*****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:**  | March 14, 2022 |
| **Subject:** | Charter Schools – Six Charters Renewed |

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 3, 2022, I notified the Board that I intended to renew the charters of six schools. The charters of four of these schools were to be renewed without conditions: Christa McAuliffe Charter School; KIPP Academy Boston Charter School; Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School; and Veritas Preparatory Charter School. The charters of two of these schools were to be renewed with conditions: Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School and Libertas Academy Charter School. 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 taken these actions. Summary information regarding all six schools is provided in this memorandum. All charters renewed run from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2027. 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.

| **Christa McAuliffe Charter School** |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Framingham |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region** | Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Marlborough, Natick, Southborough, and Sudbury |
| **Year Opened** | 2002 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2007, 2012, 2017, 2022 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 396 | **Current Enrollment** | 388 (October 2021) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 6-8 | **Current Grade Span** | 6-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 30 (March 2021) | **Current Age of School** | 20 |
| **Mission Statement:** The mission of the Christa McAuliffe Charter School is to cultivate within each member of a diverse student body, through the Expeditionary Learning design, an intense commitment to self and community, the courage and insight to set high standards for academic and personal success, and the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to achieve those standards.  |

| **Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School** |
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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** | 2012 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2017, 2022 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 325 | **Current Enrollment** | 286 (October 2021) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-5 | **Current Grade Span** | PK-5 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 61 (March 2021) | **Current Age of School** | 10 |
| **Mission Statement:** The Dudley Street School has a three-part mission:1. To provide a world class education for all students, preparing them for long-term academic success and responsible civic engagement;
2. To serve as a driver of human and social capital development, preparing outstanding new teachers to drive excellent student outcomes throughout Boston; and
3. To serve as a partner in catalyzing improvement of all schools in the Dudley area.
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The renewal of the charter of Dudley Street Neighborhood 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 December 31, 2024, the 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. Should the school demonstrate significant and sustained academic improvement before 2024, the Commissioner may consider removing this condition, rather than wait until December 31, 2024.

| **KIPP Academy Boston Charter School** |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2012 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2017, 2022 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 588 | **Current Enrollment** | 600[[1]](#footnote-1) (October 2021) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-8 | **Current Grade Span** | K-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 1,134 (March 2021) | **Current Age of School** | 10 |
| **Mission Statement:** Together with families and communities, we create a joyful, academically excellent school that prepares students at KIPP Academy Boston Charter School with the skills and confidence to pursue the paths they choose -college, career, and beyond- so they can lead fulfilling lives and build a more just world. |

| **Libertas Academy Charter School** |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Springfield |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2017 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2022 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 630 | **Current Enrollment** | 332 (October 2021) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 6-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 6-9 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 0 (March 2021) | **Current Age of School** | 5 |
| **Mission Statement:** Through rigorous academics, character development, and strong supports for every learner, Libertas Academy Charter School prepares all sixth through twelfth grade students to succeed within the college of their choice and to be positive, engaged members of their communities.  |

The renewal of the charter of Libertas 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 December 31, 2024, the 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. Should the school demonstrate significant and sustained academic improvement before 2024, the Commissioner may consider removing this condition, rather than wait until December 31, 2024.

| **Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School** |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Hadley |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Regional | **Districts in Region** | See below[[2]](#footnote-2) |
| **Year Opened** | 2007 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2012, 2017, 2022 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 584 | **Current Enrollment** | 572 (October 2021) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | K-12 | **Current Grade Span** | K-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 177 (March 2021) | **Current Age of School** | 15 |
| **Mission Statement:** The Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School (PVCICS) is a K-12th grade educational program that produces academically strong students highly proficient in Chinese and English. The program goals are:* To develop proficiency in Mandarin Chinese.
* To maintain and extend students’ proficiency in English.
* To develop high levels of academic attainment, meeting or exceeding national and state standards, through rigorous study and instruction aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.
* To develop students’ understanding of Chinese culture and the ability to interact successfully with others whose language and/or culture differs from their own.

PVCICS serves the Pioneer Valley region and offers a diverse group of students an innovative educational opportunity unavailable elsewhere in Massachusetts. PVCICS works to disseminate the school’s experiences and serve as a resource for schools trying to develop similar programs. |

| **Veritas Preparatory Charter School** |
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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Springfield |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2012 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2017, 2022 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 766 | **Current Enrollment** | 380 (October 2021) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 5-12 | **Current Grade Span** | 5-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 124 (March 2021) | **Current Age of School** | 10 |
| **Mission Statement:** Veritas Preparatory Charter School prepares students in grades 5 to 12 to complete, achieve, and succeed in college and beyond. |

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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.

Attachment: Renewal of Charters – Notification of Intended Actions for Christa McAuliffe Charter School; Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School; KIPP Academy Boston Charter School; Libertas Academy Charter School; Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School; and Veritas Preparatory Charter School (February 3, 2022)

1. As of October 1, 2021, the school was overenrolled by 12 students and as a result is out of compliance with the terms of its charter. Charter schools do not receive tuition for students enrolled above the school’s maximum enrollment. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Agawam, Amherst, Amherst-Pelham, Belchertown, Chesterfield-Goshen, Chicopee, Conway, Deerfield, East Longmeadow, Easthampton, Frontier, Gill-Montague, Granby, Greenfield, Hadley, Hampden-Wilbraham, Hampshire, Hatfield, Hawlemont, Holyoke, Leverett, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Mohawk Trail, Northampton, Pelham, Pioneer Valley, Shutesbury, South Hadley, Southampton, Southwick-Tolland-Granville, Springfield, Sunderland, West Springfield, Westfield, Westhampton, Whately, and Williamsburg. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)