



UP ACADEMY BOSTON MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AND
CHARTER AMENDMENTS FOR UP ACADEMY DORCHESTER AND
UP ACADEMY BOSTON

Tim Nicolette, President - UP Education Network

Presentation to Boston School Committee
September 7th, 2016

UP Academy Boston/Dorchester: Items for consideration

The UP Academy Boston/UP Academy Dorchester Board of Trustees respectfully submits the following three items to the Boston Public Schools School Committee for consideration:

1. UP Academy Boston: updated Type A Memorandum of Understanding
2. UP Academy Boston: Daily Schedule Change Charter Amendment
3. UP Academy Dorchester: Maximum Enrollment Charter Amendment

UP Academy Boston: Type A Memorandum of Understanding

- UP Academy Boston's charter was renewed in February 2016 by the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- The Type A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Boston Public Schools and UP Academy Boston has been updated to reflect the charter's renewal.
- The MOU has received provisional approval from the Department of Elementary of Secondary Education.
- The Type A Memorandum of Understanding was approved by UP Academy Boston/UP Academy Dorchester Board of Trustees on August 31st, 2016.

UP Academy Boston: Daily Schedule Change Charter Amendment

Summary of Changes

- 7th and 8th graders will move from having a daily enrichment to one 60 minute enrichment block on Fridays.
- 6th graders will continue to have 30 minute enrichment blocks Mondays - Thursdays, in addition to an optional 45-minute FOCUS period at the end of the day.
- FOCUS will be eliminated for 7th and 8th graders. This time will be instead used for teacher planning, in order to design more effective academic and behavioral supports for students and to more deeply prepare for daily rigorous instruction.

Rationale

- The mission of UP Academy Boston (UAB) is to ensure all students acquire the knowledge, skills, and strength of character necessary to succeed on the path to college and to achieve their full potential.
- Rigorous instruction across all subjects is a key lever in achieving this mission. The requested changes to the UAB schedule will allow for additional teacher planning time during which instructional teams can focus on evaluating student data and designing rigorous instruction.

UP Academy Dorchester: Maximum Enrollment Charter Amendment

Summary of Changes

- Currently, UP Academy Dorchester (UAD) holds a Horace Mann in-district charter to serve students in grades K1-8, with a maximum enrollment of 750 students.
- UAD is requesting an amendment to increase its maximum enrollment cap from **750 students** to **820 students**.

Rationale

- Per the original application, UAD started as a K-5 in SY13-14 and has added a grade a year, with this school year being its first as a full K1-8.
- Expanding UP Academy Dorchester's maximum enrollment to 820 would allow us to accommodate existing students as they move up to Grade 8.
- Low attrition rates: overall enrollment per grade has remained higher than anticipated upon the approval of UAD's original charter.