

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
- 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)

X 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 our school hours and weekly schedule. This is a simple change: we are proposing to move our early release day from Friday to Wednesday to allow for a potentially extended day for 9th and 10th graders to participate in a mandatory skills tutoring program. This change will not alter our total number of daily minutes or school days in a year. We are also officially removing reference to BGA's Summer Academy, which was included in our initial charter application and implemented only once in our first year, and adjusting our hours officially. These changes to our charter will be effective, after approval by the Commissioner, at the start of the 2015-2016 school year on September 1, 2015.

The Boston Green Academy Board of Trustees wishes to make this change because we recognize that our students need more support for skills development and we wish to replicate successful practices of other charter schools to support them in this area. Specifically, we are planning to implement a small group tutoring program for some or all of our 9th and 10th graders in 2015-2016 and beyond. The ideal time to do this is during the afternoon portion of our early release day, when teachers are engaged in professional development. This has been held on Fridays in the first four years of BGA's existence. However, we have struggled to get students to attend tutoring on Friday afternoons. The shift to Wednesday will create better conditions for attendance and also allow us to eventually create a mandatory extended day for 9th and 10th graders until 3pm. 11th and 12th graders would continue to dismiss at noon as before.

Additionally, the Board is seeking to officially amend our charter to remove the Summer Academy portion of our program that was included in our initial charter application. While extended day year programming seemed promising when we wrote our initial charter application, the program was implemented only once during our first year and was discontinued afterwards. The reasons for this included lack of budget resources (it could not be sustained), staff concerns over sustainability of an

extended year while doing turnaround work, and the availability of equally beneficial summer programs sponsored by the Boston Public Schools and available to us free of charge.

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

SCHOOL SCHEDULE TEMPLATE

Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School

May 17, 2015

[OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT APPROVAL DATE]

ITEM 1 DAILY/WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR STUDENTS	
Day	Typical Total Hours
Monday	8am-3pm
Tuesday	8am-3pm
Wednesday	8am-Noon (extended to 3pm for 9 th and 10 th graders in tutoring program)
Thursday	8am-3pm
Friday	8am-3pm
Other (<i>if applicable</i>)	

ITEM 2 YEARLY SCHEDULE FOR STUDENTS		
Minimum Number of Days	Scheduled Emergency/Snow Days	Total number of scheduled school days
180	5	185
Please note below if the schedule includes mandatory special programming for all students, such as Saturday school or summer school.		
Tutoring on Wednesdays will be mandatory for 9 th and 10 th graders only. There is no additional mandatory programming for all students. Boston Green Academy follows the Boston Public Schools school year calendar.		

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