

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Charter Amendment Request Cover Sheet

All amendment requests (except board of trustee member approvals*) must include a completed cover sheet.

School Information

School Name and Mailing Address	Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School 20 Warren St. Brighton, MA 02135
Districts Chartered to Serve	Boston (Boston Public Schools)
Name of School Leader	Matt Holzer
Name of Board Chair	Molly Schen
Contact telephone number <small>Indicate if <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Leader or <input type="checkbox"/> Board Chair</small>	857-210-5261
Contact email address <small>Indicate if <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Leader or <input type="checkbox"/> Board Chair</small>	mholzer@bostongreenacademy.org

Nature of Amendment Request

Amendment to be Approved by Board (check change(s) that are requested)

- District(s) specified in the school's charter
- Maximum enrollment
- Grades served
- Contractual relationship with an education management organization that is providing or planning to provide substantially all the school's educational services

Amendment to be Approved by Commissioner (check change(s) that are requested)

- School name
- X Mission**
- Governance or leadership structure
- Educational programs, curriculum models, or whole-school change designs that are inconsistent with those specified in the school's charter
- Bylaws
- Memorandum of Understanding (Horace Mann)
- Schedule (e.g. length of school year, school week, or school day)
- Accountability Plan
- Enrollment policy and application
- Expulsion policy (within code of conduct)
- Location of facilities, if such change involves relocating or expanding to another municipality

*See [Charter Amendment Guidelines](#) for information about board of trustees' membership.



20 Warren St. Brighton, MA 02135
www.bostongreenacademy.org

June 2, 2015

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
75 Pleasant St.
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Commissioner,

On behalf of the Boston Green Academy Board of Trustees, I respectfully request your approval of an amendment to change our charter to modify the wording of our mission statement. This is a simple change: while we remain committed to the core principle of our original mission statement, the original version was too verbose and difficult to understand for many both in and outside our community. We are proposing new language that clarifies and simplifies our mission so that all stakeholders can easily understand it. This change to our charter will be effective, after approval by the Commissioner, immediately. This request is not required by any amendment or Department directive, however it is based on conversation with Department staff and many within our own community.

The Boston Green Academy Board of Trustees wishes to make this change because over time we have received feedback from the Department, our staff, families and students that our mission statement is not clear enough. We believe we have fulfilled our mission in our first charter term, but would like to use more clear and direct language moving forward. We reviewed mission statements of other successful charter school and organizations and engaged in a process where our community revisited the core tenets of our charter and what makes our school special and effective. We drafted new wording after numerous conversations and revisions. We believe this change will make our organization more focused, efficient and effective.

Our original mission statement, as written in our charter application was:

Boston Green Academy's mission is to graduate all of our students prepared for success in college and the workforce. We are especially committed to recruiting, enrolling, and supporting off-track 6th and 9th grade students before they enter the "drop-out pipeline". As a public school that is deeply vested in cultivating a highly skilled and actively engaged global citizenry, we will prepare all of our students to be leaders in local and global environmental stewardship and activism, to live their lives responsibly and sustainably, and to take advantage of employment opportunities in the burgeoning "green" economy.

We propose to replace our original mission statement with the following new wording:

Boston Green Academy welcomes diverse students of all abilities, educates and empowers them to succeed in college and career, and prepares them to lead in the sustainability of our community and world.

The Boston Green Academy Board of Trustees voted to approve this request on May 19, 2015 at a meeting held in compliance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25. At that meeting, the Board of Trustees authorized me to submit this request on their behalf.

The Boston Green Academy Board of Trustees also authorized the school to work with the Department to make any minor technical changes to the amendment submitted for approval if such changes are necessary to meet the requirements of statute or regulations, and are codified in Department guidance that was not adhered to in our submission. The Boston Green Academy Board of Trustees agrees to permit such minor technical changes to the policy submitted for approval, and to support any additional consultation and coordination with the Department that will be required to align our policy with requirements.

I have also enclosed certification that the Boston School Committee and Boston Teachers Union Teachers Union have approved this request.

The Boston Green Academy is an academic success, is a viable organization, and is faithful to the terms of its charter. After successfully turning around and 'restarting' a struggling high school, BGA has become one of the most improved high schools in the Boston Public Schools and in Massachusetts. We have successfully recruited, retained and served diverse and off-track students, given them a strong college-preparatory and green education, and helped them achieve increasing levels of academic success and college enrollment, as required by our mission and detailed in our application for renewal. While we still have work to do, we are proud of our success thus far as a Horace Mann Charter School and of our contribution to the strengthening of the Boston Public Schools.

The Boston Green Academy Board of Trustees requests your approval of this amendment as soon as possible. Please contact Matt Holzer, Headmaster (857-210-5261, mholzer@bostongreenacademy.org) if you have any questions about this request.

Sincerely,



Matt Holzer, Headmaster

Cc: Molly Schen, Chair, Boston Green Academy Board of Trustees
Cliff Chuang, Associate Commissioner for Educational Redesign, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Enclosures

CERTIFICATION SHEET

Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School Request for Charter Amendment

Boston School Committee

On behalf of the Boston School Committee, I certify that the Committee has approved this request for a charter amendment by the Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School.

Name

Title

Signature

Date

Boston Teachers Union

On behalf of the Boston Teachers Union, I certify that the Union has approved this request for a charter amendment by the Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School.

Name

Title

Signature

Date