

Excerpt from “Application for a Massachusetts Charter Public School”

C. STATEMENT OF NEED

State law asserts that charter schools are to be established to 1) stimulate the development of innovative programs within public education, 2) encourage performance-based educational programs, 3) provide opportunities for innovative learning and assessments, 4) to provide teachers with a vehicle for establishing schools with alternative, innovative methods of educational instruction and school structure and management, 5) to encourage performance-based educational programs, 6) hold teachers and school administrators accountable for students' educational outcomes, and 7) provide models for replication in other public schools. The needs of the community are an essential factor that informs the design of a successful charter school, ultimately driving demand and enrollment in the school. Therefore, it is important to research and describe the need for this particular charter school from as many different perspectives as possible.

When providing the school's statement of need, applicant groups should:

- ✓ Speak to the value of your school, based on its own merit.
- ✓ Provide a description of how the founding group has assessed parental demand within the proposed sending district(s)/region for the proposed school.
- ✓ Describe the student population the school will serve and the needs of this population.
- ✓ Explain the need for this particular school in the community(ies) it will serve and how the community(ies) will benefit from the school.
- ✓ Provide a specific rationale for how this school will enhance or expand the educational options currently available to this student population.
- ✓ Explain why a charter and the type of charter sought (Commonwealth or Horace Mann) is necessary in order for this school to exist or succeed.

Additional requirements for Horace Mann applicants from existing schools:

- ✓ Summarize the School Improvement Plan currently in use including: data used, problem(s) identified, implementation status, and description of what has worked, what has not worked, and why.
- ✓ Describe what the founding group perceives as roadblocks to successful implementation or inadequacies of the current School Improvement Plan. (Please attach School Improvement Plan.)
- ✓ Provide an analysis of the external and internal factors or needs that moved the founding group to propose a charter school.
- ✓ Explain how this information will inform what the founding group is proposing and how becoming a Horace Mann charter school will lead to greater academic success for students.