



# Marblehead Community Charter Public School

July 2020

The Marblehead Community Charter School is pleased to be celebrating 25 years. In March of 2020 our Charter was officially renewed for another five-year term. The current charter term is five years, beginning July 1, 2020 and expiring on June 30, 2025.

The terms of the charter include the following:

<b>Type of Charter</b>	Commonwealth	<b>Location</b>	Marblehead
<b>Regional/Non-Regional</b>	Non Regional	<b>Districts</b>	N/A
<b>Maximum Enrollment</b>	230	<b>Chartered Grade Span</b>	4-8

The renewal was conditioned as follows:

*Condition: By August 1, 2020, Marblehead Community Charter Public School will submit for Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) approval a plan that ensures that enrollment from outside of Marblehead does not exceed 20 percent of the school's total population by June 30, 2025, and a corresponding charter amendment request for the school's maximum enrollment, enrollment policy, and any other relevant material terms. Alternatively, the school may submit an amendment request that reflects the school's actual enrollment pattern.*

We are hereby requesting an amendment to our Charter to address the above condition.

Background:

The overall school-aged population in the Town of Marblehead is declining. The town recently initiated the construction of a new elementary school and had to downsize the scope of the original project plans, based on declining enrollment projections.

At Marblehead Community Charter Public School, we have seen the number of students from Marblehead enrolled in our school under the 80% threshold for the past three years.

In FY18 (2017-2018) - 74% of student enrollment from Marblehead

In FY 19 (2018-2019) - 72% of student enrollment from Marblehead

In FY20 (2019-2020) - 58% of student enrollment from Marblehead\*

\*Please note that in FY20, our overall enrollment was down from our capacity of 230 to 208.

Our projected enrollment for FY21 (2020-2021) includes 59% enrollment from Marblehead. However, in our incoming 4th grade class, the current roster is made up of 85% students from Marblehead. While we are hopeful that this indicates a trend back toward meeting the 80% threshold annually, we propose the following amendment.

The Marblehead Community Charter Public School would like to include the towns of Swampscott and Nahant in our region, thus becoming a regional charter school. As such, students from the towns of Marblehead, Swampscott, and Nahant would all be counted toward the 80% rule. Additionally, students from each of these towns would receive priority status in our enrollment lottery protocol.

**Rationale:**

Our school is located on the peninsula of Marblehead. As a result of this geographic location, we have fewer abutting municipalities. Three sides of our town is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean. Swampscott is our closest neighbor and currently sends us the second most students to Marblehead. While Salem is also an abutting neighbor, Salem is at the cap for enrollment. We are including Nahant in this amendment request, as Nahant currently has a tuition agreement with Swampscott. Students living in Nahant attend the Swampscott public school district for middle school and high school.

Given current enrollment for FY21, students from Marblehead, Swampscott, and Nahant make up 81% of our student population.

**Proposed Amendment:**

The Marblehead Community Charter Public School requests permission to become a regional charter school that includes the communities of Marblehead, Swampscott, and Nahant.