February 27, 2025

Charter Schools Office

2024-25 New Charter Applications

Early College Charter School of Philadelphia

Pan American Academy Charter School - Pathways High School

2024-25 NCA Cycle Process and Timeline

Event	Date
Application Release	September 13, 2024
Information Sessions	September - October 2024
Letters of Intent Due	October 15, 2024
Applications Due	November 15, 2024
Public Hearings	December 19, 2024* January 24 and 28, 2025
Anticipated Board Action	February 27, 2025**

* Per statute, the first hearing must be held within 45 days of application receipt.

** The Board of Education votes to deny or approve charters at public action meetings. Pursuant to Charter School Law, the Board must take action no later than 75 days after the first public hearing on the application.

New Charter Application Submissions

Proposed Charter School	Proposed Year 1	Year 1 Grades/Enrollment	At-Scale Grades/Enrollment	Application Status
Celestina Cordero Bilingual Charter High School	2025-26	9 / 275	9-12 / 1,100	Withdrawn
Early College Charter School of Philadelphia	2026-27	6, 9 / 224	6-12 / 784	Submitted
Pan American Academy Charter School - Pathways High School	2026-27	9 / 200	9-12 / 800	Submitted
Philadelphia Charter High School for Real Estate and Building Trades	2026-27	9 / 60	9-12 / 240	Withdrawn
The JL Walker Project Academy Middle School	2025-26	5 / 60	5-8 / 240	Withdrawn

Application Components

Academic Program

Comprehensive curriculum materials for all grades and subjects to be taught in Year 1.

Organizational Capacity and Compliance

A founding coalition that includes appropriate expertise required to open and operate a charter school in Pennsylvania. Proposed policies that are aligned with applicable local, State, and Federal regulation.

Community Engagement, Support, and Impact

Meaningful engagement with and demonstrated support from the local community, and letters of intent signed by parents/guardians indicating they would enroll their children in the school.

Finance

A credible and viable budget that ensures stability by making appropriate investments in resources and staffing.

Facilities

A facility that would be leased or purchased and would be prepared to be an appropriate and safe learning environment in time for the proposed school opening date.

Existing Operator, Manager, or Affiliate Outcomes

A clear track record of academic success, organizational compliance, independent board governance, and financial viability.

How the NCA Evaluation is Conducted

All parts of the Application are evaluated by at least two reviewers.

Internal Expertise: CSO staff members apply their knowledge of federal, state, and local regulations to evaluate a proposed charter application.

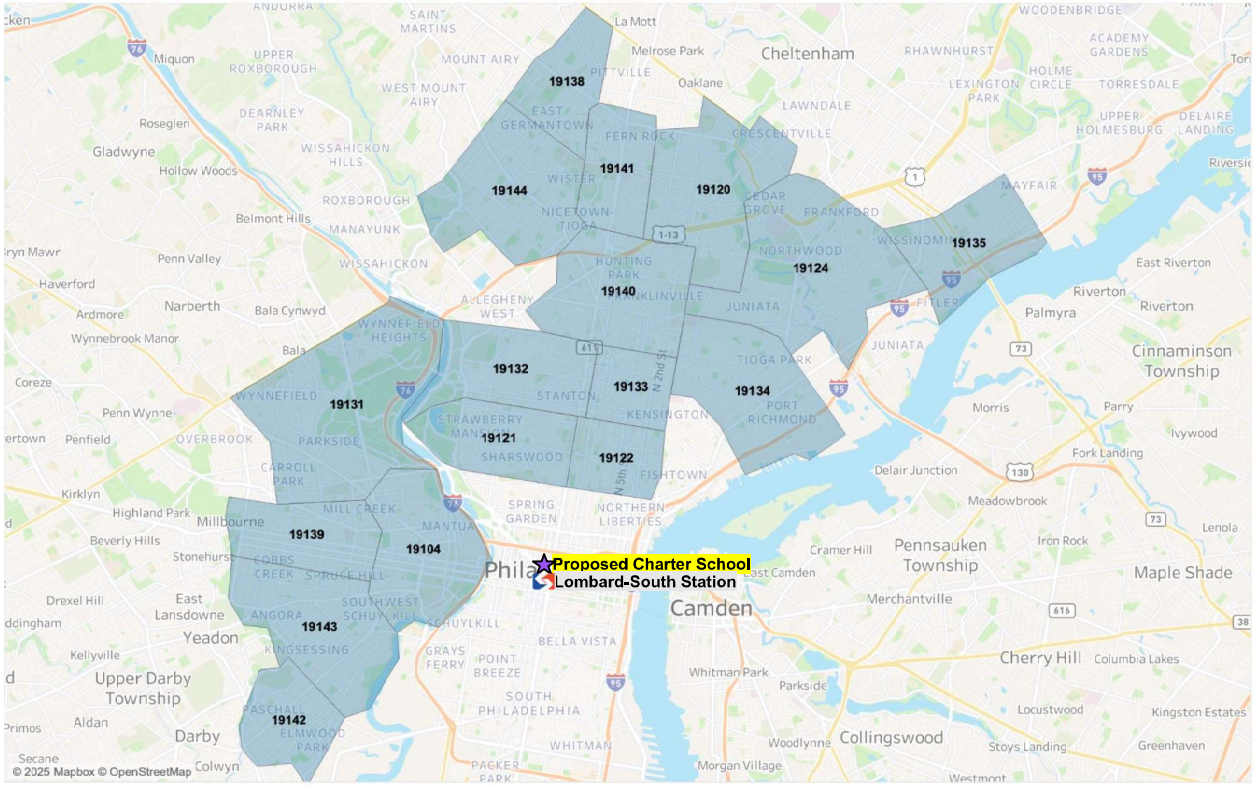
External Expertise: The CSO has contracted external support in specific areas of expertise (e.g. evaluating the proposed curriculum and budget).

Early College Charter School of Philadelphia

APPLICATION QUICK FACTS	
Name of Proposed Charter School: Early College Charter School of Philadelphia **Mission Focus, Model, or Type:** Early College and Career	**Applicant Team:** Philadelphia Middle College Foundation **Primary Contact:** Keshema Davidson
Proposed Address: 1420 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102	
Target Community / Admission Preference: Citywide admission, recruitment focus on 17 target zip codes (19132, 19140, 19133, 19121, 19104, 19139, 19141, 19144, 19142, 19134, 19124, 19143, 19131, 19122, 19120, 19138, 19135)	
Mission: *To offer an inspiring 6th-12th grade education by fostering students' sense of belonging and purpose, and empowering them with the competencies, connections, and credentials for fulfilling roles in high-demand industries, along with the tools to learn and thrive throughout their lives.*	

PROPOSED ENROLLMENT						
Operating Year	**Year 1** 26-27	**Year 2** 27-28	**Year 3** 28-29	**Year 4** 29-30	**Year 5** 30-31	**At-Scale** 29-30
Grade Span	6, 9	6-7, 9-10	6-11	6-12	6-12	6-12
Enrollment	224	448	672	784	784	784

Early College Charter School of Philadelphia



Early College Key Findings

- **Academic Program:** The instructional model includes academic richness, transferable skills, and college-and career-connected learning, and these three elements are consistently described through the curriculum, career pathways, staffing model, and partnership with Community College of Philadelphia. **The 10,000 pages of submitted curriculum materials are aligned with PA Core and Academic Standards.**
- **Organizational Capacity:** The Applicant states that the founding coalition has expertise in **school leadership, academic leadership, special education and student services, philanthropy and fundraising, collegiate and credentialing partnerships, and legal matters**. If granted a charter, 11 of the 19 founding coalition members would transition to the Board of Trustees.

Early College Key Findings, Cont.

- **Community Engagement:** **The Applicant focused its recruitment in 17 zip codes with average household income below the living wage**. The proposed Charter School submitted eligible evidence of intent to enroll in Year 1 from 61 students, or 27% of the Year 1 seats. Of these 61 students, 44 live in the target zip codes. The Application includes letters of support from local businesses and community organizations.
- **Finance:** There are minimal areas of misalignment between the budget and the overarching proposal set forth through the application. **The budget contains ambitious revenue assumptions relying on expected grants and donations.**
- **Facilities:** The proposed facility at 1420 Pine Street would require minimal renovations, and is accessible via several modes of public transportation. The Applicant identifies that eligible students would use SEPTA Student Fare Cards.

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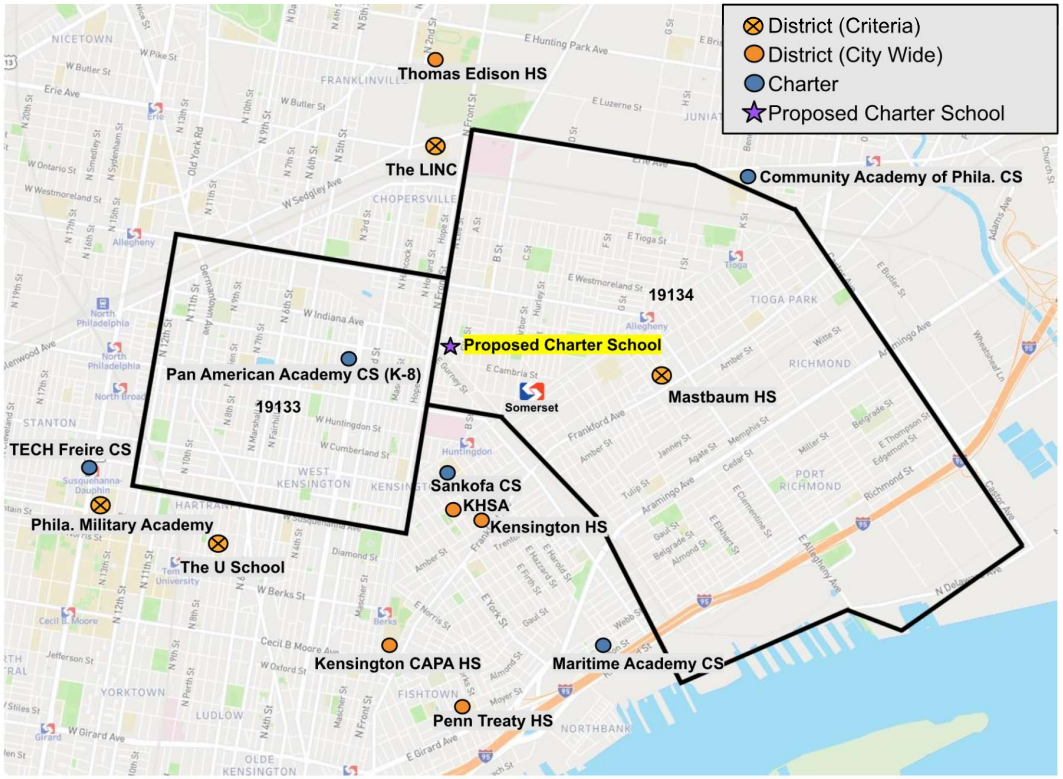
Pan American Academy Charter School - Pathways High School

APPLICATION QUICK FACTS	
Name of Proposed Charter School: Pan American Academy Charter School - Pathways High School **Mission Focus, Model, or Type:** Bilingual education through the International Baccalaureate curriculum framework, experiential learning in Health Sciences, Technology, Business, and Human Services	**Applicant Team:** Pan American Academy Charter School **Primary Contact:** Darcy Russotto
Proposed Address: 118-60 Indiana Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19134	
Target Community / Admission Preference: 19133, 19134	
Mission: *To prepare bilingual, internationally minded inquirers who learn and contribute to the community through service and action.*	

PROPOSED ENROLLMENT						
Operating Year	**Year 1** 26-27	**Year 2** 27-28	**Year 3** 28-29	**Year 4** 29-30	**Year 5** 30-31	**At-Scale** 29-30
Grade Span	9	9-10	9-11	9-12	9-12	9-12
Enrollment	200	400	600	800	800	800

Pan American Academy Charter School - Pathways High School



Location	Type	Distance from Pathways
Somerset El Station	El Station	0.6 mi
Sankofa Freedom Academy	Charter	0.8 mi
The Linc	District	1.0 mi
Kensington Health Sciences Academy (KHSA)	District	1.0 mi
Kensington HS	District	1.1 mi
Mastbaum HS	District	1.1 mi
Thomas Edison HS	District	1.3 mi
Kensington CAPA HS	District	1.3 mi
Maritime Academy Charter School	Charter	1.6 mi
Penn Treaty HS	District	1.8 mi
Community Academy of Philadelphia	Charter	1.8 mi
The U School	District	1.8 mi
Philadelphia Military Academy	District	2.1 mi
TECH Freire	Charter	2.2 mi

Pan American Pathways Key Findings

- **Academic Program:** The submitted curriculum materials were limited and only partially align with the PA Core and Academic standards. **Students would take one course per year dedicated to learning Spanish, which may be insufficient to achieve either the bilingual mission or the goal of biliteracy.**

- **Organizational Capacity:** The Applicant did not incorporate Pathways High School as a nonprofit corporation. The founding coalition includes 13 individuals representing the PAACS Board and staff from PAACS, Congreso, Innovageous, and OmniVest Management. **The initial Board would be the PAACS Board.**

- **Community Engagement:** The proposed Charter School would have an enrollment preference for students who graduate from PAACS, and would enroll 200 students in Grade 9 in Year 1. As of October 1, 2023, there were 53 Grade 8 students at PAACS. **The Applicant submitted eligible evidence of intent to enroll for 38 students (19% of the Year 1 seats)** and 19 letters of support from local businesses, community organizations, and politicians.

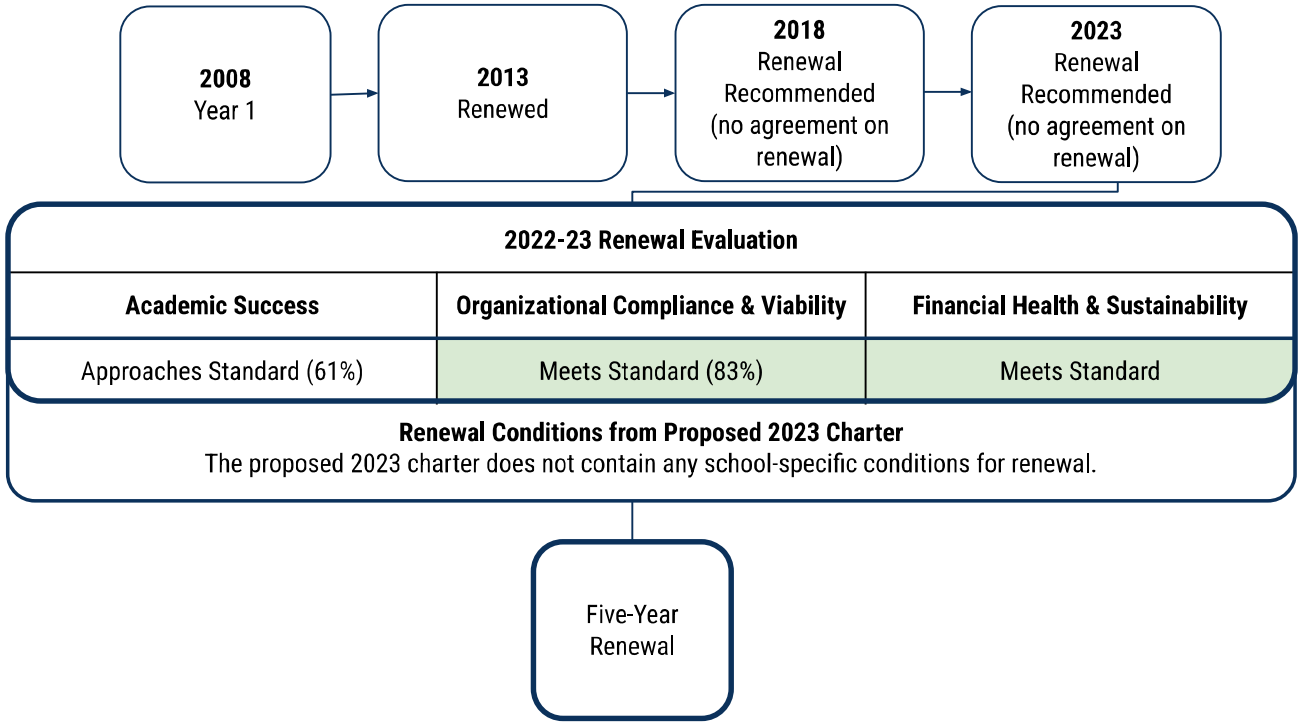
Pan American Pathways Key Findings, Cont.

- **Finance:** The budget includes nearly $800,000 in funds donated by PAACS. This donation and any terms of use or repayment are not documented by an arms-length agreement between two charter entities. **The budget depends on enrolling at least 98% of the projected number of students in Year 1 to avoid a deficit.**

- **Facilities:** The proposed location, 118-60 Indiana Avenue, is owned by Impact Services Corporation. The landlord would finance necessary improvements to this completely unfinished building. This proposed location is less than half a mile away from PAACS.

- **Existing Operator, Manager, or Affiliate:** The Applicant, Pan American Academy Charter School (PAACS) submitted a New Charter Application for a high school with 800 students at scale. **The Applicant wants to increase the grades and enrollment at its existing K-8 charter school to serve K-12.**

Pan American K-8 Renewal Outcomes



Pan American K-8 Data vs. District and SSG Achievement Outcomes

Year	PSSA ELA				PSSA Math				PSSA Science			
	Pan American	District	SSG	SSG Rank	Pan American	District	SSG	SSG Rank	Pan American	District	SSG	SSG Rank
2021-22	**22%**	35%	17%	1 / 6	**4%**	17%	4%	5 / 6	**32%**	37%	19%	1 / 6
2022-23	**20%**	34%	24%	4 / 8	**7%**	21%	10%	4 / 8	**31%**	41%	34%	4 / 8
2023-24	**21%**				**7%**				**26%**			

2022-23 ELA: Universal Charter School at Creighton (43%), Community Academy of Philadelphia Charter School (32%), George W. Childs School (29%), **Pan American Academy Charter School (20%)**, Esperanza Academy Charter School (18%), Thurgood Marshall School (17%), Honorable Luis Munoz-Marin School (14%), Julia de Burgos School (14%)

2022-23 Math: Universal Charter School at Creighton (29%), George W. Childs School (16%), Community Academy of Philadelphia Charter School (8%), **Pan American Academy Charter School (7%)**, Thurgood Marshall School (7%), Honorable Luis Munoz-Marin School (5%), Julia de Burgos School (5%), Esperanza Academy Charter School (4%)

Pan American - Indicators of Growth

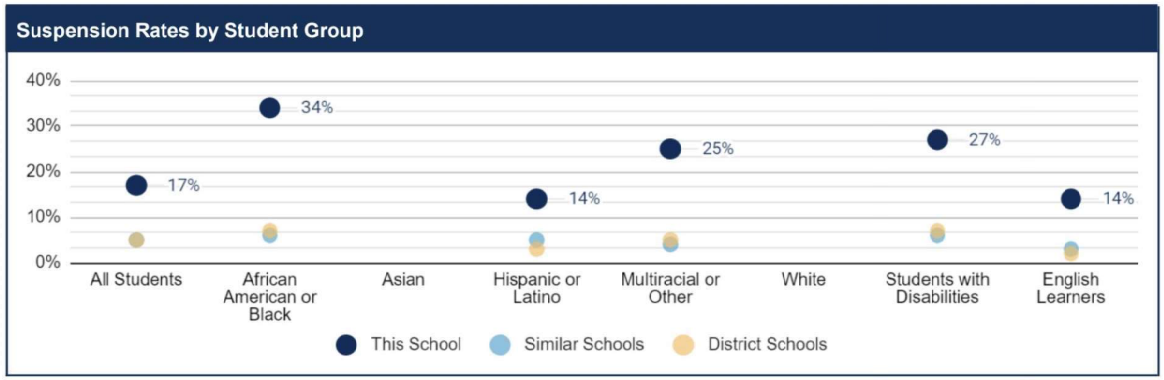
Year	ELA	Math	Science-Grade 4	Science-Grade 8
2021-22	Met Standard	Met Standard	Did Not Meet Standard	Met Standard
2022-23	Met Standard	Met Standard	Met Standard	Met Standard
2023-24	Met Standard	Met Standard	Met Standard	Met Standard

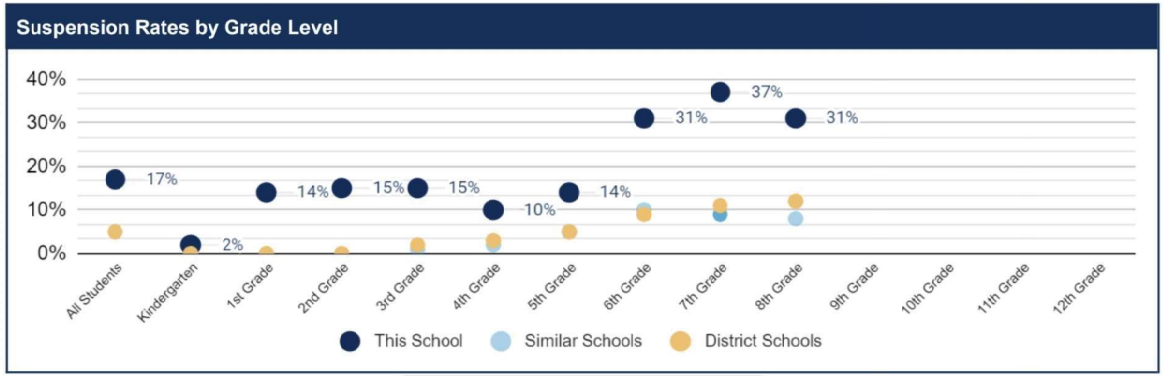
Pan American 8th Grade Matriculation

Pan American 8th Grade Matriculation by School Type							
HS School Type	**Class of 2020**	**Class of 2021**	**Class of 2022**	**Class of 2023**	**Class of 2024**	**Total**	
Charter	27	23	15	17	12	94	
District - Criteria	13	21	20	8	11	73	120 SDP Total
District - Citywide	10	13	5	7	12	47	
Unknown	22	14	17	8	10	71	
Cyber Charter	2	7	7	5	8	29	

Top Schools for Matriculation: Community Academy Charter School (24), Kensington Creative & Performing Arts (16), Franklin Towne CHS (14), Mastbaum HS (13), Central HS (11), Philadelphia Military Academy HS (11), Kensington Health Science HS (10), Bodine HS (10)

Pan American SY2022-23 Suspension Data





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