

7/29/2021

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Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148-4906

Re: Letter of intent to open The Ubuntu Excellence for All STEAM School

Dear Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign,

In accordance with the policies of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign School Board, please accept our Letter of Intent to submit an application for a charter school during the 2022-2023 school year. The Ubuntu Excellence for All STEAM School's purpose is to serve historically marginalized students of immigrant families and families of African diaspora interested in STEAM. African diasporic communities in urban cities are often economically or socially oppressed and consist of Black and Brown families who continue to be underserved by the traditional public school system. With that, our focus will be to provide rigorous instructions to various types of learners.

The school will serve Pre Kindergarten to grade 12, serving grades K-7 in the first year of operation. The target enrollment in the first year of operation is 296 and the school plans to serve 518 students at full growth.

The curriculum and school design that will be implemented will be based on the ATTEST Education Group's Excellence for All Model. Excellence for All (EFA) began in Boston Public Schools and was designed to increase rigor and enrichments for students who have been historically marginalized. There are five Pillars of Practice in Boston's EFA model that define the types of programming students receive.

Pillar of Practice	Brief Description
Rigorous Instruction	All instructions and curriculum promote rigor
Quality Enrichments	Students receive innovative programs that increase their knowledge and understanding of the world. EFA focuses on STEM and World Language
Social Emotional Learning and Culturally & Linguistically Sustaining Practices	EFA support students emotional and social learning through a cultural affirming model that affirms their community values
Executive Function	Support students ability to become independent and resourceful learners by supporting the growth of metacognition, organizational and study skills.
Personalized Learning	Make learning personal and increase students access to 21st century learning environments

The Ubuntu EFA STEAM School will use the ATTEST EFA model designed specifically for this school. This model includes additional design elements such as leadership and a focus on community.

Our applicant group consists of individuals whose goals are to change the way marginalized students receive education. These individuals hold many roles such as; parents, grandparents, district leaders, teachers, nurse practitioners and entrepreneurs. We have come together with the same objective and are thrilled with the opportunity to have it come to fruition. Leading our group is Dr. Regine Philippeaux, the current Deputy Chief of Equity and Strategy for Boston Public Schools, and Ms. Toni-Ann Williams, a passionate Special Education teacher. Dr. Philippeaux launched and managed Excellence for All, an initiative designed to eliminate opportunity gaps for Black and Brown children in Boston Public Schools. She is also a graduate of Columbia University’s School of Engineering and Applied Science. Other members of the applicant group include Ms. Rachel Jules, a current program manager for Excellence for All, Charlie Hubbard, a retired business and marketing leader who volunteers his talents at Excellence for All, Adetunji Onamade who holds management and school business/budget expertise, Kayla Williams, a computer software designer, and Jasmine Cenat, a parent.

With Regards,



Dr. Regine Philippeaux-Pierre

COMMONWEALTH AND HORACE MANN CHARTER APPLICANT INFORMATION SHEET

This information is included with all submissions. The application, including this form, are posted on the Department website. Applicants are advised that the primary contact person may be contacted by the public and/or media with questions about the proposed school.

Name of Proposed Charter School: **The Ubuntu Excellence for All STEAM School**

School Address (if known):

School Location (City/Town REQUIRED): **Worcester**

Primary Contact Person: **(See below)**

Role or relationship of contact person to proposal:

Address [Street, City/Town, State, and Zip Code]:

Daytime Tel: (____) _____ Secondary Tel: (____) _____

Email:

<p>Toni-Ann Williams Role in Proposal: Part of Applicant Group/Writer 41 W Selden Street Mattapan, MA 02126 cell: (617) 990 - 4279 mstwilliams50@gmail.com</p>	<p>Rachel Jules Role in Proposal: Part of Applicant Group/Writer 19 Sonoma St #1 Dorchester, MA 02121 cell: (617) 708 - 4950 rachelnjules@gmail.com</p>
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1. The proposed school will open in the fall of school year: 2022-2023 2023-2024

School Year	Grade Levels	Total Student Enrollment
First Year	K -7	296
Second Year	Prek - 8	370
Third Year	Prek - 9	407
Fourth Year	Prek - 10	444
Fifth Year	Prek - 11	481
Sixth Year	Prek - 12	518
<i>Add additional rows as needed to show planned growth to reach full proposed grade span and maximum enrollment.</i>		

2. Grade span at full enrollment: **Pre-K to 12**

3. Total student enrollment when fully expanded: **518**

4. Age at entry for kindergarten, if applicable: **4 years old**

5. If applicable, the proposed Horace Mann charter school is: New or Conversion

6. If applicable, the proposed type of Horace Mann¹ charter school is:

- Horace Mann I Horace Mann II Horace Mann III

Questions #7-10 are for applications for a Commonwealth charter school ONLY.

7. Will this proposed Commonwealth school be a **regional charter school**? Yes No

If yes, list the school districts (including regional school districts) in the proposed region. Please only list districts that are included in *District Information on Enrollment Projections for New Applications and Expansion Amendments* at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/new/?section=app>. (Use additional rows if necessary.)

<u>Worcester</u>	<u>Mendon-Upton</u>	<u>Hopedale</u>
<u>Milford</u>	<u>Millbury</u>	<u>West Boylston</u>
<u>Sutton</u>	<u>Grafton</u>	<u>Leicester</u>

If no, please specify the district's population as reported in the most recent United States census estimate for the community the school intends to serve: _____.

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall not approve a new Commonwealth charter school in any community with a population of less than 30,000 as determined by the most recent United States census estimate [available at <http://www.census.gov/>], unless it is a regional charter school. (MGL c. 71 § 89(i)(1).

8. For all proposed Commonwealth charter schools, list the districts that are contiguous with the proposed school's district or region. Please only list districts that are included in *District Information on Enrollment Projections for New Applications and Expansion Amendments* at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/new/?section=app>. (Use additional rows if necessary.)

Auburn	Spencer	Berlin
Paxton	Shrewsbury	Boylston
Holden	Northbridge	_____

9. Will the proposed Commonwealth charter school serve a district where overall student performance on MCAS is in the lowest 10 percent, as designated in *District Information on Enrollment Projections for New Applications and Expansion Amendments* or in **any updated analysis** performed by the Department? Yes No

10. Will the proposed Commonwealth charter school serve a district or districts in which the 9 percent net school spending cap is, or **could be**, exceeded by applications during the upcoming cycle? Yes No

11. Have members of the applicant group previously submitted an initial application or final application that did not result in a charter? Yes No

If yes, is the present submission related in content to the previous application? Yes No

If yes, please indicate the name of the previous proposal and the year submitted.

12. Is the applicant group currently the board of trustees of an existing charter school?

- Yes No

¹ The revision of M.G.L. c. 71, § 89 in 2010 created three types of Horace Mann charter schools, each with a particular set of requirements. For a description of Horace Mann II Charter Schools, see the Questions and Answers document at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/about.html>.

If answered YES, please explain why the group is not using the charter application designed for use by a current board of trustees.

13. Do members of the applicant group currently operate or are they employed by a private or parochial school? Yes No

If yes, please indicate the person's name, the school name and school location, and dates of employment or affiliation.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

14. Are any members of the applicant group present or past members of a charter school board of trustees, school committee, or other type of public governing body? Yes No

If yes, please indicate the person's name; the charter school name and school location, or school committee district; and dates of membership.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____