

Dec. 16, 2022

Robbyn Wahby, Executive Director
Missouri Charter Public School Commission
20 South Sarah Street, St. Louis, MO 63108

Statement of Intent to Renew

KC International Academy's Board of Directors voted Dec. 13, 2022, to pursue a five-year charter renewal with the Missouri Charter Public School Commission. KCIA joined the MCPSC's portfolio of schools in January and believes MCPSC will continue to provide high-quality oversight and accountability during the next five years.

KCIA received one of the state's first charters in 1999 under the name Della Lamb Charter School and has served students in Kansas City for 25 years. In 2016, the school began a turnaround process that created a new school board separate from Della Lamb Community Services, appointed new leadership, and overhauled the school's staffing, curriculum and instructional systems. The school rebranded as K.C. International Academy to celebrate the diversity of our student population and recommit to focusing on educational services, including high-quality academic experiences for refugee and recent immigrant students.

During the past seven years, the school has demonstrated significant improvement in several areas, especially in financial management and operations. Significant gains in academic performance also are evident, though disruptions to learning during the Covid-19 pandemic affected the rate of progress. Despite this unprecedented challenge, KCIA students have made academic gains. Across the state, reading and math scores have yet to meet pre-pandemic levels, according to the spring 2022 grade-level MAP assessments. At KCIA, however, our 2022 math and science scores have surpassed 2019 scores. Standards-aligned, interim assessment data from this fall suggest that proficiency levels will continue to increase during the current school year. We are not yet satisfied with our academic performance and are continuing to strengthen systems and instruction to meet the needs of all learners, however we believe we are moving in the right direction.

We believe we make a compelling case for our charter renewal and look forward to working with the commission in the renewal process. We appreciate your feedback and oversight to ensure we offer students in Kansas City a high-quality choice for their education.

Sincerely,

Ramsey Atieh
Board President, KC International Academy

David Leone
Superintendent, KC International Academy

Peer schools for review include Garfield Elementary (KCPS), Scuola Vita Nuova (charter), Whittier Elementary (KCPS) and Northeast Middle School (KCPS).