

**Center City Public Charter Schools, Inc.**  
**Executive Summary**

The Center City Public Charter Schools petitions the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board to convert seven existing Catholic elementary schools (Pre K/K to 8) to seven campuses under one charter. These seven campuses are located throughout the District of Columbia and have served the educational needs of the District for as few as fifty and as many as one hundred years.

We have received endorsements from 98% percent of our faculty and 92% percent of our student body for this conversion application. Nearly 1,000 parents and teachers strongly support this effort and want to see these schools remain open next year as public charter schools. These numbers affirm the strong commitment to these schools that parents and teachers share.

For the past 11 years these schools have been part of the Center City Consortium. The Consortium was organized to improve student outcomes through stronger coordination that leveraged centralized leadership and resources. Consortium schools became a well-known and nationally recognized part of the urban educational reform movement.

As a result of our intense focus on student outcomes, we bring with us highly trained principals and teachers who have implemented data driven decisions in their practice and who see continuous improvement as the only way to look at their work as educators. We bring years of experience with standards-based instruction and assessment. As charter schools, we look to enhance our already successful academic programs.

Our Board of Directors is made up of individuals who have a history with these schools as well as individuals experienced in operating public charter schools. Board members bring a strong commitment to the welfare of the community, its people and especially its children.

Center City PCS will include a central office that provides administrative oversight, educational leadership and financial accountability to the system of schools. The central office structure has been benchmarked against high-performing charter management organizations in the nation. Several key personnel will join the Center City PCS central office from the existing Consortium central office.

Center City PCS is enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve even more of the children of the District of Columbia through this conversion. For several years, parents have reluctantly withdrawn their students because they could no longer afford even subsidized tuition. Many of these parents have already contacted us in hopes of re-enrolling their children. We look forward to working with and learning from the DC Public Charter School Board and the charter community of DC.

Our schools are fully accredited through the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Our programs have developed from years of investment in teacher professional development and standards integration.

## Center City PCS

We petition to serve in seven of the District's most underserved neighborhoods – Brentwood, Brightwood, Capitol Hill, Congress Heights, Petworth, Shaw, and Trinidad – where our campuses are located. Our plans for expansion include opening an eighth campus in Ward 7. Our campuses are rooted in communities with several examples of students attending the same schools as their parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents. We bring years of experience and an intimate knowledge of the community to the families we will serve. Our alumni base includes thousands of local supporters for these schools.

We commit to sound business practices and a framework for accountability that extends to all levels of the organization. Accountability is essential for the success of this endeavor and, therefore, critical to ensure student success. Financial strength is evidenced in our pro forma projections; on public funding alone, we will be generating operating reserves with only 82% enrollment as compared to capacity. During our first two years, we are thrilled to have the generous support of the Charter School Growth Fund. This foundation has pledged a combination loan/grant that will fully address our financial needs.

Our unwavering commitment to provide the highest quality education to every child who comes to us is best expressed in our mission statement:

### **Center City Public Charter Schools Mission**

*The Center City Public Charter Schools (CCPCS) empower our children for success through a rigorous academic program and strong character education while challenging students to pursue personal excellence in character, conduct, and scholarship in order to develop the skills necessary to both serve and lead others in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*