

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR
ATLAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Section 160.405, RSMo.

Consent
Item

Action
Item

Report
Item

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Success-Ready Students & Workforce Development

SUMMARY

The 1998 session of the Missouri Legislature authorized the establishment of charter schools in the Kansas City 33 and St. Louis City School Districts. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is responsible for reviewing proposals of charter schools that have been approved by an authorized sponsoring entity. Charter proposals meeting statutory requirements are then recommended for consideration by the State Board of Education. The charter school sponsors are to hold the schools accountable for all applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Sponsors evaluate performance, monitor compliance, and inform intervention and renewal decisions. Charter schools are non-sectarian, do not discriminate in their admission policies, and may not charge tuition or fees.

The Department has received a charter school proposal approved by the Missouri Charter Public School Commission for a term of five years. Atlas Public Schools anticipates opening within the boundaries of the St. Louis City School District for the 2021-22 school year. Atlas Public Schools is applying to open a K-5 local educational agency (LEA) in the fall of 2021, in the heart of St. Louis' Central Corridor. Atlas will launch with kindergarten and first grade, and grow an additional grade each year; by 2025-2026 to become a K-5 elementary school. The mission of Atlas Public Schools is to educate the whole child by combining a rigorous academic program with authentic, real-world experiences so all students thrive in middle school, high school, and beyond.

The Department has reviewed the proposal and determined that the requirements of the law have been met.

PRESENTERS

Jocelyn Strand, Coordinator of School Improvement; Rachel Uptergrove, Director of Charter Schools; Office of Quality Schools and Robbyn Wahby, Executive Director, Missouri Charter Public School Commission, will assist with the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the State Board of Education authorize Atlas Public Schools to commence operations pursuant to the charter granted by the Missouri Charter Public School Commission for five years, effective for the 2021-22 school year.

September 2020

Atlas Public Schools



Office of Quality Schools

Description

- Location: St. Louis (Central Corridor)
- Proposed 2021-22 opening
- Open as K-1

Enrollment Projections						
Grade Level	Year 1 2021-2022	Year 2 2022-2023	Year 3 2023-2024	Year 4 2024-2025	Year 5 2025-2026	Year 6 2026-2027
K	78	78	78	78	78	78
1	52	78	78	78	78	78
2		52	78	78	78	78
3			52	78	78	78
4				52	78	78
5					52	78
Total Enrollment:	130	208	286	364	442	468

Demographic Summary Projection



As a diverse-by-design school, Atlas will have a high level of diversity in terms of both socioeconomic status and race/ethnicity.

	Atlas Charter School Projection	St. Louis City Public Schools (2019-20)	Missouri (2019-20)
Asian	<70%	2.7%	2.1%
Black	<70%	79.1%	15.7%
Hispanic	<70%	5.1%	6.7%
Indian/Alaskan	<70%	.1%	.4%
Multi-Race	<70%	*	4.3%
White	<70%	13.0%	70.7%
LEP	6%	10.4%	3.9%
FRL	65%	CEP**	50.0%
Special Education	14%	14.4%	13.5%



- **Mission**

- The mission of Atlas Public Schools is to educate the whole child by combining a rigorous academic program with authentic, real-world experiences so all students thrive in middle school, high school, and beyond.

- **Vision**

- At Atlas, we envision a time when all students in St. Louis have the skills and habits needed to be successful in the 21st century, and where St. Louis is heralded as a model of a flourishing, diverse, and empowered community. We believe that high quality public schools will be the catalyst for community transformation that will result in a thriving city.

School Model



- **Year-Round Education**

- ❑ Six academic sessions consisting of roughly five weeks of rigorous academic instruction followed by a two week intersession break and one optional summer session.

- ❑ During the two-week intersession breaks, student programming is available and provided by community partners to help accommodate families’ work schedules and provide additional learning opportunities for students.

- ❑ The schedule has been adopted in an effort to avoid the “summer slide” and maximize instructional time.

	School Days for Students	PD Days for Teachers
First Trimester: Session 1: September 8 – October 15 Session 2: November 1 – December 17	28 31 59 Total Days	5 2 7 Total PD Days
Second Trimester: Session 3: January 3 – February 11 Session 4: February 22 – March 18	28 19 47 Total Days	3 5 8 Total PD Days
Third Trimester: Session 5: April 4 – May 6 Session 6: May 23 – June 24	25 24 49 Total Days	5 5 10 Total Days
Number of Regular School Days	155 Days, 1,085 hours	25 PD Days
Extended Optional Summer Session: Session 7: July 18 – August 19	20 20 Total Days	5 5 Total PD Days
Total Number of Days	175 Days, 1,225 hours	30 Total PD Days

Statutory Requirements



Application Requirement	
Mission & Vision	✓
Organizational Structure	✓
Financial Plan	✓
Personnel/PD Plan	✓
Grade Levels Served	✓
School Calendar	✓
Measurement of Student Progress	✓
Educational Program/Curriculum	✓
Charter Term	✓

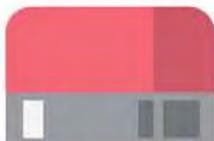
Application Requirement	
Financial Accounting Procedures	✓
Pre-opening Requirements	✓
Board Policy	✓
Grievance Procedures	✓
Sponsor Intervention/Revocation	✓
Closure Procedures	✓
Special Education/Related Services	✓
Distribution of Unobligated Assets	✓

Qualification for Approval



7

- Compliance with Section 160.405, RSMo.
 - The Atlas Public Schools application has met the statutory requirements for approval.
- Sponsor Recommendation
 - The Missouri Charter Public School Commission submitted the application and will serve as the sponsor of the Atlas Public Schools.
- DESE Recommendation
 - DESE recommends approval of the application. The initial term of the charter is 5 years.



Questions

Rachel Uptergrove
Director of Charter Schools
Office of Quality Schools
(573) 526-4219
Rachel.Uptergrove@dese.mo.gov



Overview for the Missouri State Board of Education

At a Glance

- An open-enrollment free public charter K-5 elementary school in the Central Corridor of St. Louis, Missouri.
- Launches fall of 2021 with 130 kindergarten and first grade students, growing one grade per year thereafter.
- Ultimately serving 468 students in kindergarten through fifth grade



The Four Pillars of Atlas' School Model

Place-Based Learning



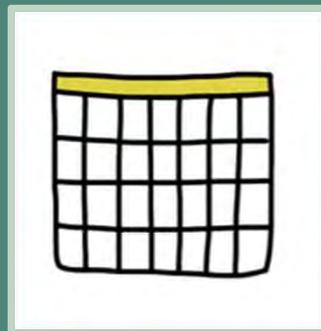
Place-based education is the process of using the local community and environment as a starting point to teach concepts across the curriculum. Emphasizing hands-on, real-world learning experiences makes learning more meaningful to students and helps lessons stick.

Diverse By Design



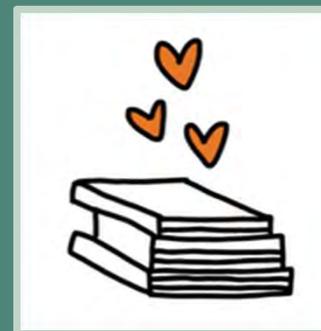
We aim to create an intentionally diverse staff and student body - one that not only brings people together across lines of difference, but is committed to educational equity and making the World more kind and just.

Year-Round Education



Our year-round model is broken up into 7 academic sessions, each consisting of approximately 5 weeks of instruction followed by a 2 week intersession where students have the opportunity to opt into camp-like experiences led by trusted community partners.

Investing in Educators



With competitive compensation, two plan periods a day, one-on-one coaching, 30 days built into our calendar for professional development, and a strong base curriculum, we're committed to supporting our team and giving them the tools they need to be successful.