



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

ANGELICA ALLEN-McMILLAN, Ed.D.
Acting Commissioner

January 31, 2024

Maria Andrade, President
Board of Trustees
Roseville Community Charter School
540 Orange Street
Newark, New Jersey 07107

Dear Ms. Andrade:

On December 1, 2023, the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) received an amendment request from Roseville Community Charter School (RCCS) to increase the school's maximum enrollment from 330 seats to 396 seats by expanding the grade level configuration from kindergarten through grade four to kindergarten through grade five and adding 66 seats beginning in 2024-2025 school year. This charter amendment was sought pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:11-2.6, which allows a charter school to submit to the Commissioner a request to amend its charter at any time during the charter term.

The Department has evaluated this request by reviewing RCCS' academic, operational and fiscal standing based on the criteria outlined in the Office of Charter and Renaissance Schools' Performance Framework. The Department's evaluation also included a review of any public comment received in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:11-2.6(c), demand for an increase in RCCS' enrollment, student composition of RCCS and consideration of the fiscal impact on the district of residence. Based on the review outlined below, I am denying RCCS' amendment request.

Academic Performance

The Department utilizes the Academic section of the Performance Framework, which consists of three academic performance frameworks, to evaluate the relative success of the elementary, middle and high school programs offered by charter schools. Academic performance is assessed by tested grade span, with Grades 3-5 representing the elementary program, Grades 6-8 the middle school program and Grades 9-12 the high school program. Each academic performance framework consists of four categories of metrics: Student Growth (or Graduation Rate for high school programs), Achievement, Leading Indicators and Closing Gaps. Each metric is worth a number of points, and the percent of total points earned determines the Tier Rank for each program. Tier Rank 1 programs are considered high performing, Tier Rank 2 middle performing and Tier Rank 3 low performing. The Department did not establish a Tier Rank for school years 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022, due to an absence of assessment data in school years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, and an absence of student growth measures in the 2021-2022 school year. Academic Tier Rankings for all charter schools in the state of New Jersey are anticipated for release in the 2023-2024 school year.

The following is RCCS' 2019 and 2023 New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) Performance in comparison to statewide performance.

Roseville Community Charter School NJSLA Statewide Performance Comparison 2019 and 2023							
RCCS ELA Percent Proficient 2019	RCCS Math Percent Proficient 2019	New Jersey ELA Percent Proficient 2019	New Jersey Math Percent Proficient 2019	RCCS ELA Percent Proficient 2023	RCCS Math Percent Proficient 2023	New Jersey ELA Percent Proficient 2023	New Jersey Math Percent Proficient 2023
35.3	30.2	57.9	44.5	33.3	23.2	51.3	38.2

RCCS achieved an academic Tier Rank 3 in 2019 based on 2018-2019 NJSLA results, attaining 35.3% proficiency in English language arts (ELA) compared to statewide proficiency in ELA of 57.9%, while RCCS' district of residence, Newark Public School District, attained 36.3% proficiency in ELA in that same year. In 2023, RCCS' proficiency in ELA was 33.3%, compared to statewide proficiency in ELA of 51.3%, while the Newark Public School District attained 32.2% in ELA in that same year. RCCS attained 30.2% proficiency in mathematics in 2019 based on 2018-2019 NJSLA assessment results, compared to statewide proficiency in mathematics of 44.5%, while the Newark Public School District attained 26.3% proficiency in mathematics in that same year. In 2023, RCCS' mathematics proficiency was 23.2%, compared to statewide mathematics proficiency of 38.2%, while the Newark Public School District attained 14.1% in mathematics in that same year. The Department will continue to monitor the percentage of students meeting or exceeding proficiency on statewide assessments for demonstrable gains in the next charter term.

RCCS' 2019 ELA median student growth percentile (mSGP) of 28 did not meet Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability standards, while the Newark Public School District met ESSA accountability standards with an mSGP of 48 in that same year. In 2023, RCCS' ELA mSGP of 33.5 did not meet ESSA accountability standards compared to Newark Public School District's mSGP of 46 which met ESSA accountability standards. RCCS' 2019 mathematics mSGP of 18 did not meet ESSA accountability standards, while the Newark Public School District met ESSA accountability standards with an mSGP of 48 in that same year. In 2023, RCCS' mathematics mSGP of 50.5 met ESSA accountability standards compared to the Newark Public School District's mSGP of 39 which also met ESSA accountability standards. The percent of students meeting or exceeding proficiency on statewide assessments as well as RCCS' ELA and mathematics mSGP presents moderate concerns regarding RCCS' ability to provide high-quality instruction across all content areas and does not support the requested expansion at this time.

Fiscal Performance

The Department relies on the financial section of the Performance Framework to assess financial viability based on measures of near-term financial health, longer term financial sustainability and fiscal-related compliance. The Department also considers the fiscal impact of the expansion on sending districts. Review of the fiscal standing of RCCS indicates that the school met standard on some rated measures in the Fiscal Performance Framework; however, enrollment variance fell far below standard in fiscal years 2020 through 2023.

Organizational Performance

The Department uses the Organizational section of the Performance Framework to review whether RCCS has demonstrated the organizational capacity to sustain the amendment request. The amendment request does not provide a sufficient description of the administrative capacity, performance management, and strategic plans for an expansion into the requested grade level. As stated in the February 8, 2022, and February 1, 2023 amendment decision letters, the continual decrease and relative stagnant levels of academic achievement on statewide assessments do not demonstrate the

organizational systems in place to support RCCS' requested expansion. The Department is unable to determine if RCCS has the organizational capacity to meet all indicators of the Organizational Performance Framework.

Public Comment and Demand

The Department did not receive public comment regarding RCCS's amendment request. According to Annual Reports submitted throughout the charter term, RCCS has an average waitlist of 17.25 students. RCCS's 2023 Annual Report reports a waitlist of two students which does not support the need for the requested expansion.

The following chart confirms the charter school's approved maximum enrollment for the approved district of residence of Newark Public School District.

Grade Level	2023-2024 Current Approved Maximum	2024-2025
Pre-K	Not approved to serve Pre-K	
K	66	66
1	66	66
2	66	66
3	66	66
4	66	66
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
Total	330	330

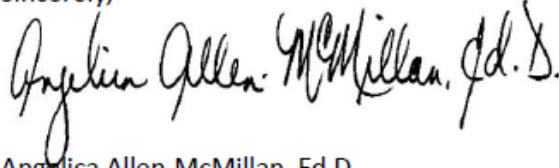
Ms. Maria Andrade, President

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If you have any questions, please contact Robert Gregory, executive director, Division of Field Support and Services at Robert.Gregory@doe.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D.
Acting Commissioner

AAM/CI/RG/O:/Accountability/Amendments/2023-24 Amendments/Roseville Community Charter School

c: Julie Bunt

Christopher Irving

Secil Onat

Robert Gregory

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Joseph Zarra

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