voted to explore in depth the preparation and filing with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of an Application for a Charter to Operate a Commonwealth Charter School that would embody the principles of character and leadership development that formed the core of the mission of NLCS. The Board of NLCS has gained valuable experience throughout this process, and it firmly believes that its experience can make a significant, positive educational difference

Annual Founders' Day Benefit Dinner April 24, 2013 6-9pm
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within the context of the Commonwealth Charter School model. It is extremely likely, therefore, that we will be filing an Application for a Charter to Operate a Commonwealth Charter School.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer an educational option to Springfield families.

Sincerely,

Peter Daboul, Board Chair

cc: NLCS Board Members

Dan Warwick, Superintendent of Springfield Public Schools

Tim Collins, President of Springfield Education Association

Cliff Chuang, Charter School Director

Jeff Wulfson, Deputy Commissioner

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