

PROPOSED BAYSTATE ACADEMY CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This was prepared by the founding group of the Baystate Academy Charter Public School.

Baystate Academy Charter Public School (“Baystate Academy”) is a proposed college preparatory school in Springfield that will provide challenging academic standards and educational opportunities rooted in the health sciences to Springfield students in grades 6-12. Through intensive partnerships with Baystate Health, Springfield Technical Community College and Expeditionary Learning, Baystate Academy will prepare students to enter the world of higher education and health careers with scientific and technical knowledge, ethics, integrity and compassion.

The school’s lower division grades (6-8) will emphasize academic and scholarly skill development in order to prepare students for the upper division’s rigorous STEM focused high school curriculum. The school’s educational program will prepare students for success in post-secondary education and professional success, whether in medical careers or other fields. The school’s curriculum, which will emphasize project based learning and learning expeditions connected to the field of health sciences, will allow students to make deep connections and confront real-world challenges in and out of the classroom.

Baystate Academy has formed partnering with organizations that have proven best practices in educational programming, curriculum, and assessment including Expeditionary Learning Schools, the Achievement Network, and Springfield Technical Community College. The intent is to house Baystate Academy on the grounds of our partner college, Springfield Technical Community College (STCC). The co-location and agreements with STCC will allow students to take college courses and receive associated credits. All students will be required to take non remedial college courses in English, math, and science at STCC during their 12th grade year as part of the school’s core requirements. Additionally, the school will implement Project Lead the Way’s biomedical sciences curricula as part of the school’s upper division Biomedical Sciences Program.

Baystate Academy has the support of the Springfield parents, students, community leaders, and public education officials. This support is demonstrated through several years of active involvement and participation in the Baystate-Springfield Educational Partnership (BSEP), a Baystate Health established and funded school partnership program. The program currently serves over 500 Springfield K-12 students annually, offering experiences including school-year and summer STEM academic enrichment, health competency development, health career development, job shadowing, mentoring, internships, and paid employment.

Baystate Academy founding group has the capacity to make the school a success. The founding group is comprised of Springfield leaders who have been integral to the success of the BSEP. The founding team’s membership includes a range of professionals with expertise in the fields of health, education, and business. The founding group, which will build on BSEP’s strong connection to Baystate Health, share several core beliefs about education. The group believes that there is a serious need for a health sciences focused charter school in the city of Springfield, offering students a high-expectations college preparatory education. The school, they argue, must draw from proven best practices of excellent charter and district schools, offering students a system of highly structured supports so that they can access the school’s challenging curriculum. All members believe that the school must intentionally teach

and develop the core character values associated with the health care field, such as compassion and collaboration. The founding group is committed to ensuring that all students are successful, including diverse learners, special education students, and students with limited or no English speaking skills. It is this collective vision that has brought together the design team and guided the work thus far and the development of this application for a Commonwealth charter.