*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner |
| **Date:** | April 9, 2021 |
| **Subject:** | Charter Schools – Ten Charters Renewed and Actions Taken with Respect to Conditions on Three Charters |

At its meeting in February 2013, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) authorized 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 11, 2021, I notified the Board that I intended to renew the charters of ten schools. The charters of five of these schools were to be renewed without conditions: Bridge Boston Charter School; Innovation Academy Charter School; Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School; Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School of Excellence; and New Heights Charter School of Brockton. The charters of five of these schools were to be renewed with conditions: Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School; Codman Academy Charter Public School; Phoenix Academy Public Charter High School, Chelsea; Prospect Hill Academy Charter School; and UP Academy Charter School of Boston. No Board member requested that any of these matters be brought to the full Board for review.

I also notified the Board that I intended to remove the conditions imposed on the charters of Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School, Holyoke Community Charter School, and Marblehead Community Charter Public School.

I am now notifying the Board that I have taken these actions. Summary information regarding all ten schools is provided in this memorandum. All charters renewed will run from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2026. These charters are renewed for the maximum enrollment, grades served, and district(s) served indicated 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 relevant charters.

**Charters Renewed**

| **Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Cambridge |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 1996 | **Years Renewed** | 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 350 | **Current Enrollment** | 344 (October 2020) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-6 | **Current Grade Span** | PK-6 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 420 (March 2020) | **Current Age of School** | 25 |
| **Mission Statement:**  The Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School a K1 through grade 6 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) school serving all students. The school is founded on the belief that all students are able to develop academic mastery, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, culture, native language, gender or sexual orientation. The staff of caring, dedicated, and highly qualified professionals integrate language and fine arts into the standard-based STEM curricula and uses authentic data to monitor every student’s growth and achievement. | | | |

The renewal of the charter of Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure to meet this condition may result in the Board placing the school on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

**Condition:** By December 31, 2024, Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School must enroll no more than 20 percent of its total student population from outside Cambridge or demonstrate sufficient demand within the school’s charter region to meet enrollment targets. To meet this goal, the school must limit the admission of non-sibling students who live outside of Cambridge. Alternatively, the school may submit a charter amendment request no later than August 1, 2025 to amend the school’s charter region to reflect the school’s actual enrollment pattern.

| **Bridge Boston Charter School** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2011 | **Years Renewed** | 2016, 2021 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 335 | **Current Enrollment** | 338 (October 2020) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-8 | **Current Grade Span** | PK-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 2,080 (March 2020) | **Current Age of School** | 10 |
| **Mission Statement:**  Bridge Boston Charter School students thrive in a challenging, joyful, inclusive K1-8 public school community that values close partnerships with families and a focus on the whole child. Our students will develop the skills necessary to excel academically in rigorous high schools, reach their individual potentials, and view themselves as creators of their own futures. Through full-service programming, Bridge Boston Charter School works to remove the health and social obstacles that hinder student learning. | | | |

| **Codman Academy Charter Public School** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2001 | **Years Renewed** | 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 345 | **Current Enrollment** | 348(October 2020) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-12 | **Current Grade Span** | PK-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 2,543 (March 2020) | **Current Age of School** | 20 |
| **Mission Statement:**  Our mission is to provide an outstanding, transformative education to prepare students for success in college, further education and beyond. | | | |

The renewal of the charter of Codman Academy Charter Public School is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure to meet this condition may result in the Board placing the school on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

**Condition:** By December 31, 2023, Codman Academy Charter Public School must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science.

| **Innovation Academy Charter School** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Tyngsborough |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region** | Tyngsborough, Chelmsford, Lowell, Billerica, Dracut, Tewksbury, Groton-Dunstable, Littleton, Westford |
| **Year Opened** | 1996 | **Years Renewed** | 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 800 | **Current Enrollment** | 790 (October 2020) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 5-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 5-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 346 (March 2020) | **Current Age of School** | 25 |
| **Mission Statement:**  The mission of the Innovation Academy Charter School is provide students with a challenging, interdisciplinary education that will prepare them for the 21st century through an emphasis on holistic learning, higher order and critical thinking skills, and practical application and integration of curriculum areas. | | | |

| **Martha’s Vineyard Public Charter School** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | West Tisbury |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region** | Up Island Regional  (Chilmark, Aquinnah,  West Tisbury), Tisbury,  Oak Bluffs, Edgartown,  Martha’s Vineyard |
| **Year Opened** | 1996 | **Years Renewed** | 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 180 | **Current Enrollment** | 176 (October 2020) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-12 | **Current Grade Span** | K-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 20 (March 2020) | **Current Age of School** | 25 |
| **Mission Statement:**  It is the mission of the Martha’s Vineyard Public Charter School to create a public school that will cultivate lifelong learners in a multi-aged, project-based setting. Within an environment that models interdependence as the foundation of society, the individual students will learn to direct his/her own learning. The group will make decisions together and recognize the unique contributions of each member. The community will support and interact with the school body. | | | |

| **Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School of Excellence** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Springfield |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2006 | **Years Renewed** | 2011, 2016, 2021 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 360 | **Current Enrollment** | 365 (October 2020) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-5 | **Current Grade Span** | K-5 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 162 (March 2020) | **Current Age of School** | 15 |
| **Mission Statement:**   |  | | --- | | Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School of Excellence prepares kindergarten through 5th grade students of Springfield for academic success and engaged citizenship through insistence on rigorous, challenging work. The school incorporates Dr. King’s commitment to the highest standards in scholarship, civic participation, and the ideal of the beloved community. | | | | |

| **New Heights Charter School of Brockton** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Brockton |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region** | Brockton, Randolph, Taunton |
| **Year Opened** | 2016 | **Years Renewed** | 2021 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 735 | **Current Enrollment** | 742 (October 2020) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 6-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 6-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 104 (March 2020) | **Current Age of School** | 5 |
| **Mission Statement:**  Our mission is to prepare our students for college. Period. | | | |

| **Phoenix Academy Public Charter High School Chelsea** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Chelsea |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region** | Chelsea, Everett, Lynn, Revere |
| **Year Opened** | 2006 | **Years Renewed** | 2011, 2016, 2021 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 225 | **Current Enrollment** | 221 (October 2020) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 9-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 9-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 122 (March 2020) | **Current Age of School** | 15 |
| **Mission Statement:**  Phoenix Academy Public Charter High School Chelsea challenges resilient, disconnected students with rigorous academics and relentless supports, so they take ownership of their futures and succeed in high school, college, and as self-sufficient adults. | | | |

The renewal of the charter of Phoenix Academy Public Charter High School, Chelsea is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure to meet these conditions may result in the Board placing the school on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

**Condition 1:** By August 1, 2021, Phoenix Academy Public Charter High School, Chelsea must develop five-year goals for non-statewide assessments in its Accountability Plan that will allow the school to demonstrate a track record of academic success during the charter term.

**Condition 2:** Beginning August 1, 2021, Phoenix Academy Public Charter High School, Chelsea will submit for annual Department approval an enhanced recruitment and retention plan that includes deliberate and specific recruitment strategies for residents of the school’s charter region that would serve to support enrollment levels from within the school’s charter region and to reduce enrollment from outside of its charter region to no more than 20 percent of the school’s total population in future charter terms. Alternatively, the school may submit a charter amendment request to amend the school’s charter region to reflect the school’s actual enrollment pattern.

| **Prospect Hill Academy Charter School** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Cambridge and Somerville |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region** | Cambridge and Somerville |
| **Year Opened** | 1996 | **Years Renewed** | 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 1,200 | **Current Enrollment** | 1,107 (October 2020) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-12 | **Current Grade Span** | K-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 76 (March 2020) | **Current Age of School** | 25 |
| **Mission Statement:**  Prospect Hill Academy Charter School will prepare each student for success in college, inspire a lifelong love of learning, and foster responsible citizenship. | | | |

The renewal of the charter of Prospect Hill Academy Charter School is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure to meet this condition may result in the Board placing the school on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

**Condition:** By August 1, 2025, Prospect Hill Academy Charter School will submit a revised request for an amendment to the school’s charter region that aligns with enrollment demand and would serve to reduce enrollment from outside of its charter region to no more than 20 percent of the school’s total population in future charter terms. The amendment request shall take into consideration all districts from which the school draws students, including those districts where limited seats are available and a proven provider determination is required.

| **UP Academy Charter School of Boston** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Horace Mann III | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2011 | **Years Renewed** | 2016, 2021 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 540 | **Current Enrollment** | 349 (October 2020) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 6-8 | **Current Grade Span** | 6-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 0 (March 2020) | **Current Age of School** | 10 |
| **Mission Statement:**  UP Academy will ensure that its students acquire the knowledge, skills, and strength of character necessary to succeed on the path to college and to achieve their full potential. | | | |

The renewal of the charter of UP Academy Charter School of Boston is explicitly conditioned as follows. Failure to meet these conditions may result in the Board placing the school on probation, revoking its charter, or imposing additional conditions on its charter.

**Condition 1:** By December 31, 2023, UP Academy Charter School of Boston must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science.

**Condition 2:** By July 31, 2021, UP Academy Charter School of Boston must conduct a comprehensive review of the school’s program and submit an action plan to the Department that addresses areas in need of improvement as outlined in the Summary of Review.

**Conditions Removed**

| **Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Lowell |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 1995 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 150 | **Current Enrollment** | 88 (October 2020) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 9-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 9-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 0 (March 2020) | **Current Age of School** | 26 |
| **Mission Statement:**  The mission of Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School 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. | | | |

No conditions remain on this charter.

| **Holyoke Community Charter School** | | | |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Holyoke |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2005 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2010, 2015, 2020 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 702 | **Current Enrollment** | 702 (October 2020) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-8 | **Current Grade Span** | K-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 109 (March 2020) | **Current Age of School** | 16 |
| **Mission Statement:**  The mission of Holyoke Community Charter School is to promote the joy of learning and to prepare children for success as students, workers, and citizens by providing them with a high quality public education. | | | |

No conditions remain on this charter.

| **Marblehead Community Charter Public School** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Marblehead |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 1995 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2020 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 230 | **Current Enrollment** | 208 (October 2020) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 4-8 | **Current Grade Span** | 4-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 90 (March 2020) | **Current Age of School** | 26 |
| **Mission Statement:**  Marblehead Community Charter Public School fosters a community that empowers children to become capable, self-determining, fully engaged individuals who are critical and creative thinkers committed to achieving their highest intellectual, artistic, social, emotional, and physical potential. We are dedicated to involving, learning from, participating in, and serving our school community and the community at large. | | | |

No conditions remain on this charter.

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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: Renewal of Charters – Notification of Intended Actions for Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School; Bridge Boston Charter School; Codman Academy Charter Public School; Innovation Academy Charter School; Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School; Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School of Excellence; New Heights Charter School of Brockton; Phoenix Academy Public Charter High School Chelsea; Prospect Hill Academy Charter School; and UP Academy Charter School of Boston (February 11, 2021)

Charter Schools – Notification of Intended Actions and Report on Conditions for Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School, Holyoke Community Charter School, and Marblehead Community Charter Public School (February 11, 2021)