

Academy Charter School - Amendment Summary

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District (MSBSD) approved Academy Charter School's amendment to the current contract (2015-2025) on April 6, 2022. The amendment is for the addition of a high school, adding one grade level each year. Beginning with 9th grade (2023-2024).

9th grade 2023-24 School year
10th grade 2024-25 School year
11th grade 2025-26 School year
12th grade 2026-27 School year

Program Information:

Academy has naturally grown and expanded, beginning with Kindergarten in August 1997, and adding grades 1 through 3 in August 1998, then progressively, one grade level each year thereafter through 8th grade. Academy is ready to expand the unique, cutting-edge learning system built on the philosophy of E.D. Hirsch's Core Knowledge Curriculum, with intensive learning in the study of literature, history, and the sciences, with its richness and depth, by offering a focused, Classical Education in a high school environment.

The Academy philosophy is for all class sizes to be small. The goal is for the high school classes to remain small to maximize instruction, student learning, and individualized learning opportunities. Acknowledging that the progressive expansion, adding one grade level each year through 12th grade, may, at times, impact the budget, facility, and staffing outcomes for that school year. The pupil to teacher ratio for high school classes will target 30 students in a class, though two teachers may be assigned to provide even smaller class sizes. The high school is designed to be a small environment with an atmosphere where all students are known, and their learning opportunities are maximized. As with charter schools, parents are an integral part of the high school team.

The high school at Academy Charter School will offer an academically rigorous, knowledge-centered educational opportunity rooted in a Classical, liberal arts curriculum. This college-preparatory program will uphold the following characteristics:

- a content-rich, curriculum focused on the four core disciplines of math, science, literature, and history;
- a life-long passion for learning with the ability to analyze and discuss high-order concepts and ideas;
- a true command of literacy and the English language, necessary for full and active participation in all areas of life following high school;
- a cumulative, shared-knowledge emphasis, ensuring that students become exemplary citizens prepared to positively and actively contribute to society and government;
- an appreciation for the United States of America and her unique role in the history of the world;
- the development of perseverance necessary to be successful in every academic area, as well as in practical areas of life; and,
- a school culture with an emphasis on achievement, logic, moral character, truth, and justice.

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The scope of Academy Charter School's high school academic program, and pathway, is designed to meet or exceed the MSBSD graduation requirements. The academic scope of this program will ensure that graduates have been fully prepared for not only college but also for any other post-secondary path they wish to pursue.

School Mission:

"Our mission is to create a learning system that encourages and develops students' inherent abilities to be competent, confident, productive, and responsible young adults. We will strive to produce a generation of young people who possess the habits, skills, and attitudes necessary to empower them to succeed as lifelong learners and outstanding citizens."

Academy Charter School Site:

Academy has demonstrated the ability to creatively provide safe, purposeful space to house students over these past 25 years. The space has always met Fire Marshall and DEC standards, and as in the past, the space evolves as the need develops. The governing body ensures that this successful practice will continue as we grow and expand into 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. Initially, existing classroom space may be used, including the addition of portables and other buildings, to house the high school students while other options are explored and obtained. An option of designing and constructing a high school facility will be explored and considered. This will occur with careful analysis of affordability and budget restraints. Should it be determined feasible, and with collaboration with MSBSD, the Mat-Su Borough, and the charter school, a small, purposeful, efficient, and reasonable facility design will be established. The high school, either in a bonded facility or otherwise, will be located on borough land, purchased for Academy's expansion, at 801 E Arctic Avenue in Palmer, Alaska.