

Memo for UP Academy Boston & Dorchester Charter Amendments

Part of the standard renewal process for all Horace Mann Charter schools requires updates to accompanying charter documents. These amendments require approval of the Charter school board of trustees, the Boston Teachers Union, and ultimately the Department of Elementary and Secondary education. As you may remember, at the end of this school year, UP Academy Boston will consolidate into UP Academy Dorchester and the school will operate under the current UP Academy Dorchester Charter starting July 1st, 2024. However, until that happens, there are required amendments that need to be approved for DESE compliance purposes for both entities before they merge. Of note, UP Academy Dorchester was renewed for 5 years on July 1st 2023, which initiated the majority of the required updates (known as amendments). In this memo you will find (1) a brief summary and information about each school, (2) a brief summary of the minor changes made in the amendments, and (3) a chart of current approval status. The four amendments up for renewal are:

- The Accountability Plan for UP Dorchester
- The Accountability Plan for UP Boston
- The Management contract between UP Education Network and UP Boston & Dorchester
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BPS and UP Dorchester

High level summary information about each school

UP Academy Boston

Grades 6-8

Charter term: 2021-2026

Note: Will consolidate into UP Dorchester on July 1st, 2024

UP Academy Dorchester

Grades K1-8

Charter term: 2021-2026

Outcome Highlights:

- UP Dorchester & Boston scored above 50th percentile in SGP growth in Math and ELA in 2023
- UP Dorchester & Boston scored in the top ¼ for SGP of all BPS schools in 2023
- Exclusions across UP Schools were down 59% in 2023
- Family Satisfaction Scores were the highest in UPs 10 year history in 2023

Summary of Amendment changes

All changes from the previous charter term are minor in detail and align with requirements from both DESE and BPS. Each amendment has been provisionally approved by DESE, officially approved by the charter board of UP Dorchester and UP Boston, and officially approved by the Boston Teachers Union.

Accountability Plan for UP Dorchester & Boston

These plans are what DESE holds schools accountable to. Both schools will be held accountable for standard results aligned with state accountability requirements and will be evaluated for renewal at the end of the term. These accountability plans are an annual snapshot of indicators that will help determine the overall health of the school and are mostly dictated by DESE. Changes made from the last charter term are:

- Aligned each plan for both schools (where possible) as requested by DESE
- Incorporated participation rate thresholds for all survey-related measures
- Updated teacher evaluation measure to better align with DESE summative rating
- Incorporated new measures related to the family experience
- Incorporated a new measure for student culture: reducing average number of exclusions

The Management contract between UP Education Network and UP Boston & Dorchester

This contract outlines the services UP Education Network provides both schools. Changes made from last charter term are:

- Term dates aligned with charter
- Key personnel changes
- Increase in management fee cap aligned with inflation and increase in BPS Weighted Student Funding

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BPS and UP Dorchester

This dictates the relationship between the school and BPS. BPS legal team has reviewed and agreed to all minor changes that include:

- Term dates aligned with charter
- Indemnification language changes

Current Approval Status

Amendment	DESE Provisional Approval	UP Board of Trustees Approval	BTU Approval	BPS School Committee Approval
Accountability Plan (UP Boston)	Approved	Approved	Approved	Pending
Accountability Plan (UP Dorchester)	Approved	Approved	Approved	Pending
Management Contract	Approved	Approved	Approved	Pending
MOU	Approved	Approved	Approved	Pending