

Major Modification Application - December 30, 2021



**Major Modification Request
Submitted 12.30.21**

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Section A Core Questions:

- 1. What modification does the school's Board of Directors want to make to the term(s) of the charter? Identify the page number(s) on which the term(s) is/are stated in the currently approved charter. If the term(s) of the charter the school wants to modify is/are conditions placed on the charter by the Secretary of Education and members of the State Board of Education, state the condition(s) and the date(s) on which the condition(s) was/were placed on the school's charter.**

We seek to gradually increase our enrollment from 460 to 580 starting in FY24 – FY27. Our current chartered enrollment number is on page 3 of our 2020 Application. No conditions were placed on EastSide Charter at our 2020 renewal

We also seek to temporarily move some of our 5th through 8th grade students to the Teen Warehouse, located at 1126 Thatcher Street, Wilmington, DE 19802 while we construct a STEM HUB that will offer amazing learning opportunities for our students and the public.

EastSide Community Learning Center Foundation plans to construct a community facing, state of the art, STEM HUB on its property in the Riverside area of NE Wilmington, Delaware. A \$13.5MM project, including renovations to the Foundation's existing facilities, the new facility will be named the CHEMOURS STEM HUB at EASTSIDE in recognition of the \$4MM grant that has been made to the Foundation by the Chemours Company. Chemours has also "adopted" EastSide Charter School that will occupy the STEM HUB during the school day and will provide curriculum support and volunteer mentors for students and other community users of the facilities.

The STEM HUB will address educational, workforce development and health monitoring needs in the community.

EastSide Charter School, a 25 year old K-8 public charter school currently with 480 students, is the primary occupant of the Foundation's existing facilities. EastSide Charter's middle school will occupy the STEM HUB during the school day and it will be open to the entire community during non-school hours thanks in part to a partnership with the Wilmington Public Library which will staff the facility during non-school hours, including weekends. The construction of the STEM HUB will permit EastSide Charter to expand its enrollment to 580 students.

The STEM HUB will promote employment by offering educational opportunities for advancement. The grant from Chemours also comes with mentoring and other assistance to be provided by Chemours employees. Chemours has agreed to have their staff, along with other STEM leaders in Delaware, offer courses and trainings to students and adults at the STEM Hub. This will provide students from all over Delaware with access to top notch internships that will turn into jobs in the future. Parents and adults from the entire community can come and make use of a Maker's Space as well as engage in Job Fairs and trainings that will prepare them for jobs in STEM. In addition, the STEM HUB project will create 110-125 FTEs during the construction period and 9 new permanent jobs ongoing.

In a state with an impressive amount of career opportunities in STEM we do not have community spaces to prepare our citizens for these opportunities. Our new STEM center will allow adults in Wilmington the opportunity to gain job skills and interview with STEM focused businesses. The STEM center will allow students the chance to receive world class instruction from titans in the STEM field and gain skills that can change their lives for the better. The STEM center will be where community, businesses, educators, and community members can come together to transform our state.

Though the HUB will have a focus on STEM careers, workforce development will not be exclusive to this industry. The HUB will offer additional career service opportunities after-school, weekends and over the summer.

The STEM HUB will also create community health benefits. It will enable health monitoring by offering COVID testing and vaccinations along with mental health services through a partnership with Nemours while serving the students of the community during the school day.

Community members will also be able to use the facility for hosting events and engaging with the community. The HUB will continue to add more partnerships and resource offerings to the community as we build the facility and the impact it can have on the surrounding community.

2. What is the effective date of the proposed modification?

We request that enrollment increase gradually from 460 (approved for 460 but 474 currently enrolled) to 507 in FY 24, 527 in FY 25, 552 in FY26, and 580 in FY 27. This schedule of increase will allow the school to adjust to the increase of students as well as properly increase staffing as needed.

We seek to have approval of a temporary move to the Teen Warehouse for FY 23 only. The students will be moved back to the main campus beginning FY 24 or upon the successful completion of our construction of the new STEM addition to EastSide Charter School which is scheduled to be ready by the beginning of the FY24 school year.

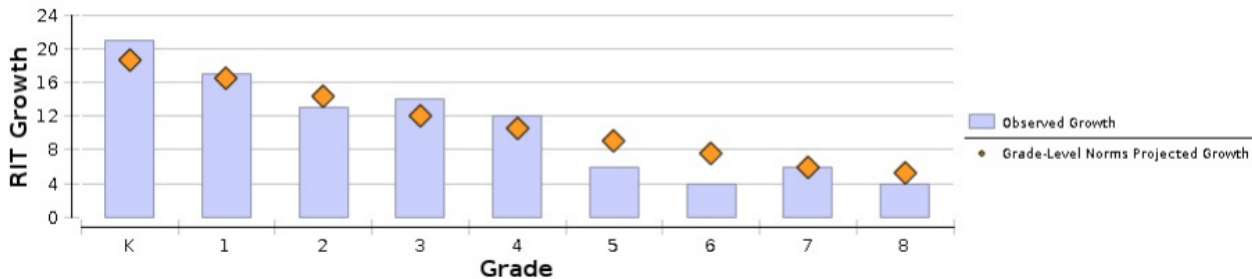
3. The authorizer will review your most recent Performance Review Reports as part of your application. Discuss the school's academic performance, compliance with the terms of its charter, and financial viability as measured by the Performance Framework.

The School has seen an increase in standardized test scores over the past two years. This increase has occurred on the 2021 State Assessment and on our most recent MAP assessment (pre-pandemic with a complete in person year) with more students achieving their goals.

Math: Math K-12

Grade (Spring 2019)	Total Number of Growth Events‡	Comparison Periods						Growth Evaluated Against								
		Fall 2018			Spring 2019			Growth		Grade-Level Norms			Student Norms			
		Mean RIT Score	Standard Deviation	Achievement Percentile	Mean RIT Score	Standard Deviation	Achievement Percentile	Observed Growth	Observed Growth SE	Projected School Growth	School Conditional Growth Index	School Conditional Growth Percentile	Number of Students With Growth Projections	Number of Students Who Met Their Growth Projection	Percentage of Students Who Met Growth Projection	Student Median Conditional Growth Percentile
K	75	132.3	8.4	9	153.6	11.5	25	21	1.2	18.6	1.20	89	75	45	60	66
1	78	152.4	15.5	10	169.2	17.1	12	17	1.2	16.6	0.10	54	78	40	51	49
2	81	167.0	12.7	8	179.9	10.8	6	13	0.9	14.3	-0.63	26	81	34	42	39
3	67	176.0	11.8	2	190.1	12.0	5	14	1.0	12.0	0.98	84	67	33	49	46
4	109	191.7	11.8	12	204.0	14.3	19	12	0.7	10.5	0.92	82	109	64	59	57
5	62	202.9	15.6	20	209.1	17.4	12	6	0.9	9.0	-1.22	11	62	22	35	27
6	83	205.1	13.5	11	209.2	14.8	5	4	0.9	7.6	-1.59	6	83	33	40	31
7	56	207.1	13.4	6	213.2	14.2	7	6	0.9	6.0	0.07	53	56	28	50	47
8	48	214.5	15.8	14	219.0	18.2	13	4	1.2	5.2	-0.30	38	48	27	56	53

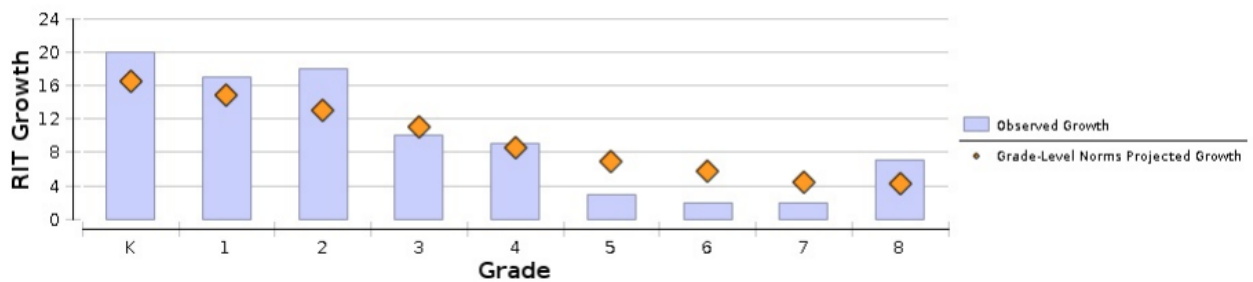
Math: Math K-12



Language Arts: Reading

Grade (Spring 2019)	Total Number of Growth Events‡	Comparison Periods						Growth Evaluated Against								
		Fall 2018			Spring 2019			Growth		Grade-Level Norms			Student Norms			
		Mean RIT Score	Standard Deviation	Achievement Percentile	Mean RIT Score	Standard Deviation	Achievement Percentile	Observed Growth	Observed Growth SE	Projected School Growth	School Conditional Growth Index	School Conditional Growth Percentile	Number of Students With Growth Projections	Number of Students Who Met Their Growth Projection	Percentage of Students Who Met Growth Projection	Student Median Conditional Growth Percentile
K	53	135.6	8.2	42	155.3	9.8	66	20	1.4	16.6	1.29	90	53	37	70	60
1	43	149.1	13.6	10	165.9	12.4	20	17	1.8	14.9	0.77	78	43	28	65	56
2	42	163.4	13.0	8	181.4	11.6	28	18	1.6	13.0	2.01	98	42	29	69	68
3	59	176.0	13.3	7	186.1	14.3	6	10	1.1	11.0	-0.41	34	59	25	42	42
4	121	189.9	14.5	17	198.6	14.7	19	9	0.8	8.5	0.08	53	121	63	52	49
5	53	196.7	17.0	14	199.8	15.8	6	3	1.4	6.9	-1.93	3	53	19	36	24
6	60	201.4	15.9	11	203.0	15.5	4	2	1.4	5.7	-2.36	1	60	18	30	25
7	61	208.0	13.6	20	210.3	14.5	13	2	1.2	4.4	-1.22	11	61	25	41	38
8	40	204.2	16.4	4	211.6	14.2	10	7	1.7	4.3	1.52	94	40	27	68	63

Language Arts: Reading



Financially we have remained in a strong position. EastSide has recently received a grant of \$4MM from Chemours to build a STEM Hub that will add approximately 30,000 sq. ft to the building.

- Describe the rationale for the request(s). Discuss any relevant research base or evidence that supports this type of request. (Attachments may be provided)

Enrollment Increase

Over the past 10 years EastSide has sustained enrollment above our authorized number. EastSide

enrollment has not been below the 80% enrollment mark which is required for charter schools to be in good standing. As the oldest charter elementary school in Delaware, EastSide continues to have a strong reputation. In FY21 we were granted an increase in our charter enrollment to 460 students. We have continued to remain above that number and currently have an enrollment of 474.

EastSide has seen a resurgence of strong support from our community. This has included servicing all families during the COVID pandemic by offering community COVID testing, supplying families with food, and creating the first hybrid model with weekly COVID testing for all staff and students. The work of EastSide has been well documented below in the media. Even the DE Department of Education has touted the success of EastSide during the pandemic. Media reports can be seen below.

7.29.21	News Journal	https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/education/2021/07/29/bus-driver-shortage-delaware-eastside-charter-appoquinimink-education/5398175001/	Bus Driver Shortage/ \$700
7.29.21	WDEL	https://drive.google.com/file/d/12oFWcFpiUWQMpDcQT2CS2ePQWA70Spja/view?usp=sharing	All about EastSide
8.16.21	Washington Post	https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/08/16/school-shortages-bus-drivers-counselors-computer/	Bus Driver Shortage
8.17/21	News Journal	https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/education/2021/08/17/school-assessment-results-delaware-incomplete-based-participation-numbers-officials-say/5565685001/	TEST SCORES Front page of 8/22 paper
8.17.21	Fox News	https://www.foxnews.com/us/schools-paying-parents-drive-children-shortage-bus-drivers-rattled-economy	Bus Driver Shortage
8.17.21	MSNBC (ran CBS report)	https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/with-school-bus-drivers-mia-parents-offered-dollar700-to-drive-kids/ar-AANqG2j?li=BBnb7Kz	Bus Driver Shortage
8.17.21	CBS News	https://www.cbsnews.com/news/school-bus-driver-shortage-parents-drive-kids-700-dollars/	Bus Driver Shortage
8.19.21	News Journal	 <p>EASTSIDE CHARTER SCHOOL SMALL BUSINESS CATEGORY 15</p> <p>TOP WORK PLACES 2021 THE NEWS JOURNAL — 10th ANNIVERSARY —</p>	Top Place to Work

8.19.21	CNN	https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/19/us/wilmington-delaware-bus-driver-shortage/index.html	Buses
8.24.2021	People.com	https://people.com/human-interest/school-bus-driver-shortage-in-us-districts-offering-incentives-sign-on-bonuses/	Buses
8.27.2021	NYTimes	https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/27/us/school-bus-drivers-shortage.html?searchResultPosition=5	Buses
8.28.21	Washington Post	https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/delaware-schools-to-receive-more-than-669m-in-virus-funding/2021/08/28/52cebc32-07ff-11ec-b3c4-c462b1edcfc8_story.html	ESSER funding
9/2/21	News journal	https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/education/2021/09/02/bus-driver-shortage-effects-delaware-depend-where-you-attend-school-eastside-charter-appo-education/5584609001/?fbclid=IwAR0QIGrzdPwliWpWA3ESPF1fcz7Vc6wiCUJ001ZWiiwQNE1bQ8HbU6XbMQ	Bus driver shortage
9/7/21	News Journal	https://www.delawareonline.com/picture-gallery/news/education/2021/09/07/local-leaders-welcome-back-eastside-charter-students/5751236001/?fbclid=IwAR0Yysut-AmjsgZCiNeJNOHYHrjfN9Bd1zTyRYkt8yjztdWylze23TBVmKo	Suit Up Show Up
9/7/21	WITN 22	https://fb.watch/7TBAtNxNOx/	Suit Up Show Up
9/9/21	Inside Edition	https://www.insideedition.com/media/videos/delaware-school-offering-parents-700-to-drive-kids-to-school-69769	Transportation
10.19.21	News Journal	https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/2021/10/19/what-ranking-delawares-k-8-schools-leaves-out-education-equity/8452549002/	ESCS thoughts on US News and World Report Ranks

11/21	News Journal	https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/coronavirus-in-delaware/2020/11/21/covid-19-coronavirus-delaware-case-record-seven-day-average-over-400/6378232002/	ESCS Featured
11/28	News Journal	https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/2020/11/20/could-weekly-covid-19-testing-schools-help-slow-spread-virus/6268288002/	COVID testing plan
7/20	Video	https://vimeo.com/user51618489/review/435832971/011df7998c	Video of school has over 80K
10.2.20	Hybrid	https://why.org/articles/hybrid-or-remote-only-delaware-teachers-trying-to-	WHYY

	Learning	find-grace-to-work-through-it-all/?fbclid=IwAR0LgG686ay3fymnYMYcwICIFaeaK_X8MFE2p0uwxospg_EOlgDDEAHb4Ws	
1.16	ESCS approach to Violence	https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/education/2020/01/16/before-some-students-can-learn-they-have-forget-experiences-home/2806257001/	Delaware Online/News Journal ESCS reacts and acts in light of Trauma faced by students
10/4/2019	APEX	https://www.delawarepublic.org/post/wilmington-s-eastside-charter-takes-new-approach-getting-students-ready-high-school	DE Public Media (NPR)

EastSide is also a proud member of the REACH Riverside endeavor. Over the next 10 years there will be a \$200 MM investment in the Riverside area. The investment will change housing, offer community businesses and have a strong focus on education. EastSide is the academic anchor of this proposal and has made significant improvement to prepare children for a future in the new Riverside community. As Eastside continues to improve the REACH Riverside project will be successful. REACH is the 21st Purpose Built community established in the nation. Purpose Built has an impressive track record of revitalizing historically depressed communities while maintaining the residents and improving life in that area as well as for their respective cities. You can learn more about purpose built communities at <https://purposebuiltcommunities.org/>. An approval for the expansion of EastSide is also an approval for the REACH Riverside community.

Temporary Building Move

EastSide is focused on creating a STEM Hub in Riverside to increase the offerings in the community. The current school building has reached its capacity and we are excited about the investments of Chemours and our other donors to make something remarkable for our community. During the construction phase (FY23) we will need to house some of our Middle School students at the Teen Warehouse located very close to the school at 1126 Thatcher Street, Wilmington, DE 19802. The building is owned and operated by REACH Riverside which is our partner in the overall redevelopment plan. Here our students are able to flourish in a safe environment that is not occupied during the school day.

- 5. Describe how the proposed modification will impact the operation of the school. Include how student achievement, staffing, facilities, and financial viability of the school may be impacted in the current school year and for the remainder of the school’s charter term.**

The school operations are not impacted by the temporary move. Our students will attend classes at the

Teen Warehouse from 7:30 AM until 1:45PM. They will then be transported to EastSide on a school bus provided by First Student to complete their day. Food services are transported by Linton's Food Service housed at EastSide Charter School daily. There is no additional staffing required for this temporary move.

At the Teen Warehouse the students will be overseen by Rebecca Kelly who serves as an administrator. The CEO, Aaron Bass, will spend time at the main campus and at the Teen Warehouse. Students will have full access to our Mental Health and Medical Team to ensure the social emotional and medical needs are met. Upon completion of the new addition to the EastSide School building, estimated in FY 23, we will move all students back to the main building.

The increased enrollment of the school is a phased approach to ensure we slowly build capacity with our staff to meet the needs of the growing population. This means we will hire numerous FTEs for FY25 which causes a mild deficit in that year, but future years' enrollment will offset this deficit while we continue to add FTEs in FY26 and FY27.

The demand for enrollment at EastSide has been steadily growing the past few years with EastSide hitting its highest enrollment numbers two years in a row. With more students attempting to enroll each year we do not anticipate issues meeting our enrollment projections and feel we are conservative with this approach.

6. Indicate the projected impact, if any, of the proposed modification on the school's present financial position, and its financial position going forward. If the modification promises to create financial challenges, indicate how those will be remedied.

EastSide has a long track record of being financial viable. The budget shows a deficit in FY22 which is not a function of operations, but rather the school pouring significant funds in our building as we embark on \$1.4M of upgrades. When capital expenditures and revenue are removed from the budget the school is projected to have a balanced operating budget.

The school is projecting to have deficits in Fiscal Years 2023 - 2025 as we need to hire additional staff to support our growing population. The additional staff have capacity to support a much greater number of students, but with limited space we won't fully see the benefit until FY25. These deficits also include projections for debt service payments which are still not confirmed. EastSide has already had great success securing funds for our new building. Based on past fund raising successes we believe we could even reduce the amount listed for debt service by the time the project is underway. EastSide does not see this as an issue as we have \$2.98M in reserve and still anticipate having \$2M in reserve by FY25 when the higher enrollment figures will bring us back to a surplus.

5-Year Budget Projection

