



# Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  
**From:** Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner  
**Date:** March 13, 2015  
**Subject:** Charter Schools – Charters Renewed for Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School, Atlantis Charter School, Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School, Hilltown Cooperative Charter Public School, Lawrence Family Development Charter School, Lowell Community Charter Public School, Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School, Match Charter Public School, South Shore Charter Public School

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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 February 13, 2015, I notified the Board that I intended to renew, without conditions, the charters of eight schools: Atlantis Charter School, Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School, Hilltown Cooperative Charter Public School, Lawrence Family Development Charter School, Lowell Community Charter Public School, Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School, Match Charter Public School, and South Shore Charter Public School. Additionally, I notified the Board that I intended to renew the charter of one school and impose conditions on its charter: Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School. Because 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 nine schools.

Summary information regarding these nine schools is provided in this memorandum. Each charter is renewed for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020. In the case of the charter renewed with conditions, the corrective actions required are also included. The charter of each school is renewed for the maximum enrollment, grades served, and district(s) served, as described below, and 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.

# Charter School Performance Criteria – Ratings and Recommendation Summary

● Exceeds	● Meets	● Partially Meets	● Falls Far Below
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	Criteria	AMSA	Atlantis	Franklin	Hilltown	LCCPS	LFDCS	LMACS	Match	South Shore	
<b>Faithfulness to Charter</b>	1. Mission and Key Design Elements	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Exceeds	● Meets	● Meets	● Exceeds	● Meets	● Meets	
	2. Access and Equity	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	
	3. Compliance	● Partially Meets	● Partially Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Partially Meets	● Meets	
	4. Dissemination	● Meets	● Exceeds	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Exceeds	● Meets	● Exceeds	● Exceeds	
<b>Academic Program Success</b>	<b>5. Student Performance*</b>	● Meets	● Partially Meets	● Meets	● Partially Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Partially Meets	● Partially Meets	
	6. Program Delivery	Curriculum	● Exceeds	● Meets	● Partially Meets	● Partially Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets
		Instruction	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets
		Assessment and Program Evaluation	● Partially Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Exceeds	● Partially Meets	● Meets	● Exceeds	● Meets
		Supports for Diverse Learners	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Exceeds	● Exceeds
	7. Culture and Family Engagement	Social, Emotional and Health Needs	● Meets	● Exceeds	● Meets	● Meets	● Exceeds	● Meets	● Exceeds	● Meets	● Meets
Family Engagement		● Meets	● Exceeds	● Meets	● Exceeds	● Meets	● Exceeds	● Meets	● Meets	● Exceeds	
<b>Organizational Viability</b>	8. Capacity	School Leadership	● Partially Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Exceeds	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	
		Professional Climate	● Partially Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Partially Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	
		Contractual Relationships (If applicable)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	● Meets	● Meets	NA	NA
	9. Governance	● Partially Meets	● Partially Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Partially Meets	● Meets	● Meets	
	10. Finance	● Meets	● Partially Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Partially Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	● Meets	
	<b>Intended Commissioner Action</b>	Renewal with Conditions	Unconditional Renewal	Unconditional Renewal	Unconditional Renewal	Unconditional Renewal	Unconditional Renewal	Unconditional Renewal	Unconditional Renewal	Unconditional Renewal	

## Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School

<b>Type of Charter</b> (Commonwealth or Horace Mann)	Commonwealth	<b>Location</b>	Marlborough, MA
<b>Regional or Non-Regional?</b>	Regional	<b>Districts in Region</b> (if applicable)	Clinton, Hudson, Marlborough, Maynard
<b>Maximum Enrollment</b>	966	<b>Grade Span in Charter</b>	6-12
<b>Mission Statement:</b> The Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School will create an atmosphere of celebration of knowledge where children of all backgrounds and abilities excel in all subjects, especially in math, science and technology, empowering them to succeed in the workplace in our modern high-tech world.			

The renewal of the charter of Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School (AMSA) is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure to meet these conditions may result in the Board placing AMSA on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

1. Beginning in March of 2015 and until further notice, AMSA must submit to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department), at [charterschools@doe.mass.edu](mailto:charterschools@doe.mass.edu) or 75 Pleasant St., Malden, MA, 02148, board meeting agendas, materials, and minutes prior to each board meeting at the same time that these items are sent to the school's board members. Additionally, if board materials do not already include this information, the school must also submit monthly financial statements.
2. By June 30, 2015, the school shall provide the Department an evaluation of its leadership structure, an organizational chart with accompanying job descriptions, and a plan to fully staff the administrative structure.
3. By October 31, 2015, the school's board of trustees must have completed a comprehensive self-evaluation of its practices and its capacity.
4. By December 31, 2015, the school's board of trustees must engage in training conducted by an external consultant, acceptable to and approved in advance by the Department, on the roles and responsibilities of a board of trustees for a charter school and on the Open Meeting Law.

### Atlantis Charter School

<b>Type of Charter</b> (Commonwealth or Horace Mann)	Commonwealth	<b>Location</b>	Fall River, MA
<b>Regional or Non-Regional?</b>	Non-Regional	<b>Districts in Region</b> (if applicable)	N/A
<b>Maximum Enrollment</b>	1,378	<b>Grade Span in Charter</b>	K-12
<b>Mission Statement</b>			
<p>The mission of the Atlantis Charter School 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 our students a solid academic foundation 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.</p>			

### Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School

<b>Type of Charter</b> (Commonwealth or Horace Mann)	Commonwealth	<b>Location</b>	Franklin, MA
<b>Regional or Non-Regional?</b>	Regional	<b>Districts in Region</b> (if applicable)	Bellingham, Blackstone/Millville, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Medway, Mendon/Upton, Milford, Millis, Norfolk, Plainville, Walpole, and Wrentham
<b>Maximum Enrollment</b>	900	<b>Grade Span in Charter</b>	K-8
<b>Mission Statement</b>			
<p>The mission of BFCCPS is to assist parents in their role as primary educators of their children by providing the children with a classical academic education coupled with sound character development and community service.</p>			

**Hilltown Cooperative Charter Public School**

<b>Type of Charter</b> (Commonwealth or Horace Mann)	Commonwealth	<b>Location</b>	Easthampton, MA
<b>Regional or Non-Regional?</b>	Regional	<b>Districts in Region</b> (if applicable)	Amherst-Pelham, Belchertown, Central Berkshire Regional, Easthampton, Gateway Regional, Granby, Hadley, Hampshire Regional, Hatfield, Mohawk Regional, Northampton, South Hadley, Ware, Erving, Frontier Regional, Gill Montague Regional, Greenfield, Hawlemont Regional, Leverett, Mohawk Regional, New Salem-Wendell, Ralph C Mahar Regional, Pioneer Valley Regional
<b>Maximum Enrollment</b>	218	<b>Grade Span in Charter</b>	K-8
<p><b>Mission Statement</b>          To engage students in a school which uses experiential, hands-on activities, the arts, and interdisciplinary studies to foster critical thinking skills and a joy of learning. To sustain a cooperative, intimate community of students, staff, families and local community members, which guides and supports the school and its educational program. To cultivate children’s individual voices and a shared respect for each other, our community, and the world around us.</p>			

**Lawrence Family Development Charter School**

<b>Type of Charter</b> (Commonwealth or Horace Mann)	Commonwealth	<b>Location</b>	Lawrence, MA
<b>Regional or Non-Regional?</b>	Non-Regional	<b>Districts in Region</b> (if applicable)	N/A
<b>Maximum Enrollment</b>	800	<b>Grade Span in Charter</b>	PK-8
<p><b>Mission Statement</b>          Strong families, working in partnership with the school as advocates for academic achievement, will create an environment where every child has the opportunity to acquire the foundation skills and habits of mind that foster life-long learning, citizenship participation and personal fulfillment.</p>			

### Lowell Community Charter Public School

<b>Type of Charter</b> (Commonwealth or Horace Mann)	Commonwealth	<b>Location</b>	Lowell, MA
<b>Regional or Non-Regional?</b>	Non-Regional	<b>Districts in Region</b> (if applicable)	N/A
<b>Maximum Enrollment</b>	800	<b>Grade Span in Charter</b>	PK-8
<b>Mission Statement</b> The mission of Lowell Community Charter Public School is to graduate creative, confident and independent thinkers, global citizens and leaders who give back to their community. We will provide a comprehensive education giving students the knowledge, skills and ways of thinking that ensure their success in high school and preparation for the opportunity to go on to college. We expect our students to strive for excellence in academic achievement and personal conduct within a joyful, supportive culture. The diversity within our students, staff, families and community and the many nations from which we come is a source of strength and an opportunity for learning.			

### Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School

<b>Type of Charter</b> (Commonwealth or Horace Mann)	Commonwealth	<b>Location</b>	Lowell, MA
<b>Regional or Non-Regional?</b>	Non-Regional	<b>Districts in Region</b> (if applicable)	N/A
<b>Maximum Enrollment</b>	150	<b>Grade Span in Charter</b>	9-12
<b>Mission Statement</b> The mission of Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School (LMACS) is to enable its students to achieve academic, social, and career success. This supportive school community identifies, encourages and develops interests and abilities, while acknowledging and respecting each student's personal and cultural identity.			

### Match Charter Public School

<b>Type of Charter</b> (Commonwealth or Horace Mann)	Commonwealth	<b>Location</b>	Boston, MA
<b>Regional or Non-Regional?</b>	Non-Regional	<b>Districts in Region</b> (if applicable)	NA
<b>Maximum Enrollment</b>	1,250	<b>Grade Span in Charter</b>	PK-12
<b>Mission Statement</b> The mission of Match Charter Public School is to prepare Boston students to succeed in college and beyond, in particular, those who would be the first in their families to earn a college degree. We intend this school to serve large number of English language learners.			

**South Shore Charter Public School**

<b>Type of Charter</b> (Commonwealth or Horace Mann)	Commonwealth	<b>Location</b>	Norwell, MA
<b>Regional or Non-Regional?</b>	Regional	<b>Districts in Region</b> (if applicable)	Abington, Braintree, Brockton, Cohasset, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanover, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Quincy, Randolph, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth, Whitman-Hanson
<b>Maximum Enrollment</b>	610	<b>Grade Span in Charter</b>	K-12
<b>Mission Statement</b> Inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life.			

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Cliff Chuang, Associate Commissioner, at 781-338-3222; Jeff Wulfson, Deputy Commissioner, at 781-338-6500; or me.