

## ***Charter Replication and Expansion Policy***

### **1. Definitions**

- Replication:** An existing Local Education Agency (LEA) establishes a school that replicates the vision, mission, grade-level configuration, academic program, and instructional model of an existing school. The new school's location does not lie within its campus footprint. If the existing LEA established a catchment area for its existing school, the new school's location does not lie within the catchment area.
- Expansion A:** An existing school that expands its program beyond the building grade-level configuration designated in its charter. The expansion takes place at a location within its existing campus footprint or catchment area. Examples:
- A grade PK-5 elementary school expands to a PK-8 school on the same campus.
  - A grade 6-8 middle school expands to a grade 6-12 secondary program with the high school located in a separate building three city blocks from the middle school.
- Expansion B:** An existing LEA establishes a new school in a location that does not lie within its campus footprint or catchment area, but the school does not replicate one or more of the following: vision, mission, grade-level configuration, academic program and instructional model.

#### Expedited opportunities for high-quality schools:

For a high-quality school seeking expansion or replication, the sponsor provides amendment, application and/or approval processes that, compared to processes for regular schools, take significantly less time to complete.

### **2. Recommendations and Decisions**

Washington University implements a transparent and rigorous process that uses comprehensive data to make merit-based replication and expansion recommendations to the Missouri State Board of Education.

The University's replication and expansion decisions are supported by analyses and weighing data regarding a charter school's performance over time in relation to the goals and terms of its charter application and Missouri's pupil academic standards as adopted by the State Board of Education. Expansion and replication decisions are informed by a comprehensive set of multiple sources, including the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) results, standardized test results, and internal building measures.

As required in statute, Washington University will provide expedited opportunities as defined above (1) for high-quality charter schools desiring to expand or replicate.

### 3. Replication and Expansion Criteria

Washington University grants replication and/or expansion only to charter schools with a quality educational program in their existing school(s) that has achieved the goals and standards set in charter and performance contracts, is organizationally and financially viable, and has been faithful to the terms of the charter, sponsor contracts and applicable laws.

In order for the University to recommend a charter school for replication and/or expansion, the governing board and school administration must demonstrate the following:

- The existing charter school:
  - Meets academic performance standards as set forth in the Charter School Contract and the school's Performance Contract. Standards for increasing student achievement include, but are not limited to:
    - Demonstrates steady improvement in scores on the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP).
    - Demonstrates one month or more average academic gain per month of instruction as measured on internal standardized tests.
    - Demonstrates MAP index scores better than district schools with similar demographics.
  - Meets generally accepted standards of fiscal and organizational performance.
  - Provides evidence when requested to confirm compliance with all provisions of the charter and charter school statutes, regulations and codes.
  - Is in compliance with applicable federal or state laws, including Missouri State Charter School Law.
  - Is faithful to the terms of its charter application.
  - Provides an education of equal or greater quality than peer schools of similar size, demographics and scope in the St. Louis Public School District.
- The proposed school's location serves a community where existing schools do not provide enough quality seats for school-age children.
- The community served by the school supports its establishment.
- The school provides clear evidence of capacity to execute replication or expansion successfully. This includes:
  - A strong replication/expansion plan.
  - Evidence of sufficient human capital to effectively execute the plan.
  - Evidence of sufficient financial resources to effectively execute the plan.
  - Submission of a sound business plan and projected budget for the next three years.
  - Facilities with sufficient space to accommodate enrollment increases.

These criteria apply to both regular and high-quality charter schools, as defined in statute.

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#### **4. Expedited Process for High-Quality Charter Schools**

Washington University will provide high-quality expedited opportunities as defined in this policy to the fullest extent allowed by current statute.

##### ***Replication and Expansion Process and Procedures***

Charter schools desiring to replicate or expand may:

1. Submit a thorough, written proposal in the form of an amendment to its existing charter that addresses all of the criteria stated above.
2. The University will evaluate the proposal based on the criteria and decide whether or not to approve.
3. The University will send written notification of its decision to the school within 60 days of the proposal's submission. Notification will include a rationale for the decision.
4. The University will send a copy of the notification to DESE.

This process applies to both definitions of Expansion above: A and B.