

## **UP Academy Boston's Operating Charter is up for Renewal**

Your Help is Needed!

The purpose of this document is to provide important information regarding the future of UP Academy Boston and the renewal of the operating charter. In this document, you will find a full summary of the renewal process and implications for UP Academy Boston as well as ways you and your family can support.

### **Brief History of Charter schools:**

- Charter schools were formed in 1993 as a result of the Commonwealth of Mass Education Reform Act and are considered independent public schools that operate under five year charters granted by the Commonwealth's Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Renewal is a tool that the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education uses to ensure Charter schools are performing well and meeting the standards outlined in the charter agreement
  - Every 5 years, charter schools have to renew the charter through an extensive process that includes creating and presenting an application, a site visit, and most importantly, testimony from parents
  - Renewal is determined by a combination of votes by first the Boston Public School Committee and then by the Board of Education through the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education
  - Next year (School Year 2020-21) is the final year of the current charter agreement

### **Implications for UAB:**

- The renewal of an operating charter is not guaranteed
- Board of Education will make the final decision on whether or not the operating charter is renewed
- If the charter is not renewed, the school could be closed!

**The involvement of parents and family members will be a key factor in helping the Boston Public School Committee and ultimately the Board of Education to make a decision in favor of renewing the operating charter.**

On the next page, you will find a detailed list of ways you can support the renewal process to ensure UP Academy Boston and its staff are able to continue providing your children with the education they deserve!

**We encourage you to support in one or more of the ways outlined!**

See other side >>>>>>>>>>

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Letters/Videos:** We are collecting as many letters and videos from families as possible to deliver to the school committee in support of renewing the operating charter. Please see below for guidance on letter writing and video recording. All letters and videos should be addressed to one of the following: The Boston Public School Committee OR Michael Loconto, Boston Public School Committee Chairperson at 2300 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02119.

Please submit all letters and videos to Adkeem Jackson, Sr, Director of Family Engagement and External Relations at [ajackson@upeducationnetwork.org](mailto:ajackson@upeducationnetwork.org). Please submit your letters and videos as soon as possible. We appreciate your support!

**Attend or speak during the School Committee meeting:** With the current school closure, we are awaiting information regarding the scheduling of the school committee meeting. We will share more details in the coming weeks. If you are interested in attending or speaking during the school committee meeting, please email Adkeem Jackson, Sr, Director of Family Engagement and External Relations at [ajackson@upeducationnetwork.org](mailto:ajackson@upeducationnetwork.org).

**Call School Committee:** Parents and family members are encouraged to contact the Boston Public School Committee at 617-635-9014 and leave a message in support of UP Academy Boston renewal. When calling, you can say, "I am calling to ask for your vote on behalf of UP Academy Boston's Charter Renewal."

**Email School Committee Chairperson:** Parents and family members are encouraged to email the Boston Public School Committee Chairperson to request his support. If you are emailing, be sure to state that you are requesting his vote and support in favor of UP Academy Boston renewing its operating charter. The Chairperson, Michael Loconto, can be emailed at [mloconto@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:mloconto@bostonpublicschools.org).

## TIPS FOR WRITING, CALLING, MAKING VIDEOS

### **Be clear from the start of your message why you are getting in touch**

- You are writing or speaking in support of UAB Charter renewal
- You are specifically asking The Boston Public School Committee to vote in favor of The Board of Education approving the renewal of UP Academy Boston's charter agreement

### **Things to highlight**

- Examples of how the experience at UAB has been positive for your child and beneficial to their learning and development
- Examples of how the school had a direct impact on your family
- Specific stories of the positive impact the school has had on your child & family
- Anything else that you are moved to share from your heart

Your support and participation are valuable to the renewal process. We need as many letters and videos as possible in addition to the other ways you can support! Please send all letters and videos to [ajackson@upeducationnetwork.org](mailto:ajackson@upeducationnetwork.org).



Thank you!