



April 15, 2015

Mitchell Chester, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Commissioner Chester,

On behalf of the UP Academy Charter School of Boston Board of Trustees, I respectfully request your approval of an amendment to our charter to shift the dismissal times of the school's daily schedule so that all students are dismissed at the same time each day, and have more opportunities for extracurricular engagement. The specific proposed change is:

	Current Dismissal	Proposed Dismissal
Monday-Thursday	3:20pm Regular Dismissal 4:15pm Late Dismissal	4:00 pm All Dismissal
Friday	1:15pm Regular Dismissal 2:15pm Late Dismissal	12:00pm All Dismissal

These changes to our charter will be effective upon the approval of the Commissioner, beginning in the 2015-16 school year.

The UP Academy Charter School of Boston Board of Trustees wishes to make this change for two reasons. First, this shift will increase the opportunity for students to engage in more positive and varied, non-academic/ extracurricular opportunities as part of the core school program. In addition, it allows for a consistent end time for the school, which is favorable for families and will result in a removal of the need for late buses, streamlined communication with district transportation services, and cost savings for the school. We view this as a benefit for all stakeholders.

The UP Academy Charter School of Boston Board of Trustees voted to approve this request on April 14, 2015 at a meeting held in compliance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25. I have also enclosed certification that the Boston Public Schools school committee and Boston Teachers Union have approved this request.

To date, UP Academy Boston has demonstrated that it is an academic success, a viable organization, and faithful to the terms of its charter. Following the release of the spring 2014 MCAS data, UP Academy Boston was ranked #1 among all Massachusetts schools serving middle school students for academic growth in math for the third year in a row. Since its restart in 2011-12, UP Academy Boston has more than doubled its math proficiency rates, from 24% to 61%, and increased English Language Arts (ELA) proficiency rates from 32% to 54%. To recognize this impressive improvement, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education named UP Academy Boston to its 2014 List of Schools Commended for High Progress and Narrowing Proficiency Gaps.



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upacademyboston.org

The UP Academy Board of Trustees requests your approval of this amendment as soon as possible. Please contact Jamie Morrison at jmorrison@upacademyboston.org or 617-635-8819 if you have any questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Robert McConnaughey
Chair, UP Academy Charter School of Boston Board of Trustees

cc: John McDonough, Superintendent, Boston Public Schools
Jamie Morrison, Principal, UP Academy Boston
Scott Given, CEO, UP Education Network
Cliff Chuang, Associate Commissioner for Educational Redesign, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education