# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Russell D. Johnston, Acting Commissioner |
| **Date:** | February 19, 2025 |
| **Subject:** | Charter Schools – Notification of Intended Actions and Report on Conditions for Argosy Collegiate Charter School, Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School, Codman Academy Charter Public School, Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School, and UP Academy Charter School of Dorchester |

At its meeting in February 2013, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) authorized the Commissioner to act on its behalf in “(a) granting charter renewals that do not involve probation; (b) approving charter amendments that do not involve changes in grade span, maximum enrollment, or districts served; and (c) removing or continuing conditions imposed on charters of charter schools; provided that the Commissioner shall report to the Board on all charter renewals, charter amendments, and conditions that have been so approved; and provided further, that the Commissioner shall notify the Board in advance of all such intended actions, and a Board member may request that the Commissioner place the charter matter(s) on the agenda of the Board for discussion and action.” The Charter School Regulations also allow the Commissioner to impose conditions, and to remove the conditions imposed, on a school’s charter.[[1]](#footnote-2)

I intend to remove the conditions currently imposed on the charters of Argosy Collegiate Charter School and Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School. I intend to extend the conditions on the charters of Codman Academy Charter Public School, Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School, and UP Academy Charter School of Dorchester. This memorandum includes the rationale for each of these intended actions.

Please let me know by **Thursday, February 20, 2025,** if you wish to have any of these proposed actions brought to the full Board for review and vote at the February Board meeting.

**Argosy Collegiate Charter School**

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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Fall River |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2014 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2019, 2024 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 640 | **Enrollment (2024-25)** | 587 (October 2024) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 6-12 | **Grade Span (2024-25)** | 6-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 167 (March 2024) | **Age of School (2024-25)** | 11 |
| **Mission Statement:**  The mission of Argosy Collegiate Charter School is to provide all scholars in grades 6 through 12 with a seamless middle to high school education that educates them for a rigorous and relevant four-year college degree and ensures they are able to compete in a 21st century global economy. Argosy Collegiate Charter School prepares Fall River’s diverse community of learners with the academic foundation and character values necessary to be successful in college, career, and life. | | | |

In 2019, the charter of Argosy Collegiate Charter School was renewed with a condition related to academic performance. The condition was extended twice during the charter term and again when the school’s charter was renewed in February 2024. Given the evidence presented below, I do not have significant concerns about the school’s academic performance, and I intend to remove the condition from the school’s charter. The condition and a summary of key evidence related to the school’s academic performance follow.

**Condition:** By December 31, 2024, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science.

**Summary of Evidence**

The condition was first imposed when the school’s charter was renewed in 2019, based on data from 2018 and earlier. The school’s accountability percentile rose from 5 in 2018 to 7 in 2019, 19 in 2022, 23 in 2023, and 29 in 2024. In 2023 and 2024, the Department classified the school as not requiring assistance or intervention. According to the statewide system of accountability, the school made moderate progress toward targets both years.

**Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School**

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| **Type of Charter** | Horace Mann III | **Location** | Boston |
| **Year Opened** | 2011 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2016, 2021 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 595 | **Enrollment (2024-25)** | 426 (October 2024) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | 7-12 | **Grade Span (2024-25)** | 7-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 324 (March 2024) | **Age of School (2024-25)** | 14 |
| **Mission Statement:**  Boston Green Academy welcomes diverse students of all abilities, educates and empowers them to succeed in college and career, and prepares them to lead in the sustainability of our community and world. | | | |

In 2014, a condition related to academic performance was imposed on the charter of Boston Green Academy Horace Mann Charter School. The condition was subsequently extended in 2016, 2017, 2021, and 2022. Given the evidence presented below, I do not have significant concerns about the school’s academic performance, and I intend to remove the condition from the school’s charter. The condition and a summary of key evidence related to the school’s academic performance follow.

**Condition:** By December 31, 2024, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science. Should the school demonstrate significant and sustained academic improvement before 2024, the Commissioner may consider removing this condition, rather than wait until December 31, 2024.

**Summary of Evidence**

Since the beginning of the implementation of the current statewide system of accountability, the school’s accountability percentile rose from 5 in 2018 to 6 in 2019, 7 in 2022, 15 in 2023, and 20 in 2024. In 2023 and 2024, the Department classified the school as not requiring assistance or intervention. According to the statewide system of accountability, the school made substantial progress toward targets in 2023 and moderate progress toward targets in 2024.

**Codman Academy Charter Public School**

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| **Type of Charter** | Commonwealth | **Location** | Boston |
| **Regional or Non-Regional** | Non-Regional | **Districts in Region** | N/A |
| **Year Opened** | 2001 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 345 | **Enrollment (2024-25)** | 344 (October 2024) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-12 | **Grade Span (2024-25)** | PK-12 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 1,380 (March 2024) | **Age of School (2024-25)** | 24 |
| **Mission Statement:**  Our mission is to provide an outstanding, transformative education to prepare students for success in college, further education and beyond. | | | |

In 2016, the charter of Codman Academy Charter Public School was renewed with a condition related to academic performance. The condition was subsequently extended in 2018, 2020, 2021, and 2022. Given the evidence presented below, the school has shown some academic improvement, especially for students in grade 10; the achievement of students in grades 3 through 8, however, remains an area of concern. Therefore, I intend to extend the condition by one year, through the end of the current charter term. The intended condition follows the evidence related to the school’s current condition.

The school will seek renewal of its charter during the 2025-26 school year and will receive a renewal inspection visit during the fall of 2025. With further evidence gathered during the renewal inspection and another year of assessment data, I will reassess the strength of the school’s academic program.

The existing condition and a summary of key evidence related to the school’s academic performance follow.

**Existing Condition:** By December 31, 2024, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science. Should the school demonstrate significant and sustained academic improvement before 2024, the Commissioner may consider removing this condition, rather than wait until December 31, 2024.

**Summary of Evidence**

Since the beginning of the implementation of the current statewide system of accountability, the school’s accountability percentile rose from 8 in 2018 and 2019 to 12 in 2022, 20 in 2023, and 21 in 2024. In 2023 and 2024, the Department classified the school as not requiring assistance or intervention. According to the statewide system of accountability, the school made moderate progress toward targets both years. The percentage of students in grade 10 meeting or exceeding expectations increased in 2023 and 2024 in English language arts, mathematics, and science; the percentage of students in grades 3 through 8 meeting or exceeding expectations remained low, however. In English language arts and in science, fewer than 10 percent of students met or exceeded expectations in 2022, 2023, and 2024; in mathematics fewer than 10 percent of students met or exceeded expectations in 2022 and 2024.

The condition I intend to impose is as follows.

**Intended Condition:** By December 31, 2025, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement as determined by the Commissioner.

**Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School**

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| **Type of Charter** | Horace Mann III | **Location** | Boston |
| **Year Opened** | 2012 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2017, 2022 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 325 | **Enrollment (2024-25)** | 293 (October 2024) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-5 | **Grade Span (2024-25)** | PK-5 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 51 (March 2024) | **Age of School (2024-25)** | 13 |
| **Mission Statement:**  The Dudley Street School has a three-part mission:   1. To provide a world class education for all students, preparing them for long-term academic success and responsible civic engagement; 2. To serve as a driver of human and social capital development, preparing outstanding new teachers to drive excellent student outcomes throughout Boston; and 3. To serve as a partner in catalyzing improvement of all schools in the Dudley area. | | | |

In 2022, the charter of Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School was renewed with a condition related to academic performance. Given the evidence presented below, the school has shown some academic improvement, especially in 2023 and 2024, but it is not yet significant or sustained improvement. Therefore, I intend to extend the condition by two years, through the end of the current charter term.

The school will seek renewal of its charter during the 2026-27 school year and will receive a renewal inspection visit during the fall of 2026. With further evidence gathered during the renewal inspection and another two years of assessment data, I will reassess the strength of the school’s academic program. The intended condition follows the evidence related to the school’s current condition.

The existing condition and a summary of key evidence related to the school’s academic performance follow.

**Existing Condition:** By December 31, 2024, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science. Should the school demonstrate significant and sustained academic improvement before 2024, the Commissioner may consider removing this condition, rather than wait until December 31, 2024.

**Summary of Evidence**

The condition was imposed based on data from 2018 and 2019; the school’s accountability percentile was 9 in 2018 and 8 in 2019. The school’s accountability percentile remained low in 2022, when it was 10. It rose to 21 in 2023 but fell to 18 in 2024. According to the statewide system of accountability, the school met or exceeded targets in 2023 and made substantial progress toward targets in 2024.

The condition I intend to impose is as follows.

**Intended Condition:** By December 31, 2026, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement as determined by the Commissioner.

**UP Academy Charter School of Dorchester**

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| **Type of Charter** | Horace Mann III | **Location** | Boston |
| **Year Opened** | 2013 | **Year(s) Renewed** | 2018, 2023 |
| **Maximum Enrollment** | 750 | **Enrollment (2024-25)** | 640 (October 2024) |
| **Chartered Grade Span** | PK-8 | **Grade Span (2024-25)** | PK-8 |
| **Students on Waitlist** | 56 (March 2024) | **Age of School (2024-25)** | 12 |
| **Mission Statement:**  UP Academy will ensure that its students acquire the knowledge, skills, and strength of character necessary to succeed on the path to college and to achieve their full potential. | | | |

In 2023, the charter of UP Academy Charter School of Dorchester was renewed with a condition related to academic performance. Given the evidence presented below, the school has shown some academic improvement, especially in 2024, but it is not yet significant or sustained improvement. Therefore, I intend to extend the condition by three years, through the end of the current charter term. The intended condition follows the evidence related to the school’s current condition.

The existing condition and a summary of key evidence related to the school’s academic performance follow.

**Existing Condition:** By December 31, 2024, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement in mathematics, English language arts, and science. Should the school demonstrate significant and sustained academic improvement before 2024, the Commissioner may consider removing this condition, rather than wait until December 31, 2024.

**Summary of Evidence**

The condition was imposed when the school’s charter was renewed in 2023, based on data for 2019 and 2022; the school’s accountability percentile was 6 in 2019 and 5 in 2022. The school’s accountability percentile remained low in 2023, when it was 7, then rose to 17 in 2024. In 2022 and 2023, achievement of students in the low income and high needs groups was in the lowest 10 percent statewide when compared to other schools administering similar assessments. According to the statewide system of accountability, the school made substantial progress toward targets in 2023 and met or exceeded targets in 2024.

The condition I intend to impose is as follows.

**Intended Condition:** By December 31, 2027, the school must demonstrate that it is an academic success by providing evidence that the school has exhibited significant and sustained academic improvement as determined by the commissioner. Should the school demonstrate significant and sustained academic improvement before 2027, the Commissioner may consider removing this condition, rather than wait until December 31, 2027.

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If you have any questions regarding my intended actions or require additional information, please contact Alison Bagg, Director of the Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign (781-338-3218); Regina Robinson, Deputy Commissioner (781-338-3104); or me.

1. Pursuant to 603 CMR 1.12(1), the Commissioner may “impose conditions on a school's charter for violations of law or failure to make progress with student achievement, failure to adhere to and enhance its recruitment and retention plan, failure to comply with the terms of its charter, or failure to remain viable.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)