

RISE Prep: Major Amendment Request

December 17, 2024

What is a major amendment?

The charter amendment process is laid out in 2.3.1. of the K-12 Council’s Charter School Regulations. 2.3.1 is titled “Charter amendment process”.

“If a charter school plans to make a major change in its operations, the school’s governing board shall submit in writing to the Council a request to amend the school’s charter. The Council shall act in public session whenever a major change is made to a charter. Major changes are defined as those changes that fundamentally affect a school’s mission, organizational structure, or educational program.”

RISE Prep’s major amendment request will fundamentally change the school’s organizational structure.

Process for Approving Major Amendments

Nearly all major charter amendments received in recent years are charter school expansions. As such, the K-12 Council's established process for approving major amendment requests is to discuss and vote in two meetings.

We anticipate the following schedule for the RISE Prep major amendment request:

- December 19, 2024 – Discussion of the RISE Prep major amendment request
- January 6, 2025 – Vote on the RISE Prep major amendment request

Each meeting will provide the opportunity for public comment.

RISE Preparatory Academy: Major Amendment Request

Recommendation: THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education *moves to approve RISE Prep's major amendment request to operate as an independent charter school effective July 1, 2025.*

Key Recommendation Drivers:

- RISE Prep has a strong track record of student achievement and operational performance and has consistently outperformed Woonsocket in RICAS, NGSA, and ACCESS.
- The change in charter type will remove RISE Prep from many of the political challenges the school has faced as a mayoral academy.
- RISE Prep will participate in ERSRI effective July 1, 2025.

Public Comment

RIDE received 29 spoken and written comments on this proposal during the public comment period.

- 10 comments (34%) supported the proposal
- 18 comments (62%) opposed the proposal
- 1 comment (3%) neutral toward the proposal



Questions?



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Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner

December 17, 2024

TO: Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

FROM: Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner *Angélica Infante Green*

RE: **RISE Preparatory Mayoral Academy – Major Charter Amendment**

RISE Prep Mayoral Academy opened as a Mayoral Academy Charter School in September 2015, serving the communities of Woonsocket, North Smithfield, and Burrillville. The mission of RISE Prep is to educate K-12 scholars for success in college and a life of community engagement. The three main pillars of RISE Prep’s mission are a highly structured learning environment, a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum, and character education.

Amendment Request

The school has submitted a major amendment to its charter, proposing that RISE Prep be allowed to change its governance structure from a Mayoral Academy to an Independent Charter School.

In accordance with 2.3.1.A of the Board of Regents Regulations Governing Rhode Island Public Charter Schools, such major changes in the school’s operations require the action of the K-12 Council.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to approve RISE Prep’s major amendment request to operate as an independent charter school effective July 1, 2025.