

**Sarasota County Schools
2018- 2019 Charter School Application Process
Special Fall 2018 Review Cycle**

**Preliminary Review Summary – October 9, 2018
Dreamers Academy Amended Charter School Application**

On August 14, 2018 the district received the amended application for the Dreamers Academy to open a K-5 charter school in Sarasota County. Because of strong community support for the school, the Dreamers Academy founding board was offered the opportunity to withdraw the initial February 1, 2018 application and resubmit an amended application in the fall, with the understanding that the revised application would address the deficiencies, weaknesses and concerns identified by the Charter Review Committee (CRC) in the May 8, 2018 report.

- The school will open in 2019-2020 with approximately 288 K-5 students and grow to 576 students by year five of operation. The school will be located in North Sarasota County.
- The Dreamers Academy proposes to offer a Dual Language Two-Way Immersion (DL-TWI) educational program. The DL-TWI program is research-based and well-established. The Dreamers Academy program will use Spanish and English for literacy and content development aligned to the Florida standards. Students become proficient in their native language and learn to master a second language, and thus become bilingual and biliterate, develop cross-cultural skills and successfully meet high levels of academic achievement.
- To maximize the benefits of the DL-TWI model, the school aims to have a 50/50 balance of students who are English-language dominant speakers and Spanish-language dominant speakers. Students entering Kindergarten in 2019-20 will be the first cohort in the DL-TWI program as they progress through the grade levels. The school will implement a “hybrid” DL-TWI model, so that non-cohort Grades 1-5 students will receive a traditional program with an emphasis on dual language acquisition as they continue through grade 5.

This document presents a brief summary of key findings from the report entitled, *Charter Review Committee Analysis and Initial Findings – October 9, 2018*, which is a separate report and not included with this document. The following information is provided: Table 1 (below) presents ratings by program area; pages 2-3 summarize key findings and on page 4 the chart shows ratings for each standard for the amended application as compared to the rating received on the May 8, 2018 CRC report.

**Table 1. Preliminary Ratings Summary for
Dreamers Academy Charter Application – Amended 8/14/18**

I. Educational Plan Standards 1 – 9	II. Organizational Plan Standards 10 – 15	III. Business Plan Standards 16 – 22	Preliminary Ratings Total
56% Meets 44% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	100% Meets 0% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	100% Meets 0% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	82% Meets 18% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.

Dreamers Academy Amended Charter Application: Initial Evaluation Findings

Please note that the information presented here does not cover all of the 22 standards in the amended application; rather, the focus of this summary is on those standards that were not met in the February 1st application which most directly pertain to teaching and learning, services for special populations, student admissions and equal access.

Educational Plan

The information in the application met or partially met the nine standards in the educational plan, including:

- **Educational Program Design:** The Dual Language Two-Way Immersion program (DL-TWI model) is research-based and well established. The program uses Spanish and English for literacy and academic content development. Students who are Spanish dominant speakers and native English speakers become proficient in their native language and learn to master a second language and thus become bilingual and biliterate. The foundational literacy program for native English speakers entering K is of concern.
- **Curriculum:** The information provided in the amended application addresses many of the deficiencies and weaknesses in the initial application, therefore the rating moves from Does Not Meet, as assigned in the May 8th report, to Partially Meets the Standard. The curriculum for the DL-TWI program will be developed and the application provides a good description of the proposed curriculum, the development plan and a realistic timeline for completion and implementation. The school's reading plan is presented in the application. Concern remains regarding how the school will meet the needs of English-language dominant students who are struggling readers, specifically, Kindergartners in the DL-TWI program who receive 80 - 90% of their instruction in Spanish. *Further clarification will be requested of the applicant.*
- **Performance Goals:** This section of the amended application is greatly improved. School performance goals are measurable and set for all grades and content areas. In addition, goals are stated for the students in the traditional program as well as for students in the DL-TWI program cohort. The expected student growth of 5% each year over the years is commendable, however, the proposed initial annual goals and targets do not reflect high expectations for student academic performance. The information presented improved the rating from not meeting to partially meeting this standard.
- **Services for Students with Disabilities (SwD):** The application addresses the strategies and supports the school will provide, including supplemental supports and services, modifications and accommodations to ensure the academic success of students with disabilities. This standard moved from Partially Meets to Meets the Standard.
- **Services for English-Language Learners (ELL):** The amended application provides an acceptable plan for meeting the needs of ELLs in the ESOL program. Essential detail is provided relative to instructional programs, practices and strategies the school will employ to ensure academic success for ELL students. The information presented improved the rating from not meeting to fully meeting this standard.
- **Target Population and Student Body:** The rating remains at partially meeting this standard because of the concern that despite the school's location and solid marketing efforts, the school may not realize a student body balance of 50% Spanish and 50% English speakers, which is optimal for the DL-TWI model. Secondly, as stated below for student recruitment,

the district has not been able to confirm that the school's proposed enrollment criteria meets the provisions of s. 1002.33(10)(e), F.S., as it relates to statutorily allowable open-enrollment, admissions criteria and the lottery process.

Organizational Plan

The application meets all of the standards within the organizational plan including governance, management and human resources. As stated in the May 8, 2018 evaluation report, the parent and community support for the Dreamers Academy charter school is impressive and the founding governing board is comprised of local community members representing a wide range of knowledge and experience in business, finance and education.

- **Student Recruitment and Enrollment** was rated as Meets the Standard based on the expanded explanations and the additional information provided in the amended application. However, please note that the final evaluation rating is contingent upon the applicant obtaining confirmation from FLDOE or another appropriate legal entity that the proposed admissions and lottery process will be in compliance with s. 1002.33(10), F.S.

Business Plan

The application met all of the standards related to school operations, including transportation, food services, safety and security, and the start-up plan. The prior concerns regarding facilities and financial management are adequately addressed in the amended application. Although the initial application met the standard for the Budget section, the budget was re-evaluated to ensure that adjustments in the school's programs and services are supported by the proposed budget. The financial viability of the proposed Dreamers Academy school is realistic and sound.

**Sarasota County Public Schools
2018-2019 Charter School Application Process
Special Fall 2018 Review Cycle**

Charter Review Committee (CRC) Preliminary Ratings – October 9, 2018

Dreamers Academy Amended Charter Application

Charter School Application Section	Final CRC Ratings May 8, 2018 Report	Preliminary CRC Ratings - Amended Application	Final CRC Ratings (TBD)
I. Educational Plan	33% Meets 33% Partially Meets 33% Does Not Meet	56% Meets 44% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	0% Meets 0% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet
1. Mission, Guiding Principles and Purpose	Meets	Meets	
2. Target Population and Student Body	Partially Meets	Partially Meets	
3. Educational Program Design	Partially Meets	Partially Meets	
4. Curriculum Plan	Does Not Meet	Partially Meets	
5. Student Performance, Assessment & Evaluation	Does Not Meet	Partially Meets	
6. Exceptional Students	Partially Meets	Meets	
7. English Language Learners	Does Not Meet	Meets	
8. School Culture and Discipline	Meets	Meets	
9. Supplemental Programming	Meets	Meets	
II. Organizational Plan	67% Meets 33% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	100% Meets 0% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	0% Meets 0% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet
10. Governance	Meets	Meets	
11. Management and Staffing	Meets	Meets	
12. Human Resources and Employment	Meets	Meets	
13. Professional Development	Partially Meets	Meets	
14. Student Recruitment and Enrollment	Partially Meets	Meets	
15. Parent and Community Involvement	Meets	Meets	
III. Business Plan	71% Meets 29% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	100% Meets 0% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	0% Meets 0% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet
16. Facilities	Partially Meets	Meets	
17. Transportation	Meets	Meets	
18. Food Service	Meets	Meets	
19. School Safety and Security	Meets	Meets	
20. Budget	Meets	Meets	
21. Financial Management and Oversight	Partially Meets	Meets	
22. Start-Up Plan	Meets	Meets	
Addenda A, A1 and B (not applicable)	-	-	
Ratings Summary – All Standards (1-22)	55% Meets 32% Partially Meets 14% Does Not Meet	82% Meets 18% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet	0% Meets 0% Partially Meets 0% Does Not Meet

Note: Ratings from the May 8, 2018 Evaluation Report of the February 2018 charter application are provided as a point of reference. Preliminary ratings for the amended charter application are based solely on CRC's review of the written charter application submitted on August 14, 2018. The "CRC Analysis and Initial Findings – Dreamers Academy Amended Charter Application" report dated October 9, 2018 provides CRC's analysis and findings.