*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  *Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner |
| **Date:** | February 17, 2017 |
| **Subject:** | Charter Schools – Charters Renewed for Brooke Charter School; Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School; Global Learning Charter Public School; KIPP Academy Boston Charter School; Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School; and Veritas Preparatory Charter School; and Action Taken for the Community Charter School of Cambridge |

At its meeting in February 2013, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) voted to authorize the Commissioner to act on its behalf in “(a) granting charter renewals that do not involve probation; (b) approving charter amendments that do not involve changes in grade span, maximum enrollment, or districts served; and (c) removing or continuing conditions imposed on charters of charter schools; provided that the Commissioner shall report to the Board on all charter renewals, charter amendments, and conditions that have been so approved; and provided further, that the Commissioner shall notify the Board in advance of all such intended actions, and a Board member may request that the Commissioner place the charter matter(s) on the agenda of the Board for discussion and action.”

On January 12, 2017, I notified the Board that I intended to renew, without conditions, the charters of five schools: Brooke Charter School (Brooke); Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School (DSNCS); KIPP Academy Boston Charter School (KABCS); Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School (PVCICS); and Veritas Preparatory Charter School (VPCS). In addition, in a separate memorandum sent to the Board on January 12, 2017, I notified the Board that I intended to renew and remove the conditions from the charter of Global Learning Charter Public School (GLCPS). No Board member requested that any of these matters be brought to the full Board for review. I am now notifying the Board that I have renewed the charters of these six schools.

In addition, on January 12, 2017, I notified the Board that I intended to remove the condition on the Community Charter School of Cambridge (CCSC) relating to enrolling more than 20 percent of its total population from outside its chartered region. No Board member requested that this matter be brought to the full Board for review. I am now notifying the Board that I have removed the condition on CCSC.

Summary information regarding the six schools being renewed is provided in this memorandum. Each charter is renewed for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022. The charter of each school is renewed for the maximum enrollment, grades served, and district(s) served, as described below. Summary information regarding CCSC is also provided in this memorandum. All of the schools shall operate in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 71, § 89; 603 CMR 1.00; and all other applicable state and federal laws and regulations and such additional conditions as the Commissioner or the Board may establish, all of which shall be deemed conditions of the charter.

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| ** Exceeds** | ** Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Falls Far Below** |

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|  | **Criteria** | **Brooke** | **DSNCS** | **GLCPS** | **KABCS** | **PVCICS** | **VPCS** |
| **Faithfulness to Charter** | 1. Mission and Key Design  Elements | ** Exceeds** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** |
| 2. Access and Equity | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Meets** |
| 3. Compliance | ** Partially Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Partially Meets** |
| 4. Dissemination | ** Exceeds** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** |
| **Academic Program Success** | **5. Student Performance[[1]](#footnote-1)** | **Level: 1**  **Percentile: 90th** | **Level: Insufficient Data**  **Percentile: Insufficient Data[[2]](#footnote-2)** | **Level: 2**  **Percentile: 35th** | **Level: 1**  **Percentile: 40th** | **Level: 1**  **Percentile: 98th** | **Level: Insufficient data[[3]](#footnote-3)**  **Percentile: 56th** |
| **Organizational Viability** | 9. Governance | ** Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Meets** | ** Partially Meets** | ** Meets** |
|  | **Commissioner Action** | Unconditional Renewal | Unconditional Renewal | Unconditional Renewal | Unconditional Renewal | Unconditional Renewal | Unconditional Renewal |

**Charter School Performance Criteria – Ratings and Recommendation Summary**

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**Brooke Charter School**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Boston, Roslindale,  Mattapan |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | Boston, Chelsea |
| **Year Opened** | 2002 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | 2007, 2012 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 2,221[[4]](#footnote-4) | **Current Enrollment** | 1,608 |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-12 | **Current Grade Span** | K-9 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 2,414[[5]](#footnote-5) | **Current Age of School** | 15 years |
| **Mission Statement**  To provide an academically rigorous public education to students from the cities of Boston and Chelsea that will ensure that they are prepared to enter into and succeed in college. | | | |

**Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Horace Mann | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2012 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 325 | **Current Enrollment** | 292 |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-5 | **Current Grade Span** | PK-5 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 761[[6]](#footnote-6) | **Current Age of School** | 5 years |
| **Mission Statement**  The Dudley Street School has a three-part mission:   1. To provide a world class education for all students, preparing them for long-term academic   success and responsible civic engagement;   1. To serve as a driver of human and social capital development, preparing outstanding new   teachers to drive excellent student outcomes throughout Boston; and   1. To serve as a partner in catalyzing improvement of all schools in the Dudley area | | | |

**Global Learning Charter Public School**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | New Bedford |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2007 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | 2012 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 500 | **Current Enrollment** | 507[[7]](#footnote-7) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 5-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 5-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 372[[8]](#footnote-8) | **Current Age of School** | 10 years |
| **Mission Statement**  The mission of Global Learning Charter Public School is to ensure that all students achieve academic excellence, are ready for the rigors of higher education, and master essential skills that prepare them for the economic, social, and civic challenges of a 21st century, global society. Our central mission is to teach and inspire the mind, body, and spirit of our students so that they can succeed in any cultural or academic setting. | | | |

**KIPP Academy Boston Charter School**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2012 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 588 | **Current Enrollment** | 505 |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-8 | **Current Grade Span** | K-2, 5-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 655[[9]](#footnote-9) | **Current Age of School** | 5 years |
| **Mission Statement**  The mission of KIPP Academy Boston Charter School is to create a school environment where students develop the academic skills, intellectual habits and character traits necessary to maximize their potential in high school, college and the world beyond. | | | |

**Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Hadley |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | 39[[10]](#footnote-10) |
| **Year Opened** | 2007 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2012 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 584 | **Current Enrollment** | 471 |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-12 | **Current Grade Span** | K-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 116[[11]](#footnote-11) | **Current Age of School** | 10 years |
| **Mission Statement**  The Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School (PVCICS) is a K-12th grade educational program that produces academically strong students highly proficient in Chinese and English. The program goals are:  • To develop proficiency in Mandarin Chinese.  • To maintain and extend students’ proficiency in English.  • To develop high levels of academic attainment, meeting or exceeding national and state standards, through rigorous study and instruction aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.  • To develop students’ understanding of other cultures and the ability to interact successfully with others whose language and/or culture differs from their own.  PVCICS serves the Pioneer Valley region and offers a diverse group of students an innovative educational opportunity unavailable elsewhere in Massachusetts. PVCICS works to disseminate the school’s experiences and serves as a resource for schools trying to develop similar programs. | | | |

**Veritas Preparatory Charter School**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Springfield |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2012 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 324 | **Current Enrollment** | 313 |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 5-8 | **Current Grade Span** | 5-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 273[[12]](#footnote-12) | **Current Age of School** | 5 years |
| **Mission Statement**  Veritas Preparatory Charter School prepares scholars in grades 5 to 8 to compete, achieve, and succeed  in high school, college, and beyond. | | | |

**Community Charter School of Cambridge – Removal of condition**

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| **Type of Charter**  (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) | Commonwealth | **Location** | Cambridge |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2005 | **Year(s) Renewed**  (if applicable) | N/A |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 360 | **Current Enrollment** | 374 |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 6-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 6-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 311 | **Current Age of School** | 11 years |
| **Mission Statement**  Community Charter School of Cambridge combines challenging academics with creative use of technology and real-world experience to prepare a diverse student body, grades 6-12, for post-secondary success and productive citizenship. CCSC students are excellent problem solvers and communicators who contribute to their community through internships and other field experiences. | | | |

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alison Bagg, Director (781-338-3218); Cliff Chuang, Senior Associate Commissioner, (781-338-3222); or me.

Attachments: Charter Schools – Notification of Intended Actions and Report on Condition for Community Charter School of Cambridge

1. As noted in the October 2013 memo, [Considerations for Charter School Renewal](http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=7802), student academic achievement is of paramount importance during renewal. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. DSNCS does not yet have sufficient data to merit a Level determination or a percentile ranking. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. VPCS has not yet received an accountability and assistance level, but has received a percentile ranking. The school’s PPI for 2016 was 63. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. With a limit of 1,960 students from Boston. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. As reported in the Massachusetts Charter School Waitlist Initial Report for 2016-2017 from March 15, 2016 (<http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/enrollment/fy2017Waitlist.html>). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. As reported in the Massachusetts Charter School Waitlist Initial Report for 2016-2017 from March 15, 2016 (<http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/enrollment/fy2017Waitlist.html>). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. According to the October 1, 2016, SIMS data, GLCPS is over-enrolled by seven students. This is a violation of the school’s charter terms. Charter schools do not receive tuition for over-enrolled students. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. As reported in the Massachusetts Charter School Waitlist Initial Report for 2016-2017 from March 15, 2016 ([http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/enrollment/fy2017Waitlist.html](https://mail.doe.mass.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=sApmGV8D2Uy2hQzfMmnEKR6LWTKJH9QI7DnD3h6SnxaVZTpB0iPu4v44bq-A2hPVhoybuGpf17A.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.doe.mass.edu%2fcharter%2fenrollment%2ffy2017Waitlist.html)). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. As reported in the Massachusetts Charter School Waitlist Initial Report for 2016-2017 from March 15, 2016 ([http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/enrollment/fy2017Waitlist.html](https://mail.doe.mass.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=sApmGV8D2Uy2hQzfMmnEKR6LWTKJH9QI7DnD3h6SnxaVZTpB0iPu4v44bq-A2hPVhoybuGpf17A.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.doe.mass.edu%2fcharter%2fenrollment%2ffy2017Waitlist.html)). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Agawam, Amherst, Amherst-Pelham, Belchertown, Chesterfield-Goshen, Chicopee, Conway, Deerfield, East Longmeadow, Easthampton, Frontier, Gill-Montague, Granby, Granville, Greenfield, Hadley, Hampden-Wilbraham, Hampshire, Hatfield, Hawlemont, Holyoke, Leverett, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Mohawk Trail, Northampton, Pelham, Pioneer Valley, Shutesbury, South Hadley, Southampton, Springfield, Sunderland, West Springfield, Westfield, Westhampton, Whately, Williamsburg, Southwick-Tolland. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. As reported in the Massachusetts Charter School Waitlist Initial Report for 2016-2017 from March 15, 2016 ([http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/enrollment/fy2017Waitlist.html](https://mail.doe.mass.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=sApmGV8D2Uy2hQzfMmnEKR6LWTKJH9QI7DnD3h6SnxaVZTpB0iPu4v44bq-A2hPVhoybuGpf17A.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.doe.mass.edu%2fcharter%2fenrollment%2ffy2017Waitlist.html)). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. As reported in the Massachusetts Charter School Waitlist Initial Report for 2016-2017 from March 15, 2016 ([http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/enrollment/fy2017Waitlist.html](https://mail.doe.mass.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=sApmGV8D2Uy2hQzfMmnEKR6LWTKJH9QI7DnD3h6SnxaVZTpB0iPu4v44bq-A2hPVhoybuGpf17A.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.doe.mass.edu%2fcharter%2fenrollment%2ffy2017Waitlist.html)). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)