

**Amendment Request–February 2014  
Atlantis Charter School (ACS)**

<b>Type of Charter</b>	Commonwealth	<b>Location</b>	Fall River
<b>Regional or Non-Regional?</b>	Non-Regional	<b>Districts in Region (if applicable)</b>	NA
<b>Year Opened</b>	1995	<b>Year(s) Renewed</b>	2000, 2005, 2010
<b>Maximum Enrollment</b>	795	<b>Current Enrollment</b>	795
<b>Chartered Grade Span</b>	K-12	<b>Current Grade Span</b>	K-8
<b>Students on Waitlist</b>	421	<b>Current Age of School</b>	18 years
<b>Amendment Request</b>	Increase maximum enrollment from 795 to 1400. <b>Proven Provider Status Required.</b>		

**Mission Statement**

The mission of ACS is to provide an education second to none, yielding academic excellence and life-long learning skills. Atlantis Charter School, an independent public school, provides an educational choice to the families of Greater Fall River by offering a solid academic foundation to its students on which to build a successful future. We expect an equal partnership among parents, community, faculty, staff, and students to create a safe, caring, innovative, and progressive learning environment. Atlantis incorporates the best research-based practices in education to meet the needs of our student population. It is our intent to become a model of educational excellence.

**Key Considerations Regarding Request**

ACS seeks to increase its maximum enrollment by 605 seats over a four year period in order to implement the original proposed K-12 educational program. The school plans to implement the high school program starting in 2015-2016 by offering grade 9 to its existing eighth graders and adding a new grade each year as students move through the program. ACS also plans to increase grade level enrollment overall by adding approximately 1 section in grades K-4 the same year.

Overall, the submitted amendment request, the school’s 2010 renewal, and the Department’s accountability records indicate that the school’s academic program is a success, the school is a viable organization, and it has been faithful to the terms of its charter. ACS achieved Level 1 status in both 2012 and 2013; exceeded proficiency gap narrowing targets both years in the aggregate and in low income student subgroups. The school has not exceeded proficiency gap narrowing targets for students with disabilities in either year.

While ACS enrolls a total student population with lower than expected proportions of English language learners, and students with disabilities than the Fall River Public Schools, the school has reported that at entry points, student enrollment numbers of both groups are comparable or exceed the sending district.

At its 2005 renewal, the school was placed on conditions related to any future implementation of its chartered 9-12 grades. In its amendment request and submitted additional supporting documentation, the school has adequately addressed the requirements related to facilities planning, staffing and budget projections, curriculum development, and growth plan.

The Department has received public comment in support from Senator Michael Rodrigues, Representative Patricia Haddad, Representative Carole Fiola, and Fall River Mayor William Flanagan, as well as members of the Fall River business community. The school submitted parent survey results that provided evidence of strong support for the school’s proposed expansion and implementation of a high school.