



# **Kennedy Academy Application for Charter Renewal**

**Presentation to the Boston School Committee  
June 21, 2017**

**Dr. Caren S. Walker Gregory, Headmaster**

# Our Mission

**Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers (EMK) is a college preparatory and vocational high school for Boston students exploring careers in health and health-related professions.**

**The Academy provides a supportive learning environment that promotes respect and embraces diversity. Students will attain the life skills needed to become productive and positive members of society.**



# Our History: Key Milestones

**1995 – Founded as one of the original Boston Pilot Schools**

**1998 – Designated as one of the first Horace Mann Charter Schools in Massachusetts**

**2003 – 5-year charter renewed without conditions (also in 2008 and 2013!)**

**2010 – Renamed in honor of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy**

**2012 – Enrollment expansion at a second site to provide high quality educational opportunity to more Boston students**

**2016 – Designated as the first charter Chapter 74 program in MA**



# Our Current Request

**Kennedy Academy seeks approval of its 5-year charter renewal application to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.**

**Approval will allow EMK to continue to operate from July 2018 through June 2023.**



# Evidence of Success-Graduation & College

- **EMK Graduation Rate - 98% over the last five years – is consistently among the highest in the BPS**
- **EMK Drop Out Rate is consistently among the lowest in the BPS**
- **EMK College Matriculation Rate - 97% over the last five years -- is consistently among the highest in the the BPS**
- **More than half of EMK graduates select higher education majors in health care or a related field (56% over the last five years)**
- **EMK maintains a long waiting list every year, with several families seeking enrollment for every space available.**



# Evidence of Success - Equity

**EMK enrolls students without regard to prior academic achievement and serves a population that mirrors the racial, ethnic and economic diversity of the city.**

**EMK has significantly increased enrollment of English Learners and Students with Disabilities over the last five years and continues to demonstrate success with these populations.**



**EMK student population has grown and changed significantly to better serve Boston families:**

- **ELL students: 5.3% in fall 2011 versus 13.6% in fall 2016**
- **IEP students: 9.3% in fall 2011 versus 16.4% in fall 2016**
- **Total enrollment: 225 in fall 2011 versus 359 in fall 2016**



# Evidence of Success - MCAS

## EMK is a Level 2 School in the Massachusetts Accountability Framework

- **Steady MCAS Achievement sustained in the context of a more representative student population**
- **Grade 10 proficiency rates for EMK exceed BPS (overall and for population subgroups) in ELA and Science, and are comparable overall and for subgroups in Math**



# Evidence of Success -Partnerships

**EMK has a very strong and sustained network of partners among Boston's higher education and health care organizations**

- **Northeastern University, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Bunker Hill Community College**
- **Brigham and Women's Hospital and Mass General Hospital**
- **Harvard Schools of Medicine and Public Health**
- **Vertex Pharmaceuticals**

**EMK was the first charter school to be approved as a Chapter 74 Career and Technical Education program**

- **Health Assisting enrollment started in fall 2016**
- **Additional pathways, including biotechnology, are planned for the next charter term**





# Critical Next Steps

**June 14 - Approval by the EMK Board of Trustees**

**June 21 - Approval by the Boston Teacher's Union**

**July 19 - Approval by the Boston School Committee**

**August 1 - Submission to DESE**

**October 2017 - Renewal Inspection Visit to EMK**

**December 2017 - Approval by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**

**January - March 2018 - Recruitment of new families to for Spetember 2018**

