

SUBJECT

Kootenai Bridge Academy Proposed Charter Amendments

APPLICABLE STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

I.C. §33-5206(8)

IDAPA 08.02.04.302

BACKGROUND

Kootenai Bridge Academy (KBA) is a virtual public charter school authorized by the Public Charter School Commission (PCSC). KBA began operations in 2009, and offers extensive, in-person support to its largely at-risk population of approximately 230 Coeur d' Alene area students in grades 9-12.

DISCUSSION

KBA is proposing a charter amendment that would increase the school's overall enrollment cap. If approved, the total capacity of the school would increase from 200 to 320 students. Because KBA is a virtual school and works with a unique population of students, the school's structure does not require grade-based caps.

Additional amendments to this section of Tab 8 reflect an effort by the school to clean-up language in the charter, but do not have a substantial impact on the school's operations.

IMPACT

If the PCSC approves the proposed charter amendments, Kootenai Bridge Academy will immediately begin operating under the amended charter. If the proposed performance certificate (provided in a later agenda item) is also approved, staff will work with KBA to ensure the documents align.

If the PCSC denies the amendments, KBA could appeal this decision to the State Board of Education, or could decide not to proceed any further.

STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As part of the performance certificate development process, the PCSC approved a general standard that schools whose accountability designation falls below "good standing" will not be eligible for expansion.

Kootenai Bridge Academy does not yet have a performance certificate or formal accountability designation. KBA received a 1 Star Rating for both the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years. However, due to KBA's structure, the rating does not reflect achievement or growth based on ISAT results. Instead, both years of data are limited to the post-secondary and career-readiness accountability area, in addition to participation. No

proficiency or academic growth data was included in the Star Rating calculations.

Staff recommends that the PCSC consider whether it wishes to approve KBA's proposed amendments in light of the school's academic outcomes to date.

COMMISSION ACTION

A motion to approve the proposed charter amendments as submitted by Kootenai Bridge Academy.

OR

A motion to deny the proposed charter amendments as submitted by Kootenai Bridge Academy on the following grounds: _____.

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ Carried Yes _____ No _____

June 17, 2014



KOOTENAI BRIDGE ACADEMY

606 RIVER AVE. • COEUR D'ALENE, ID 83814

PHONE (208) 930-4515

FAX (208) 930-4791

May 29, 2014

Tamara Baysinger
Public Charter School Commission Director
650 West State Street
Boise, ID, 83720

Dear Ms. Baysinger,

Please accept this request to the Commission for an Amendment to the Charter of Kootenai Bridge Academy.

Since we opened in 2009, we have enjoyed tremendous support from the local community. As a result, we have found our enrollment increasing year by year. In our original Charter, we put a ceiling on our total enrollment at 200 students. We hereby request the Commission to allow us to amend our Charter to raise our enrollment cap to 320 students.

While we are deeply gratified to have such a plethora of interest in our school, we do not anticipate raising this cap any further in the foreseeable future. We have reached the physical limitations of our current building and have reached a pleasant equilibrium as regards staffing and finance. Therefore, we believe this proposed Amendment will satisfy the needs of our school and its' student body for years to come.

Sincerely,

Charles Kenna
Principal, Kootenai Bridge Academy

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1. Management Plan

Operations

KBA will be organized as outlined in detail under Tab 2, and will generally follow the model of a virtual school. Kootenai Bridge Academy is located in Coeur d'Alene, ID. KBA ~~plans to open with~~ **will have** ~~a minimum of 80 students to a maximum~~ **enrollment** ~~of 200 students~~ **320 students.** KBA will be responsible to the authorized chartering entity for meeting the terms of the charter, which include, but are not limited to, its academic program, achievement of academic goals, **adherence to statute and administrative rule** and fulfilling its insurance and audit obligations. In return for this accountability, KBA has the autonomy to use its resources to develop and direct a program designed by founders and future staff.

The Principal/Director will, along with the staff, determine the day-to-day operations of the school, including but not limited to the school calendar, schedule, and hours of operation in accordance to State required hours of attendance and Board approval.