



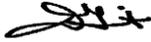
Deborah A. Gist  
Commissioner

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

Enclosure 9a  
October 14, 2014

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**TO:** Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

**FROM:** Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner 

**RE:** **RISE Mayoral Academy - Recommendation of Preliminary Approval**

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I present for your consideration a recommendation to grant preliminary approval to RISE Mayoral Academy.

RISE Mayoral Academy is a proposed Mayoral Academy with a mission to prepare students in grades K-8 for success in college and a life of community engagement. The RISE Mayoral Academy charter proposal was submitted on May 16, 2014. The proposal was released for public comment on May 21, 2014, and has been comprehensively reviewed in accordance with RIDE's charter proposal review procedures.

RIDE has concluded that the RISE Mayoral Academy proposal has met all proposal requirements and is likely to provide a quality educational choice for parents and students.

Preliminary approval is an endorsement of the conceptual design of the school and does not imply a readiness to begin operation. The school must meet mandatory milestones, including those described under C-1-4 of the *Board of Regents Regulations Governing Rhode Island Public Charter Schools* and the statutory provisions relating to Mayoral Academies pursuant to Chapter 16-77.4, in order to receive final approval by the Council on Elementary Education to begin operations in the 2015-2016 school year.

**RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to grant preliminary approval, for further planning and development, to RISE Mayoral Academy toward a 2015 opening, contingent upon final approval to operate by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education.**

# Rhode Island Charter School Proposal: **RISE Mayoral Academy**

**Catchment Area:** Woonsocket, Burrillville, North Smithfield

**Grade Level:** K-8

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**Location of School:** Woonsocket (TBD)

**Charter Type:** Mayoral Academy

**Establishing Entity:**

Woonsocket Mayor Lisa Baldelli- Hunt, acting through Rhode Island Mayoral Academies (RIMA)

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## **Mission**

*Through a structured learning environment, rigorous academic curriculum, and character education, RISE Mayoral Academy educates all K-8 students for success in college and a life of community engagement.*

## **Enrollment Plan**

Year 1	2015-16	81 students
Year 2	2016-17	162 students
Year 3	2017-18	243 students
Year 4	2018-19	324 students
Year 5	2019-20	405 students
Eventual Enrollment		729 students

## **Program Overview**

According to the proposal, RISE Mayoral Academy (RISE) will offer a rigorous academic program that prepares its students for the demands of a college preparatory high school and success in college. The proposal for RISE Mayoral Academy was submitted by a group of educators and community leaders, including Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt, Mayor of Woonsocket; Rosalind Murphy, Building Excellent Schools Fellow and proposed Head of School; and Michael Magee, CEO of Rhode Island Mayoral Academies.

- ⇒ RISE Mayoral Academy proposes to open with 81 kindergarten students, growing a grade each year until a maximum enrollment of 405 students is reached in the first five-year term. Over time, the school plans to grow into a K-8 school, for a maximum enrollment of 729.
- ⇒ The founders refer to three beliefs that will drive the educational program: 1) All students can achieve at high levels; 2) College preparation starts in kindergarten; 3) Character education has a significant impact on student achievement. The school proposes to provide a “joyful and structured culture that emphasizes the school’s RISE values – Respect, Integrity, Self-Determination, and Excellence.”
- ⇒ The proposal was deemed to have met all requirements, and to have provided a detailed and robust educational program that is likely to lead to exceptional academic outcomes in its students.

- ⇒ Building Excellent Schools (BES) is a Boston-based, nationally recognized school leadership training program. BES Fellows have created and led some of the nation's highest performing open-enrollment public schools. Through the relationship with BES, RISE Mayoral Academy leadership will be provided with ongoing professional development opportunities and a network of supportive and successful school leaders.
- ⇒ In the event there are more applications than seats available, RISE Mayoral Academy will run a lottery where 50% of seats are allocated to urban students from Woonsocket, and 50% of seats are allocated to non-urban students from Burrillville or North Smithfield.
- ⇒ If approved, RISE Mayoral Academy will leverage partnerships with Building Excellent Schools (BES) as well as with Rhode Island Mayoral Academies (RIMA), which provides school startup supports and a local network of school-based leaders.

### **Public Comment**

The 60-day public comment period for RISE Mayoral Academy began on May 21, 2014 and closed on August 6, 2014. Two public hearings were held: on June 10, 2014 at the Woonsocket Senior Center, 84 Social St in Woonsocket; and on June 12, 2014, again at Woonsocket Senior Center.

RIDE received comments from 73 individuals during that period. Fifty (50, or 68%) individuals were in support; twenty-three (23, or 32%) were opposed.

### **Capacity Interview**

The capacity interview was held on July 23, 2014. Founding group in attendance: Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt (proposed board chair); Michael Magee (CEO of RIMA); Rosalind Murphy (proposed Head of School); and David Lauck (proposed support staff).

### **Preliminary Approval**

By the authority granted to the Commissioner in RIGL § 16-77.3-3(c), the Commissioner offers a recommendation of approval of RISE Mayoral Academy to the Board of Education. This decision is based on a comprehensive review of evidence gathered during the public comment period, the application review, and the capacity interview. Preliminary approval is a formal endorsement of the conceptual design of the charter school, and the likelihood of success of the proposal. However, it does not grant the authority to operate as a public charter school. C-1-4 of the Charter Regulations outlines the criteria that applicants must meet in order to obtain final approval from the Board of Education. Upon meeting these criteria, the Board of Education will vote to approve the school's final charter. An affirmative vote and award of the final charter to the charter school board will confer upon it the authority to operate as a charter school district.

# Charter Public School Proposal Review Procedures

## Preliminary Approval

<b>Statement of Intent Submission</b>	To begin the review process, prospective applicants submit a Statement of Intent in accordance with published requirements.	<b>December 1</b>
<b>Statement of Intent Review</b>	Prospective applicants with a qualified prospectus are invited to submit a full charter proposal.	<b>Mid-January</b>
<b>Charter Proposal Submission</b>	Applicants submit a full charter proposal in accordance with published requirements.	<b>April 1</b>
<b>Completeness Review*</b>	RIDE reviews for adherence to basic proposal requirements. Complete proposals are released for public comment.	<b>April</b>
<b>Public Comment &amp; Hearings</b>	A 60-day period where any person may voice their support for or concerns with a charter school proposal. This comment period includes two public hearings held in the community where the charter school proposes to open.	<b>May &amp; June</b>
<b>Proposal Review</b>	A review of the proposal by an advisory committee comprised of education professionals with a range of content expertise.	<b>May &amp; June</b>
<b>Capacity Interview</b>	An in-person interview with the founding group designed to yield further detail about the applicants' plan, and their capacity to carry it out.	<b>June or July</b>
<b>Commissioner's Recommendation</b>	The Commissioner recommends for approval those proposals most likely to develop into high-performing charter public schools.	<b>July or September</b>

### Board of Education Preliminary Approval

*\*Incomplete proposals receive a letter identifying incomplete elements. If deficiencies are minor, applicants have the opportunity to revise and resubmit within the cycle. Substantially incomplete proposals are removed from the review process and may reapply in a future cycle.*

# Charter Public School Proposal Review Procedures

## Final Approval

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<b>Technical Assistance</b>	RIDE meets with preliminarily approved applicants to provide technical assistance on the readiness period, including funding eligibility.	<b>October</b>
<b>Planning Grant*</b>	RIDE, through the USDE Charter Schools Program (CSP), may issue planning and implementation funding to preliminarily approved schools.	<b>In accordance with grant instructions</b>
<b>Readiness Period</b>	RIDE Charter School Regulation C-1-4 describes a set of readiness criteria that must be met prior to receiving final approval from the Board of Education. These criteria include forming a public board, securing a facility, hiring staff, enrolling students, and finalizing the school's charter.	<b>October through March</b>
<b>Board of Education Final Approval</b>	After the readiness criteria are met, applicants are recommended for final approval to the Board of Education.	<b>March or April</b>
<b>Final Preparations</b>	In the final stage before opening, new charter schools finalize enrollment and staffing, begin to receive operating funds, and prepare facilities for staff and students.	<b>Through August</b>

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**School  
Opens!**