

V.B.

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

TO BE PROPOSED:

May 1, 2019

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, renews the charter of Park City Prep Charter School from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2022, subject to the Commissioner's May 1, 2019, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of _____, this first day of May, Two Thousand Nineteen.

Signed: _____
Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary
State Board of Education

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Interim Commissioner of Education

DATE: May 1, 2019

SUBJECT: Renewal of State Charter – Park City Prep Charter School, Bridgeport

Executive Summary

Introduction

In accordance with subsection (g) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), charters may be renewed, upon application, in accordance with the provisions for the granting of new charters. The State Board of Education (SBE) may renew a charter for a period of up to five years. The SBE makes renewal decisions based on evidence of the following performance standards:

1. *School Performance:* Is the school a successful model resulting in strong student outcomes and a positive school climate?
2. *Stewardship, Governance and Management:* Is the school financially and organizationally healthy and viable?
3. *Student Population:* Is the school promoting equity by effectively attracting, enrolling and retaining students, particularly among targeted populations?
4. *Legal Compliance:* Is the school acting in compliance with applicable laws and regulations?

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the SBE carefully evaluate qualitative and quantitative evidence, and longitudinal data aligned to the four performance standards outlined above when making charter renewal decisions. The charter performance framework drives the CSDE's charter school accountability systems and processes, including initial approval decisions, annual monitoring and renewal determinations. From inception to renewal, charter schools must abide by the CSDE's charter school accountability procedures and performance framework. Charter monitoring takes place through annual reporting, meetings, correspondence and site visits, as appropriate. In accordance with C.G.S. § 10-66bb(g), a charter may be renewed upon application, if the charter school has demonstrated satisfactory performance relative to the four performance standards.

History/Background

Park City Prep Charter School opened in the fall of 2006. The latest CSDE audited student enrollment data from 2018-19 reported 360 students in Grades 5-8 with 98.9 percent residing in Bridgeport (the host district), and the remaining students coming from three area towns. Table 1, on page 12, of the attached Charter Renewal Report provides 2018-19 student enrollment and demographic data. Eighty-four point four percent of Park City Prep Charter School's students qualify for free or reduced price meals and 11.9 percent of the students receive special education services. The mission of Park City Prep Charter School is "maximize the academic achievement of each student in preparation for admission to, and success at, selective college preparatory high schools." The school reports that 90 percent of its 2018 graduating eighth graders gained admission to one or more selective private and/or public choice high schools.

Charter Renewal Process

Application for Renewal of Charter: The CSDE accepted an application for the renewal of Park City Prep Charter School's charter on October 5, 2018. The application detailed the charter school's progress, operations, and achievement in relation to the CSDE's charter school performance standards: (a) school performance; (b) stewardship, governance and management; (c) student population; and (d) legal compliance. Park City Prep Charter School submitted data and evidence to substantiate the charter school's written responses.

A renewal team comprised of CSDE staff with expertise in curriculum, assessments, special education, English learners, school management, finance, and school governance reviewed the renewal application and requested clarification and additional information, where necessary.

Renewal Site Visit: On December 5, 2018, the CSDE renewal team conducted an on-site visit at Park City Prep Charter School. The purpose of the on-site visit was to observe Park City Prep Charter School's programs, policies, practices, and procedures to assess their efficacy and fidelity to the school's charter and aligned operating systems. Evidence was collected through the on-site visit observations, document reviews, interviews, and focus groups. The team spoke with board members, administrators, staff, parents, and community members. The team used this process to ensure that the school is functioning in compliance with the law and the school's mission. The team verified the responses detailed in the renewal application regarding compliance with the law and the CSDE's performance framework and accountability plan.

Invitation for Written Comment: The CSDE solicited written comments on the renewal of Park City Prep Charter School from the Superintendent of Bridgeport Public Schools and from contiguous school districts: Fairfield, Stratford and Trumbull. The CSDE received a letter from the Superintendent of Bridgeport indicating an inability to support renewal of the charter citing fiscal uncertainty in the district (see Attachment A).

Public Hearing: Robert Trefry, member of the SBE, and CSDE staff held a public hearing on October 30, 2018, in the city of Bridgeport, and heard from individuals on the potential charter renewal of Park City Prep Charter School and the impact it is having on the community. Public hearing participants included members of the Park City Prep Charter School community, including family members, students, school staff and community members. Over 120 people attended the public hearing. Twenty four individuals offered testimony supporting the school's efforts and the renewal of the charter. No one spoke out against the renewal of the school's charter.

Site Visit Findings

The most recent available data and information contained in the Charter Renewal Report and the Next Generation Accountability Report 2017-18 (pages 6 and 7), indicates Park City Prep Charter School's performance according to the four performance standards. The report highlights school strengths and areas for continued growth.

Strengths include:

- No significant findings, conditions, or internal weaknesses were uncovered in Park City Prep Charter School's last three certified financial audits.
- Overall the student body reflects the demographics of the surrounding community.
- The school demonstrates strong community support as evidenced by testimony provided by individuals at the public hearing and interviews with parents during the site visit.
- School website and Governing Board documents demonstrate that the Governing Board meetings are open and accessible to the public.
- Park City Prep Charter School's 2017-18 school culture and climate data reports a chronic absenteeism rate of 7.5 percent which is below the state rate of 10.7 percent, and average daily attendance rate of 95.5 percent which is above the CSDE's goal of 95 percent.
- The school has exceeded the state testing participation rate of 95 percent in English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics and Science for all students and high needs students in each of the past three years.
- The 2017-18 Smarter Balanced average percentage of growth target achieved in ELA for all students in Grade 7 is 79.9 percent, exceeding the state's 56.7 percent by 23.2 percentage points.
- The 2017-18 Smarter Balanced average percentage of growth target achieved in mathematics for all students in Grade 7 is 88.0 percent, exceeding the state's 56.4 percent by 31.6 percentage points.
- The 2017-18 Smarter Balanced average percentage of growth target achieved in mathematics for all students in Grade 8 is 74.4 percent, exceeding the state's 58.6 percent by 15.8 percentage points.

Areas of Concern:

- While the school's 2017-18 suspension rate of 11.2 percent is 4.4 percentage points above the state average of 6.8, it has trended down over the last three years from a high of 17.5 percent in 2015-16.
- The 2017-18 Smarter Balanced Assessment percentage of students achieving at or above proficiency (level 3 and 4) in mathematics for Grades 5 and 6 (Table 4), is 8.3 percent and 11.2 percent respectively, below Bridgeport's 12.4 percent and 13.1 percent.
- The 2017-18 Smarter Balanced Assessment percentage of students achieving at or above proficiency (level 3 and 4) in ELA for Grade 6 (Table 4), is 27.0 percent, 0.6 percentage points above Bridgeport's 26.4 percentage points.
- The 2017-18 Smarter Balanced average percentage of growth target achieved in ELA for all students in Grade 6 is 41.0 percent, below the state's 57.8 percent by 16.8 percentage points.
- The 2017-18 Smarter Balanced average percentage of growth target achieved in mathematics for all students in Grade 6 is 38.1 percent, below the state's 60.5 percent by 22.4 percentage points.
- The 2017-18 Smarter Balanced average percentage of growth target achieved in ELA for all students in Grade 8 is 37.1 percent, below the state's 56.3 percent by 19.2 percent.

Charter Renewal Recommendation

Park City Prep Charter School's average daily attendance rate exceeded the state goal of 95 percent. Its chronic absenteeism rate is below the state average and suspension rates have trended down each of the last three years. Park City Prep Charter School's 2017-18 Smarter Balanced average percentage of growth target achieved in mathematics for all students and high needs students exceeded the state averages. While certain grades outperformed the state's 2017-18 Smarter Balanced average percentage of growth target achieved for all students, this performance was not consistent across all grades. Grade six's rate of 41.0 percent is below the state by 16.8 percent in ELA, and its 38.1 percent is below the state by 22.4 percent in mathematics. Grade eight's rate of 37.1 percent is below the state by 19.2 percent in ELA. Also of concern, are the 2017-18 Smarter Balanced mathematics performance of students at or above proficiency in Grades 5 and 6, which fell below Bridgeport. Acknowledging that Park City Prep Charter School's performance indicators are not without weakness, the CSDE recommends that the SBE renew the school's charter for a period of three years, subject to the following condition:

1. By May 31, 2019, Park City Prep Charter School shall submit a corrective action plan acceptable to the Commissioner. The corrective action plan must include measures to improve student academic achievement. Additionally, Park City Prep Charter School shall submit interim benchmark data assessments to the CSDE, beginning October 2019. The report will monitor year-to-date progress at improving student academic achievement for fall, winter and spring. The plan shall be developed in consultation with CSDE's Turnaround Office. Park City Prep Charter School shall implement the corrective actions within thirty days following the Commissioner's acceptance of the plan.

The CSDE will notify Park City Prep Charter School of action taken by the SBE following its meeting on May 1, 2019. The school will be advised of relevant technical assistance opportunities designed to improve its educational program. The CSDE will conduct follow-up visits to ensure Park City Prep Charter School is addressing the issues raised in this memorandum.

Prepared by: Robert E. Kelly, Charter School Program Manager
Turnaround Office

Reviewed by: Lisa Lamenzo, Bureau Chief
Turnaround Office

Approved by: Desi D. Nesmith, Chief Turnaround Officer
Turnaround Office

CHARTER RENEWAL REPORT | 2019

Charter School Information:		
Charter School Name:	Park City Prep Charter School	
School Director:	Bruce Ravage	
School Board Chairperson:	John Bryk	
Location (City/Town):	Bridgeport	
Rating Key:		
Meets	The school demonstrates effective policies and practices, resulting in positive outcomes.	
Pending Action	The school requires minor modifications to its policies and/or practices. The school is taking satisfactory measures to remedy and address these issues in a timely manner.	
Does Not Meet	The schools falls below performance expectations with significant concerns noted, which require immediate attention and intervention.	
Standard 1: School Performance Indicators	Points/Max	% Points Earned
Accountability Index:	522.1/800	65.3
Notes and Evidence:		
<p>The 2017-18 Park City Prep Charter School Accountability Index score of 65.3 is below average when compared to the state school Accountability Index score of 73.2. Schools that meet Standard 1: School Performance Indicators are schools earning an accountability index score that is in the state's top three quartiles. Park City Prep Charter School's Accountability Index score of 65.3 places its performance in the third quartile, which meets Standard 1. Park City Prep Charter School's 2017-18 Next Generation Accountability Report shown in detail on the next page.</p>		

Next Generation Accountability, 2017-18

Park City Prep Charter School District, Park City Prep Charter School (Grades: 5-8)

School Category: 3

Indicator	Index/Rate	Target	Points Earned	Max Points	% Points Earned	State Average % Points Earned
1a. ELA Performance Index - All Students	57.9	75	38.6	50	77.2	90.1
1b. ELA Performance Index - High Needs Students	55.1	75	36.7	50	73.5	76.7
1c. Math Performance Index - All Students	52.5	75	35.0	50	69.9	83.6
1d. Math Performance Index - High Needs Students	50.8	75	33.9	50	67.7	69.3
1e. Science Performance Index - All Students	.	75	.	.	.	.
1f. Science Performance Index - High Needs Students	.	75	.	.	.	.
2a. ELA Academic Growth - All Students	54.6%	100%	54.6	100	54.6	60.7
2b. ELA Academic Growth - High Needs Students	53.7%	100%	53.7	100	53.7	55.6
2c. Math Academic Growth - All Students	64.5%	100%	64.5	100	64.5	61.9
2d. Math Academic Growth - High Needs Students	65.0%	100%	65.0	100	65.0	55.4
4a. Chronic Absenteeism - All Students	7.5%	<=5%	45.1	50	90.1	77.2
4b. Chronic Absenteeism - High Needs Students	8.1%	<=5%	43.8	50	87.5	53.6
5. Preparation for CCR - Percent Taking Courses	.	75%	.	.	.	99.7
6. Preparation for CCR - Percent Passing Exams	.	75%	.	.	.	59.7
7. On-track to High School Graduation	88.9%	94%	47.3	50	94.6	93.1
8. 4-year Graduation: All Students (2017 Cohort)	.	94%	.	.	.	93.5
9. 6-year Graduation: High Needs Students (2015 Cohort)	.	94%	.	.	.	87.0
10. Postsecondary Entrance (Graduating Class 2017)	.	75%	.	.	.	94.5
11. Physical Fitness (estimated participation rate = 100.0%)	6.0%	75%	4.0	50	8.0	66.8
12. Arts Access	.	60%	.	.	.	85.3
Accountability Index	.	.	522.1	800	65.3	74.9

Gap Indicators

Indicator	Non-High Needs Rate	High Needs Rate	Size of Gap	State Gap Mean +1 Standard Deviation	Is Gap an Outlier?
ELA Performance Index Gap	67.5	55.1	12.4	15.6	N
Math Performance Index Gap	58.1	50.8	7.3	17.7	N
Science Performance Index Gap	.	.	.	.	.
Graduation Rate Gap (2015 Cohort)	.	.	.	.	.

If the Non-High Needs Rate exceeds the ultimate target (75 for Performance Index and 94% for Graduation Rate), the ultimate target is used for gap calculations.

If the size of the gap exceeds the state mean gap plus one standard deviation, the gap is an outlier.

Assessment Participation Rates

Indicator	Participation Rate (%)
ELA - All Students	100.0
ELA - High Needs Students	100.0
Math - All Students	99.7
Math - High Needs Students	99.6
Science - All Students	95.9
Science - High Needs Students	96.3

Minimum participation standard is 95%.

Standard 2: Stewardship, Governance and Management Indicators:	Rating
2.1. Fiscal Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
2.2. Financial Reporting and Compliance	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
2.3. Financial Viability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
2.4. Governance and Management	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
2.5. School Facility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM

Notes and Evidence:

- Indicator 2.1:** CSDE site visit staff reviewed Park City Prep Charter School’s last three certified financial audits and uncovered no significant findings, conditions or internal control weakness.
- Indicator 2.2:** CSDE site visit staff reviewed Park City Prep Charter School’s last three certified financial audits, Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual (APPM) and budgets, and interviewed the school principal, Director of Operations and governing board members. Staff from the CSDE’s Office of Internal Audit determined the APPM lacks standard sections of an APPM. The missing items include daily deposits of school cash receipts, use of school facility, contract approval thresholds for governing board and response to audit findings. The reviewers determined Park City Prep Charter School completed on-time submission of certified audits and annual budgets. The school is in the process of amending the APPM.
- Indicator 2.3:** Staff from CSDE’s Office of Internal Audit reviewed Park City Prep Charter School’s last three certified financial audits and determined Park City Prep Charter School’s debt to asset ratio (total liabilities/total assets), total margin (net income/revenue), current asset ratio (current assets / current liabilities) and days of unrestricted cash (unrestricted cash / ((total expenditures – depreciation) / 365 days)) meets or exceeds the ranges recommended by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), signifying overall financial health.
- Indicator 2.4:** A review of Park City Prep Charter School’s school policies regarding anti-nepotism and conflict of interest were found to not be in compliance with CSDE administrative oversight guidelines. The school is in the process of amending the anti-nepotism and conflict of interest policies. The Park City Prep Charter School’s policies and procedures regarding background checks of staff and board members, open board meetings and board membership training were reviewed and found to comply with state and federal laws, rules and regulation. This finding is supported by a review of background checks, board training records, school’s website and governing board meeting minutes.
- Indicator 2.5:** As evidenced during the site visit, Park City Prep Charter School has a safe and well-maintained school facility to support teaching and learning. The facility has been approved by the Bridgeport Fire Marshal and Building Department. The school has proof of property insurance.

Standard 3: Student Population Indicators	Rating
3.1. Recruitment and Enrollment Process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
3.2. Waitlist and Enrollment Data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
3.3. Demographic Representation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
3.4. Family and Community Support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
3.5. School Culture and Climate	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM

Notes and Evidence:

- Indicator 3.1:** The latest CSDE audited student enrollment data from 2018-19 reported 360 students in Grades 5-8 with 98.9 percent residing in Bridgeport (the host district) and the remaining students coming from three area towns. A review of the school’s student enrollment policy, and interviews with school staff, board members and parents determined all students are admitted through a blind lottery.
- Indicator 3.2:** A review of Park City Prep Charter School’s waitlist information (Table 3, page 12) determined it maintains a waitlist of families beyond the available number of seats. In 2018-19, 177 students were on the waiting list. The waitlist has included more than 170 students each year for the past three years.
- Indicator 3.3:** A review of Park City Prep Charter School’s 2018-19 Public School Information System (PSIS) data reports students from minority groups represent 95.8 percent of Park City Prep Charter School’s student population and 84.4 percent of the students qualify for free and reduced-price meals. The EL population is 10.0 percent. The percentage of special education students at Park City Prep Charter School is 11.9 percent. Overall the student body reflects the demographics of the surrounding community.
- Indicator 3.4:** Park City Prep Charter School demonstrates strong community support, as evidenced by parent interviews conducted by the CSDE renewal team. Parent focus groups described the communication between the school and families as strong. All expressed support for what they perceive is a strong curriculum and the school’s dedication to ensuring each child’s needs are met. Parents indicated they were happy with the school’s commitment to serving students with diverse needs. Students testified during the public hearing that they are happy with the educational choice opportunity the school provides. Over 120 individuals attended the October 30, 2018, renewal public hearing, and 24 individuals offered testimony supporting the school’s efforts and the renewal of its charter. No one spoke out against the renewal of the school’s charter.
- Indicator 3.5:** School culture and climate policies reviewed by CSDE site visit staff were clear and concise. Classroom observations revealed consistent implementation of behavior management model. A review of Park City Prep Charter School’s 2017-18 school culture and climate data reports a chronic absenteeism rate of 7.5 percent which is below the state rate of 10.7 percent, and an average daily attendance rate of 95.5 percent which is above the CSDE’s goal of 95 percent. While Park City Prep Charter School’s suspension rate is trending downward from 17.5 percent in 2015-16 to 11.2 percent in 2017-18, it remains 4.4 percentage points above the state average of 6.8 percent. It is important that the school continue its efforts to reduce student suspensions going forward.

Standard 4: Legal Compliance Indicators	Rating
4.1. Open Meetings/Information Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
4.2. Students with Disabilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
4.3. English Learners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
4.4. Rights of Students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
4.5. Teacher/Staff Credentials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
4.6. Employee Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> PA <input type="checkbox"/> DNM
Notes and Evidence:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Indicator 4.1: The school website and Governing Board documents demonstrate that Governing Board meetings are open and accessible to the public. The Governing Board meeting schedule for the year and meeting agendas are posted on the school’s website. Education records and testing data are secured in locked file cabinets in the school director’s office.</p> <p>Indicator 4.2: A review of Park City Prep Charter School 2017-18 Public School Information System (PSIS) data reports the percentage of special education students at the school is 11.9 percent. To address student needs, Park City Prep Charter School employs two full-time special education teachers which provide instruction and individualized services to identified students.</p> <p>Park City Prep Charter School provides special education supports and services within the least restrictive environment continuum as determined by the identified student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Specialized instruction is provided in the general education setting with integrated instructional support and grade level resource room settings. The school reports that they are fully supportive of meaningful inclusive practices for all students with disabilities.</p> <p>Park City Prep Charter School implements a “resource room” model for delivery of specialized instruction. The special education teachers, to the extent possible, align instruction with the regular classroom teacher in implementing reading, writing or math and measure progress (Lexia, i Ready) as well as the curriculum based on-line assessment STAR. As evident in the review of student files, the school monitors student progress toward short-term IEP objectives and annual goals.</p> <p>Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings are held by the School District in which the student resides. Parents/Guardians, students (as appropriate) and required PPT members from Park City Prep Charter School are invited to participate in the meeting. The PPT develops, reviews, and revises the IEP based upon the student’s individualized needs.</p> <p>Student education files are kept in locked file cabinets. All files reviewed had individual sign-in access sheets. The reviewed files were well organized and maintained.</p> 	

- Indicator 4.3:** A review of Park City Prep Charter School’s 2017-18 Public School Information System (PSIS) data reports the percentage of students identified as English Learners (ELs) at the school is 7.9 percent. The school is not required to provide a bilingual program as it does not enroll 20 or more ELs with the same non-English native language. The school meets its obligation to provide supports to ELs through differentiated instruction provided by the classroom teacher and teacher support staff in the general education classroom. The school has developed an EL plan. The plan contains sections including: EL identification, serving EL students, parent communication and rights, annual assessment and exit criteria. The school has added the LAS Links annual English language proficiency test to the assessment calendar. Park City Prep Charter School ensures that translation/interpretation continues to be available to families as needed, as it is the parents’ right to receive information in a language that they understand.
- Indicator 4.4:** Park City Prep Charter School student rights policies and procedures include admissions, handling of student information, due process protections and state nondiscrimination laws. Interviews with parents and staff at the school supported the proper implementation and use of the policies.
- Indicator 4.5:** Staff from the CSDE Bureau of Educator Standards and Certification reviewed the state certified staff file and the school’s employee roster. A report as of March 20, 2019, confirmed 100 percent of Park City Prep Charter School’s staff to be in compliance with certification and current state legislation.
- Indicator 4.6:** A review of Park City Prep Charter School employment policies and procedures and an interview with the school director determined the school’s hiring and employment practices ensure protections under the Family Medical Leave Act, Americans with Disabilities Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Prepared by:	Reviewed by:	Approved by:
Robert Kelly, Charter School Program Manager	Lisa Lamenzo, Turnaround Office Bureau Chief	Desi Nesmith, Chief Turnaround Officer

PARK CITY PREP CHARTER SCHOOL DATA

Table 1: 2018-19 Student Enrollment and Demographic Information	
Grades served:	5-8
Total enrollment:	360
Percentage of students qualifying for free or reduced price meals:	84.4
Percentage of special education students:	11.9
Percentage of students with limited English proficiency:	10.0
Percentage of minority students:	95.8
Percentage American Indian or Alaska Native:	*
Percentage of Asian students:	*
Percentage of Black students:	44.4
Percentage of Hispanic students:	48.6
Percentage of Two or More Races:	*
Percentage of Caucasian students:	4.2

*N<=5. Data suppressed to ensure student data privacy.

Table 2: School Culture and Climate Data				
Performance Metric:	2015-16:	2016-17:	2017-18:	STATE 2017-18:
Average daily attendance rate:	97.3%	95.6%	95.5%	
Chronic absenteeism rate:	6.3%	5.2%	7.5%	10.7%
Number of in-school suspensions:	100	37	10	
Number of out-of-school suspensions:	74	54	43	
Suspension rate (% students with 1+ suspension):	17.5%	12.3%	11.2%	6.8%
Number of expulsions:	0	0	0	
Cohort graduation rate (if applicable):	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Six Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (if applicable):	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 3: Student Waitlist and Mobility Information			
Performance Metric:	2016-17:	2017-18:	2018-19:
Waitlist number:	297	206	177
Number of enrolled students who left during the school year:	27	37	N/A
Number of students who did not re-enroll the next year and had not completed the highest grade at the school:	0	15	N/A

PARK CITY PREP CHARTER SCHOOL SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT

Table 4: Smarter Balanced Assessment - Percentage of students at level 3 and 4 (met/exceeded)				
Grades 5-8	2016-17	2017-18	District-2017-18	State-2017-18
ELA	37.7	34.7	25.7	55.3
MATH	17.8	19.7	14.9	46.8

Grades 3-8 Smarter Balanced Assessment - Percentage of students at level 3 and 4 (met/exceeded)								
GRADE	ELA 2016-17	ELA 2017-18	DISTRICT 2017-18	STATE 2017-18	MATH 2016-17	MATH 2017-18	DISTRICT 2017-18	STATE 2017-18
5	28.9	*	26.3	58.4	17.5	8.3	12.4	45.0
6	30.7	27.0	26.4	54.3	9.2	11.2	13.1	43.9
7	45.7	48.2	27.3	55.0	20.3	30.6	12.3	44.1
8	48.7	35.5	26.2	56.1	25.3	32.0	11.8	43.0

*The data are suppressed to ensure confidentiality.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

ARESTA L. JOHNSON, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604

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November 1, 2018

Mr. Desi Nesmith
Chief Turnaround Officer
Connecticut Department of Education
P.O. Box 2219
Hartford, CT 06145

Dear Mr. Nesmith,

This letter serves as a follow-up to your letter dated October 11, 2018 regarding the potential renewal of Park City Prep Charter School. As you are aware, I remain greatly concerned regarding funding state mandates without having the necessary fiscal resources to aid us in our efforts to provide equitable educational opportunities for our children in Bridgeport Public Schools. Shown below, you will find data emphasizing many of these charter school unfunded mandates which further exacerbate our ability to function and thrive as a school district.

It would be beneficial to have the Connecticut Department of Education discuss fiscal relief and/or support of the charter school unfunded mandates. To that end, I would be unable to support renewal of a charter at this time, as our current fiscal condition continues to place us in a state of fiscal uncertainty and therefore jeopardizes our ability to educate each and every one of our students in the City of Bridgeport.

Unfunded mandates are statutes or regulations that require the school district to perform certain actions, without being given money for fulfilling the requirements.

Projected
Charter Schools

- Sped Services: \$1,662,342
- Sped Transportation \$ 245,000
- Gen Ed Transportation \$ 1,210,089

Best Regards,


Aresta L. Johnson
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Robert Kelly, Charter School Program Manager
Felicia Canty, Charter School Office Liaison

ALJ/ao