

AMENDMENT REQUEST – JANUARY 2014			
School Name:	Excel Academy Charter School (Excel Academy)		
Amendment Request:	Consolidate 3 charters		
Implementation:	FY2015; Single enrollment lottery in spring 2014		
	Excel Academy Charter School	Excel Academy Charter School – Chelsea	Excel Academy Charter School – Boston II
Type of Charter	Commonwealth		
Location	East Boston	Chelsea	East Boston
Regional/Non-regional	Regional	Non-regional	Non-regional
Year Opened	2003	2011	2012
Year Renewed	2008	N/A	N/A
Grades Chartered	5-12		
Grades Implemented	5-8	5-7	5-6
Maximum Enrollment	448	448	448
Current Enrollment	220	168	112
Mission Statement	Excel Academy Charter School’s mission is to prepare middle school students to succeed in high school and college, apply their learning to solve relevant problems, and engage productively in their communities.		
<p>Key Considerations Regarding the Request:</p> <p>The Excel Academies board of trustees has pursued charter consolidation of its charters three times since 2011 in an effort to ensure each enrolled student has access to a high quality high school program, and to optimize the efficiencies of operating a network of charter schools. The schools’ present amendment request provides sufficient evidence, based on the Department’s criteria, that if the three charters were to be consolidated, the changes would not impact the material terms of the present charters in a substantial manner. Charter consolidation would also not impact the present Boston cap of 748 seats imposed on this charter school network. The schools’ request has been found consistent and reasonable with the charter school statute and regulations.</p> <p>Under consolidation, the school would implement a single lottery process with campus preference as well as the ability to provide specialized programming at specific middle school campuses. The school would maintain middle school campuses in both Chelsea and East Boston. The school would exceed present statutory requirements for backfilling by accepting new students through tenth grade. The school would implement a single unified high school program able to serve every graduating Excel Academy eighth grade student.</p> <p>The Department has noted for continued oversight specific areas of concern irrespective of the consolidation request, including transiency at the role of Chief Executive Officer, on-going financial deficits related to real estate commitments and tuition parity between Boston and Chelsea, and limited increases in the enrollment of certain student subgroups that are presently underrepresented in comparison with the primary sending districts.</p>			