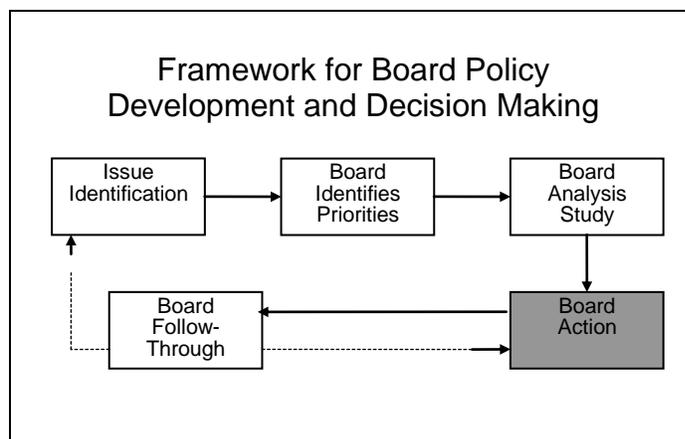


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

March 11, 2010



**Agenda Item:** Iowa Public Charter Schools: Approval for Charter Status – Des Moines Independent Community School District

**Iowa Goal:** All K-12 students will achieve at a high level.

**Equity Impact Statement:** Iowa Public Charter Schools are required to be open to all students in accordance with Iowa's nondiscrimination policies.

**Presenter:** Del Hoover, Deputy Division Administrator  
Division of PK-12 Education

Kittie Weston-Knauer, Des Moines Charter Developer  
Des Moines Independent Community School District

**Attachments:** 1

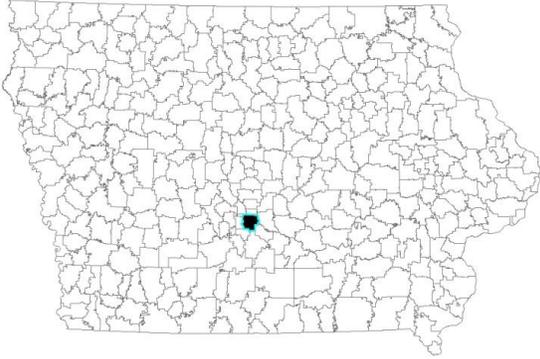
**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board approve the charter school application for Des Moines Independent Community School District. The charter school will be called Des Moines Public Charter School.

**Background:** The 2002 Legislature enacted a limited public charter schools law. The cap, which sets the maximum number of charter schools, was removed during the 2010 General Assembly. If approved, eight charter schools will be in operation in Iowa.

The local school board has approved the charter school application.

# DES MOINES CHARTER SCHOOL – NEW!

## March 2010



### **SCHOOL/DISTRICT INFORMATION**

Des Moines Charter School

620 8<sup>th</sup> Street

Des Moines, IA 50309

Administrator: Kittie Weston-Knauer, Charter School Project Manager

October 2009 School BEDS Enrollment – not available

Des Moines Independent Community School District

901 Walnut Street

Des Moines, IA 50309

October 2009 District BEDS Enrollment – 30,050

### **CHARTER'S MISSION**

The Des Moines Public Charter School will meet the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual needs of young men and women of great potential who have struggled to find success in the traditional middle school setting and are at-risk of dropping out of school.

### **DESCRIPTION OF CHARTER**

The Des Moines Charter School has evolved out of the need to provide educationally disadvantaged middle and high school students with a small, personalized, and engaging learning environment that will support each student in mastering the concepts and competencies established in the Iowa Core Curriculum and DMPS Ends. This, along with personalized career exploration and goal setting in the Ten Year Plans, will set each student on a course that leads to high school graduation and success in postsecondary education. The Des Moines Charter School is based upon the following beliefs:

- All students have talents, strengths, and abilities.

- Given the appropriate academic support and learning environment, all students can succeed in challenging courses and meet high standards.
- All students need a college preparation program.
- Parents are key partners in their child’s education.
- Schools have the responsibility to mitigate the effects of poverty.

### **CHARTER INNOVATION**

The Des Moines Charter School will use research-based instructional strategies and school design that breaks away from the factory model to embrace the hospital model. While the key elements of the Des Moines Charter School may not seem innovative when considered individually, they have been integrated to create a synergistic, comprehensive approach that wraps around at-risk students and their families in a holistic manner. This intensive, innovative program encompasses:

- High expectations
- Personalized learning environments
- Individual learning plans
- Frequent monitoring of student progress
- Authentic assessments
- Technology to support access to internet resources, peer collaboration, continuous learning and parental communication
- Parent/family involvement
- Community partnerships for students, family services and youth development
- Interdisciplinary curriculum
- Student-centered instructional strategies
- Problem-based learning
- Differential instruction
- Block scheduling
- Team-based instruction
- Community –based learning and internships
- Mentoring
- Ten year plans and follow-up

### **DES MOINES CHARTER SCHOOL GOALS**

**GOAL 1:** (Reading) Students will demonstrate growth as readers using norm-referenced standardized assessments, criterion-referenced teacher-created assessments and diagnostic probes and inventories.

**GOAL 2:** (Mathematics) Students will demonstrate growth as mathematicians using norm-referenced standardized assessments, criterion-referenced teacher-created assessments and diagnostic probes and inventories.

**GOAL 3:** (Science) Students will demonstrate growth as scientific thinkers using norm-referenced standardized assessments and criterion-referenced teacher-created assessments.

**GOAL 4:** (Social Studies) Students will demonstrate growth in their understanding of the world using norm-referenced standardized assessments and criterion-referenced teacher-created assessments.

**GOAL 5:** (Arts) Students will demonstrate growth in their understanding of the value of fine and applied arts using teacher-created assessments, peer reviews, and student self-reflections.

**GOAL 6:** (Health-Wellness) Students will demonstrate growth in their understanding of the attributes of physical and mental well being using teacher-created assessments and student self-reflections. Growth for all students would be indicated through the percent of students working at the mastery level on teacher-created performance assessments and self-reflections of monitored results of personal health goals.

### **DES MOINES CHARTER SCHOOL OBJECTIVES**

**Objective 1:** Implement a high-quality educational program that is aligned with the rigorous academic standards in the Iowa Core Curriculum and DMPS Ends in the areas of literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, and health/wellness as measured by ITBS/ITED, criterion referenced tests, performance-based assessments, and students earning sufficient credits in grade 9 through 12 needed to be on track for graduation.

**Objective 2:** Ensure all students meet or exceed the standards of the Iowa Core Curriculum and develop 21st century skills through the implementation of a variety of research-based student-centered instructional strategies as measured by student assessments, ITBS/ITED, teacher observation, student feedback, and parent feedback.

**Objective 3:** Utilize multiple forms of assessment to inform instruction, monitor student progress towards learning goals, and document success in meeting state standards as measured by student achievement data, authentic assessments, ITBS/ITED results, and teacher observation.

**Objective 4:** Increase student engagement with school and facilitate social/emotional development through personalized goal setting, advocacy, and mentoring as measured by progress towards goals, attendance, positive behavior, student feedback, and parent feedback.

**Objective 5:** Provide a network of continuous monitoring, early intervention, and support for students to assist them in overcoming barriers to school success as measured by attendance, student assessment data, number of students being served, types of services, student feedback, and parent feedback.

**Objective 6:** The Des Moines Charter School will function as an autonomous school, governed by an advisory council and the principles outlined in the charter granted by the Des Moines Independent Community School District and the Iowa Department of Education which ensures all students learn at

high levels and meet/exceed state standards as measured by multiple student assessments and ITBS/ITED scores.

**Objective 7:** The advisory council will ensure that the educational program will take place in a safe and secure facility and is supported with the necessary infrastructure of support services.

**Objective 8:** Parents/families will be equal partners in each student’s educational program and actively involved in school programming decisions as measured by Ten Year Plans, advisory board meeting minutes, and parent/family feedback.

**Objective 9:** The Des Moines Charter School will employ a diverse, high-quality faculty to create a caring community of learners that supports the success of all students as measured by staff qualifications, resumes, career development plans, student assessment data, as well as students and parent feedback.

**Objective 10:** The Des Moines Charter School will protect the physical and emotional safety of all students through a culture of high expectations, cultural responsiveness, positive behavior, and supportive relationships as measured by discipline referrals, student feedback, staff observation, parent feedback, and student assessment data.

**Objective 11:** Build community support for the Charter School as measured by number of mentors, volunteers, sites for internships, and community-based learning, services for students and families, and annual applications of new students.

**REQUIRED CHAPTER 12 FLEXIBILITY**

- 12.1(8) Day of school – The charter school will operate 200 days rather than 180 – days start later and end later than a traditional school (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- 12.4(8) Teacher – teacher licensure for position employed – the charter will not have stand alone classes or grade levels. Teachers will be licensed at the appropriate level.
- 12.5(5) High school program, grades 9-12 – Offer and teach requirements and 4-3-3-3 – the charter will not have stand alone classes or grade levels. Content specifications will be covered.
- 12.5(14) Unit – Hours of instruction – the charter will not have stand alone classes.
- 12.5(15) Credit – Credit upon successful completion – This will be a competency based program
- 12.5(16) Subject Offering – the charter will not have stand alone classes

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS TO BE ENROLLED IN THE CHARTER SCHOOL:**

	7	8	9	10	11	12
2010-2011	50	50				
2011-2012	50	50	50			
2012-2013	50	50	50	50		
2013-2014	50	50	50	50	50	
2014-2015	50	50	50	50	50	50

**Recommendation**

The Des Moines Independent Community School District’s charter school application is sufficiently developed to implement. The charter school may provide experience to the system as implementation of the Iowa Core is set into motion. Approval is recommended.

If approval is granted, the Des Moines Independent Community School District must establish baseline information for each of its goals and submit to the Iowa Department of Education prior to the opening of the charter school.