



PRESS RELEASE

City on a Hill Dudley Square Charter Public School Gets Full Five Year Renewal

MA Commissioner of Education Renews School's Charter for Additional Five Years

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BOSTON — Tuesday, February 27, 2018 — The Commissioner of Education renewed the charter of City on a Hill Dudley Square charter public school for a full, unconditional five years. This marks the first renewal for the charter school, which opened its doors in 2013. City on a Hill Dudley Square (CoaH DS), is one of three schools within the City on a Hill Schools network of public schools located in Boston and New Bedford, Massachusetts. CoaH DS, located in Dudley Square in the heart of Boston's Roxbury neighborhood, is a grade 9 through 12 public high school serving 280 students.

A Twenty-Three Year Journey

One of the original 14 charter schools opening in 1995 as the result of the landmark *Massachusetts Education Reform Act*, City on a Hill started with less than 100 9th graders in the YMCA on Huntington Avenue. In response to growing waitlists that indicated strong demand for additional educational opportunities in Boston, CoaH expanded to three charter public schools, today serving over 750 students. City on a Hill Schools are: Dudley Square, City on a Hill Circuit Street, also in Roxbury, and City on a Hill New Bedford.

“We’re grateful to the state Board of Education and the staff at the Department for recognizing our tireless work over the past five years to provide the students of Boston with more outstanding educational opportunities,” said Sonya Pratt, principal of CoaH Dudley Square. “Now that we have achieved an unconditional and positive renewal, we will continue to forge ahead in providing even more students with an educational environment that prepares them for success in both college and career.”

Tuition-free and open to all students, CoaH schools do not have entrance exams; students are admitted by a lottery. City on a Hill believes first, and most centrally, not

only that all students can learn, but that all students must learn in order to address the social, economic, and political inequities of our nation.

As a result of this belief and because City on a Hill was designated a proven provider by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the City on a Hill community sought to increase opportunities to attend a college-prep school for families in Boston and New Bedford. City on a Hill submitted two applications for charter schools to the Department, including a second high school in Boston to be located in the heart of Roxbury. Now, six years later, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is renewing the charter of City on a Hill Dudley Square without conditions, and the school is set to have its second graduating class with 100 percent post-secondary placement.

Renewed Commitment to Access and Equity for all Students

As CoaH DS is renewed, all stakeholders at City on a Hill Schools are reminded of the slow-and-steady work still to be done to serve the students and families of Boston, ensuring access and equity for all. Specifically, CoaH DS will continue to refine student and faculty culture while embracing restorative practices in an effort to continue reducing out-of-school suspension and student attrition. CoaH DS will continue to increase the rigor of curriculum and assessments backwards designed from our College Board approved Advanced Placement courses. Finally, to increase the likelihood of college completion, CoaH DS will increase the availability of college credits students can earn from our dual enrollment partners UMass Boston and Benjamin Franklin, helping students get closer to graduation while reducing their financial burden.

CoaH DS could not have completed this six-year journey without the significant support of many generous stakeholders. Specifically, City on a Hill Schools would like to thank:

- Cabot Family Charitable Trust
- Lewis Family Fund at The Boston Foundation
- Mabel Louise Riley Foundation
- Mifflin Memorial Fund
- The New Schools Venture Fund
- The Walton Family Foundation
- Bob and Lorraine Mazarella
- John and Maryann Gilmartin

To learn more about City on a Hill Dudley Square and City on a Hill Schools, visit: www.cityonahill.org.

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