

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD**

<p><b>Charter Actions Requiring a Vote</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Approve a Charter Application (15 yrs.)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Approve a Charter Renewal (15 yrs)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Approve Charter Continuance (5 or 10 yrs)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Approve a Charter Amendment Request</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Give a Charter Notice of Concern</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Lift the Charter Notice of Concern</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Commence Charter Revocation Proceedings</li><li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revoke a Charter</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Board Action, Other _____</li></ul> <p><b>Policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Open a New Policy or Changes to a Policy for Public Comment</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Approve a New Policy</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Approve an Amendment to an Existing Policy</li></ul>	<p><b>Non-Voting Board Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing Item</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Read into Record</li></ul>
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**PREPARED BY: Taunya Nesin, School Quality and Accountability Team**

**SUBJECT: Vote: Charter Revocation of Excel Academy PCS**

**DATE: January 11, 2018**

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**Recommendation**

The DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) staff recommends that its board vote to revoke the charter of Excel Academy Public Charter School (Excel PCS), effective at the end of the current school year, for failure to meet its goals, according to the standard required by the School Reform Act (SRA), D.C. Code §§ 38-1802 *et seq.*<sup>1</sup>

**Background**

On November 20, 2018, the DC PCSB Board voted to initiate charter revocation proceedings for Excel PCS, finding that the school had failed to meet its goals. Following procedures outlined in the SRA, Excel PCS was offered, and elected to have, an informal public hearing. This hearing was held at the school on December 20, 2017. At this hearing, DC PCSB staff and members of the school’s leadership presented to the DC PCSB Board, and all members of the public who had signed up delivered public comment. Subsequent to the hearing, the school and others submitted additional materials. All materials received have been organized in a LiveBinder available to the DC PCSB Board and to the public through DC PCSB’s website.

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<sup>1</sup> D.C. Code § 38-1802.13 outlines the standards and procedures for a charter revocation.

## **Charter Review Standard**

The SRA provides that DC PCSB “shall review [a school’s] charter at least once every [five] years.”<sup>2</sup> As part of this review, DC PCSB must determine whether:

- (1) The school committed a material violation of applicable laws or a material violation of the conditions, terms, standards, or procedures set forth in its charter, including violations relating to the education of children with disabilities; and/or
- (2) The school failed to meet the goals and student academic achievement expectations set forth in its charter.<sup>3</sup>

If DC PCSB determines that a school has committed a material violation of applicable law or has not met its goals and expectations, as described above, it may, at its discretion, continue the school’s charter or revoke the school’s charter. Additionally, there is a fiscal component to the charter review. DC PCSB is required by the SRA to revoke a school’s charter if DC PCSB determines in its review that the school (1) has engaged in a pattern of non-adherence to generally accepted accounting principles; (2) has engaged in a pattern of fiscal mismanagement; and/or (3) is no longer economically viable.

DC PCSB staff has determined that the school has not committed a material violation of law or of its charter, has adhered to generally accepted accounting principles, has not engaged in a pattern of fiscal mismanagement, and is economically viable. Therefore, this proposal will address only the school’s goals and student academic achievement expectations.

## **School Overview**

Excel PCS began operation in school year (SY) 2008-09 as a single-gender program in Ward 8 under authorization from DC PCSB, originally serving girls in grades prekindergarten–3 (PK3) through fourth. In SY 2014-15 the school split into two campuses: DREAM and LEAD. Excel PCS – DREAM served PK3 through grade three and Excel PCS – LEAD served grades four through six. The school returned to a single campus in SY 2015-16 and grew to serve PK3 through eighth grade in SY 2016-17. All grades are located in the same facility.

The mission of the school is:

To provide pre-school through eighth grade girls a solid academic foundation and enrichment opportunities to prepare them to succeed in high school and college and to develop the skills and confidence they need to make healthy positive lifestyle choices.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> D.C. Code § 38-1802.12(a)(3).

<sup>3</sup> D.C. Code § 38-1802.12(c).

<sup>4</sup> See Excel PCS charter application.

## **Goal Attainment**

Per its charter and charter agreement,<sup>5</sup> the school committed to achieving an average Performance Management Framework (PMF) score of 45% over the past five years of operation. Excel PCS’s average PMF score for these years is 41.4%, and it only exceeded a score of 45% in SY 2012-13, the first year of this five-year review. The school’s SY 2016-17 result, 37%, is the school’s lowest score yet, and reflects a downward trend, making the improvement provision in its charter agreement inapplicable to assessment of its goals.

While the school’s PMF score is an average, the low score reflects overall low academic achievement and school climate. Math results have been consistently poor – both absolute results as well as year-to-year student growth. English language arts (ELA) results have been higher than math, but are on the decline, with student growth now below the state average in ELA as well. Reading and math growth for grades K through two, as measured by NWEA MAP, have been below 50 for the past four years, which means that students at Excel PCS have below average year-to-year growth as compared to their peers. Both attendance and re-enrollment rates have also been below DC averages in every year of the review period.

The chart below shows Excel PCS’s PMF scores and tiers during the review period.

<b>Excel PCS – PMF Outcomes</b>								
<b>2012-13</b>		<b>2013-14</b>		<b>2014-15</b>		<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>Average</b>
PK3-2	3-4	PK3-2	3-5	PK3-3	4-6	PK3-7	PK3-8	
Met 7 of 7 targets	<b>Tier 2</b> 46.5%	Met the floor of all EC PMF measures	<b>Tier 2</b> 37.6%	PMF was not scored or tiered		<b>Tier 2</b> 44.8%	<b>Tier 2</b> 37.0%	<b>41.5%</b>

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<sup>5</sup> Please see Excel PCS’s Charter Agreement.

**Goals and Academic Expectations**

**Met?**

1 The School Corporation will be deemed to have met its goals and academic achievement expectations if at its tenth-year charter review in school year 2017-18, the school's average PMF score for 2012-13, 2013-14, 2015-16, and 2016-17 is equal to or exceeds 45% and the school has met the floor of all Early Childhood (EC) PMF measures in 2013-14. **No.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PCSB Action: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Approved with Changes \_\_\_\_\_ Rejected

Changes to the Original Proposal:

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