



CAPE COD
Lighthouse
CHARTER
SCHOOL

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August 25, 2015

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and
Secondary Education
75 Pleasant Street Malden, MA 02148

Dear Commissioner Chester,

I am writing on behalf of the Cape Cod Lighthouse Board of Trustees to respectfully request an amendment to the school's charter to address the following condition that was attached to our recent charter renewal:

"By August 1, 2015, CCLCS will submit to the Department a request to amend the school's charter. This request must specify the grade span and maximum enrollment the school intends to serve during its charter term and corresponding amendment requests regarding the school's mission, enrollment policy, and any other relevant material terms."

We would like to amend the school's charter in the following 2 areas:

1. Change the "Chartered Grade Span" to 6-8 from the existing 6-12.
2. Change the "Maximum Enrollment" from 400 to 260.

We have taught students in grades 6-8 for the entirety of the school's 20' year existence. It is clear from the first sentence of our mission that educating middle school students reflects the true calling of the school ("Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School seeks to provide a supportive and challenging learning environment for middle-school students .."). In strategic planning sessions over the years, including in spring of 2015, trustees, teachers, administrators, parents students and alumni have reasserted the community's desire to remain a middle school.

In addition, the enrollment maximum of 400 students in our school's charter does not reflect a school goal to expand. This number was included in the charter to allow for the possibility of an expansion of the grades served to include a high school. We believe that the enrollment and grade span figures that we would like to change are artifacts of the climate surrounding the school's founding in 1994. School founders wanted to keep options open. Since then, it has become clear that there are world-class high school options for our students on Cape Cod. Since we do not intend to serve students beyond 8th grade we do not need a maximum enrollment of 400.

We currently enroll 240 students, with four classes of 20 students in each grade. We have over 200 students on the school waiting list. A potential maximum enrollment of 260 as opposed to 400 will allow for a moderate expansion of class sizes without changing the fundamental service structure of the school.

At their August 17, 2015 Board meeting, the CCLCS trustees unanimously authorized me

to submit this amendment request on their behalf. This change will not require any changes in the school's main entry point (6th grade), nor will it require any backfilling of vacancies at this time. In the event that we reorganize our classroom spaces to accommodate slightly larger class sizes, we will admit up to six new students at each grade level.

Sincerely,
Paul M. Niles
Executive
Director