

| AMENDMENT REQUEST – DECEMBER 2013 | |
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| School Name: | Lowell Community Charter Public School |
| Amendment Request: | Change grades served from K-6 to K1-8; increase maximum enrollment from 640 to 800 (160) |
| Implementation: | 2014-2015 |
| Year Charter/Opened: | Chartered 1999; Opened 2000; Renewed 2005, 2010 with probationary conditions |
| Grades Served: | K-6 |
| Current Maximum Enrollment: | 640 Waitlist: 132 |
| School Location: | Lowell |
| Proven Provider Status Required? | Yes |
| Mission Statement: | |
| <p>“The mission of Lowell Community Charter Public School (LCCPS) is to graduate creative, confident and independent thinkers, global citizens and leaders who give back to their community. We will provide a comprehensive education giving students the knowledge, skills and ways of thinking that ensure their success in high school and preparation for the opportunity to go on to college. We expect our students to strive for excellence in academic achievement and personal conduct within a joyful, supportive culture. The diversity within our students, staff, families and community and the many nations from which we come is a source of strength and an opportunity for learning.”</p> | |
| Key Considerations Regarding Request: | |
| <p>LCCPS seeks to return to a K-8 school with the addition of grades 7 and 8. The school also seeks to add a K1, approximately 60% of the enrollment offered at other grades, and increase total maximum enrollment to 800 seats.</p> <p>LCCPS was removed from probation in February 2013 and has made significant strides in improving the academic program provided by the school. The school has been identified as Level 1 in 2012 and 2013 and exceeded proficiency gap narrowing targets both years in the aggregate and all subgroups. The school has partnered with the Center for Collaborative Education to provide support in the ongoing development of the academic program, and the capacity building of the board of trustees, and school leadership. The goals, benchmarks, and ongoing progress are articulated in guiding documents and quarterly reports.</p> <p>The school’s amendment request and recent accountability documentation contains information that indicates overall that the school’s academic program is a success, that the school is a viable organization, and that it has been faithful to the terms of its charter. As noted in FY2012 and FY2013 financial audits, the school has experienced decreasing assets as a result of the conditions related to enrollment, including the costs of faculty lay-offs, fixed facility costs with shrinking enrollment, educational management contract costs, and a payroll provider mistake in FY2010-2012 which resulted in financial costs to the school related to the state’s unemployment tax.</p> <p>The Department has received numerous letters of support in addition to a petition signed by 127 LCCPS parents. The Department also received letters of support from a number of Lowell cultural organizations, LCCPS employees, community members, higher education leaders and administrators serving adults in Lowell, and the leader of a charter school network. Superintendent Jean Franco has expressed specific concern regarding the attrition of special education students from LCCPS back to the Lowell Public Schools. LCCPS has provided additional information regarding the attrition rate which the school attributes in part to the grade reconfiguration required by the school’s probation in 2010.</p> | |