



# BVP International Exchange Student Opportunity

March 21, 2022



RHODE ISLAND  
MAYORAL ACADEMIES  
*opening schools. opening minds.*

# Our Mission

*To prepare every scholar for success in college and the world beyond.*



# Background

- BVP once hosted an international exchange student in partnership with The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE)
- BVP is authorized by the Rhode Island Department of Education to accept up to two International Exchange students per year outside of our lottery as part of our commitment to a diverse school community





State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
 Shepard Building  
 255 Westminster Street  
 Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Ken Wagner, Ph.D.  
 Commissioner

July 22, 2016

Jeremy Chiappetta  
 Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy  
 7 Fatima Drive  
 Cumberland, R.I. 02864

Re: Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy's Request for a Minor Amendment to its Charter

Dear Mr. Chiappetta:

By Resolution dated June 22, 2016, the Board of Directors of the Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy ("BVP") requested my approval of what it considers to be a minor amendment to BVP's charter to enable a maximum of two (2) foreign exchange students to attend BVP without having been admitted by lottery. According to BVP's Board, the exchange students would not be charged tuition, would be in addition to the students enrolled by lottery, and would have no impact on the state or local financial aid received by BVP.

I concur with BVP's Board that the Charter amendment being requested is indeed a "minor amendment" within the meaning of Charter School Regulation C-2-1(b), and thus within my power to approve. The addition of a maximum of two international exchange students would not "fundamentally affect [the] school's mission, organizational structure, or educational program." *Id.* In addition, given that the students would not be charged tuition, would not be taking a space that otherwise would be available for a student chosen by lottery, and given further that the addition of the two students would have no impact on the state or local financial aid received by BVP, the proposed amendment would otherwise "comport with applicable statutes and regulations." *Id.*

Thus, since the Charter School regulations make clear that I "shall only deny [such minor] amendments that are contrary to State or Federal law or regulations, that contravene the written policies of the Rhode Island Board of Regents, or that entail any financial or other conflicts of interest," *id.*, and since the amendment being requested is not contrary to the cited law or regulations and does not entail any conflict of interest, I hereby approve the request of the BVP Board to add the following language to the school's charter:

Jeremy Chiappetta  
 Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy  
 July 22, 2016  
 Page Two

In order to maximize opportunities for diversity within its student population, the Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy is further authorized to provide for the attendance of up to two (2) international exchange students per year, less than 0.1% of the school's total approved enrollment, outside of the lottery system, over and above the approved enrollment cap, provided that said attendance does not impact opportunities for access to the school by resident Rhode Island schoolchildren and provided further that said attendance of international exchange students shall not result in an increase in state or local financial aid.

Please be advised that under the applicable Regulations, the requested amendment will become effective "fourteen (14) days following the receipt of the request," *id.*, or as of July 25, 2016.

Very truly yours,

Ken Wagner, Ph.D.  
 Commissioner

# Flexibility

- Through direct relationships, we have been approached on a few occasions about hosting international exchange students outside of a partnership with CIEE
- In order to execute on this possibility, we are exploring being a host site and as a requirement complete specific applications with the US Department of Homeland Security
  - Student Exchange and Visitor Program (SEVP)



# Student Exchange and Visitor Program (SEVP) Requirements

- Requires comprehensive application to the US Department of Homeland Security
  - Complete Signed Form I-17
  - Designated School Officials
  - Payment
  - State Recognition and Exemption
  - SEVP Identified Accrediting Agencies (this evidence is not required for Public High Schools, however, if a school is accredited by an SEVP Identified accrediting agency, you may provide proof of the accreditation)
  - Statements Acknowledging IIRIRA



# Resolution

Whereas, BVP is committed to intentional diversity, and

Whereas, BVP recognizes that global diversity is an important element of diversity, and

Whereas, BVP is authorized by the Rhode Island Department of Education to enroll International Exchange Students,

Therefore be it resolved, that the BVP Board of Directors hereby authorizes the CEO and staff to apply for SEVP status and allocate the necessary resources (up to \$10,000) for legal and filing fees to this effect.

