



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminister Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 8c
February 9, 2015

Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

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TO: Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

FROM: Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner 

RE: **Beacon Charter School for the Arts - Charter Amendment**

Beacon Charter School for the Arts (Beacon) is an independent charter public school in Woonsocket. The school opened in 2003 and currently enrolls a statewide population of 225 students in grades nine through twelve. Forty-six (46) percent of students are eligible for free or reduced price lunch, and sixteen (16) percent are students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). The school does not have a measurable population of English language learners (ELLs). In 2014, Beacon was identified as a commended school through Rhode Island's school classification system.

Amendment Request

Beacon Charter School for the Arts has requested an amendment to its charter to increase the school's enrollment and expand to serve middle school grades beginning in the 2015-16 school year. Beacon Charter School for the Arts currently enrolls 225 students in grades nine through twelve, and has requested to serve an additional 174 students, as well as expand to serve grades six through eight, for a total of 399 students in grades six through twelve.

In accordance with C-2-1 (a) of the Board of Regents Regulations Governing Rhode Island Public Charter Schools, such major changes to the school's operations require the action of the Board of Education.

Beacon Charter School for the Arts has achieved sustained high academic performance, demonstrated additional demand for the school, and provided a viable operational plan.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to approve the Beacon Charter School for the Arts amendment, permitting the school to expand to serve grades six through eight, and enroll an additional 174 students across grades six through twelve.