

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- I. **Public Education Commission Meeting Date:** April 12, 2019
- II. **Item Title:** Middle College High School: Amendment Request – Additional Grade Level
- III. **Executive Summary and Proposed Motions:** Discussion and Possible Action on Charter School Amendment, Middle College High School

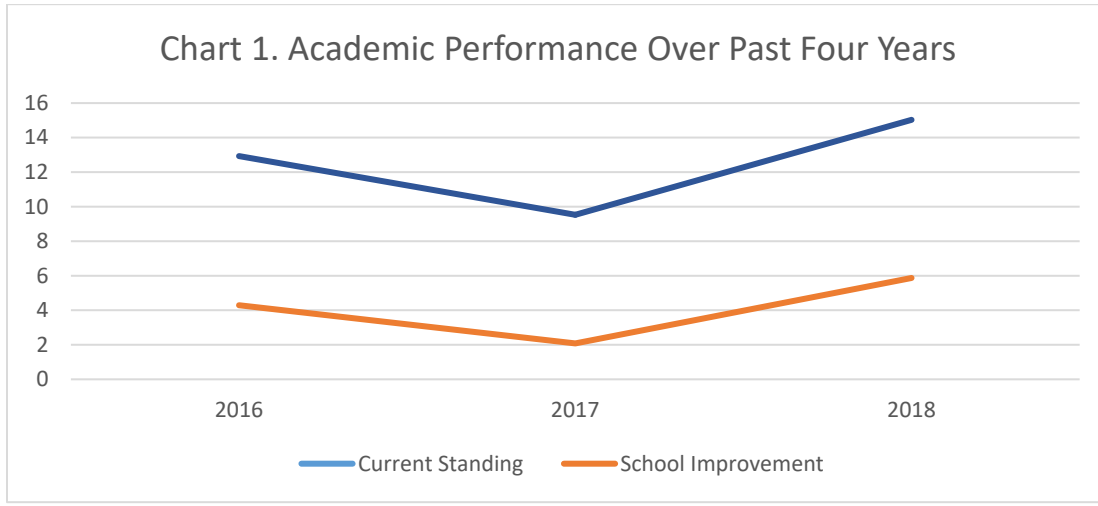
Request

- **Middle College High School requests to add 9th Grade to its approved grade levels. The school currently serves grades 10-12.**

Rationale For Request

“This request is responsive to community concern for an educational alternative to the current offerings of the local school district. MCHS is fielding an upsurge in calls from prospective parents, who do not wish to enroll their students in the district’s local high schools. While historically there has been an interest in a 9th grade option, a recent restructuring of the district’s high schools appears to account for the upsurge in calls. Parents are expressing concern that the district has moved to a “gateway” model, in which incoming freshman are asked to identify a particular track of study and requested to attend the school that specifically offers that track, such as Central High Alternative School for vocational study or McKinley Academy for college preparatory courses. While Middle College continues to provide various degree pathways, ample time is committed in preparing and guiding students toward making an informed decision regarding postsecondary options. Adding 9th grade will grant the School an additional year of preparing and guiding students. At the same time, it offers families an option that closes the gap year, for which students exiting from local primary schools, including parochial or private, have very limited or affordable alternatives for beginning their secondary studies outside of the local district high schools. This request to add a 9th grade to Middle College High School is in response to community need and interest.”

Academic Performance



Additional Analysis on Amendment Request

While academic performance dipped overall in 2017, the school did see a recovery in 2018. The overall grade in 2017 was a C, increased to an A in 2018. As the school indicates in the required narrative (see attached appendix), the existing faculty-to-student ratio would be maintained. Therefore, it can be assumed that the additional grade would not have a negative impact on academic performance.