



Missouri
Charter Public School Commission

February 12, 2020

Dr. Chris Neale
Assistant Commissioner
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
205 Jefferson Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480

RE: DeLaSalle Charter School – 5 Year Renewal/Restart

Dear Dr. Neale:

I am pleased to inform you that the Missouri Charter Public School Commission voted to sponsor DeLaSalle Charter School's renewal/re-start application. The application approved by the Commission goes well beyond a typical renewal application. This application is a plan for an extensive re-start, moving DeLaSalle from an alternative school to a school serving all 9-12th grade students who wish to enter the workforce after graduation or continue their education, whichever path students choose.

In July 2018, DeLaSalle Charter School was in crisis. The school's leadership and board, though deeply committed to the students they served, failed to appropriately manage the finances, operations, and academic program. The Kansas City civic and philanthropic community rallied to save DeLaSalle, because of the history of success it had in serving students who needed a second chance. Thus began a two year effort to first stabilize and then transform DeLaSalle Charter School.

Since July 2018:

1. The board, leadership and sponsor were replaced. A transition leader was hired for FY19.
2. Technical and professional support was secured to help the board and transitional leader execute a successful FY19 school year. This resulted in a balanced budget and a fund balance in accordance with statues.
3. The board and Kansas City community worked together to reimagine DeLaSalle. The Kansas City community desires a high school that serves all students who seeks a career in high-demand, livable wage jobs.
4. The board, working with its key partner, SchoolSmart Kansas City conducted a nationwide search for a school leader. The new leader and new board created the attached plan they are calling, *DeLaSalle 2.0*. The school will maintain its mission to serve students seeking a second chance, and will welcoming incoming 9th graders seeking a school focused on entrepreneurship. All who attend the DeLaSalle will enjoy the opportunity to start their own business, take dual credits at Metropolitan Community College, and work toward industry certifications, while they complete their high school education. DeLaSalle graduates will be prepared for work and post-secondary training or college.

Over the term of the charter, DeLaSalle Charter School's academic performance on the Missouri MAP is well below expectations and falls below the requirements of the Commission. This application submitted to the Commission replaces the existing model with one that meets the needs of many high school students and the Kansas City community. It has the leadership and board required for success. The board, leadership, teachers, parents and community partners are deeply engaged in the school and students success. Students and parents who attended the Commission's public hearing testified to a palpable change in the culture and climate of the school. They expressed their gratitude to the board for their work and belief in the bright future of DeLaSalle students.

The Commission reviewed the financial, operational and governance components of the school and found the school in full compliance with RSMo 160.400 to 160.425 and sections 167.349 in FY19 and FY20, to date. We have confidence in the board and school leader, and believe this re-start model will provide a quality public education to Kansas City students.

Beginning in SY2020, DeLaSalle plans to serve 180 students in 9th – 12th grades, which includes 25 student returning to complete their education after dropping out of high school. Over the course of its charter, enrollment is projected to grow to serve 325 students by SY2025, inclusive of student seeking credit recovery and the Missouri Options program. The school will provide Kansas City students with a rigorous career and post-secondary preparatory curriculum, including dual credits and industry certifications.

As required by RSMo 160.405.8.(2) the Commission is formally submitting this renewal to the Missouri State Board of Education for approval at the March 10, 2020 meeting. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Robbyn G. Wahby
Executive Director

CC: Mr. David Oliver, Chair DeLaSalle Charter School Board
Mr. Sean Stalling, Executive Director DeLaSalle Charter School
Members, Missouri Charter Public School Commission