

**STATE OF FLORIDA
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**First Amended Request for Waiver of Termination by
Broward Charter School of Science and Technology**

Broward Charter School of Science and Technology (hereinafter “Broward Charter”), files this First Amended Request for Waiver of Termination to the State Board of Education in order to supplement its original Request for Waiver of Termination, which was timely filed on July 28, 2014.¹ Broward Charter, currently a grade K-7 charter school in the Broward County School District (“District”), School No. 5055, having completed its second year of operation, respectfully requests that the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 1002.33(9)(n)4.c., Florida Statutes, waive termination of Broward Charter’s charter contract for having received an “F” grade on the FCAT for school years 2012-13 and 2013-14. Florida Statutes, Section 1002.33(9)(n)4.c., provides that “[t]he state board may waive termination if the charter school demonstrates that the learning gains of its students on statewide assessments are comparable to or better than the learning gains of similarly situated students enrolled in nearby district public schools.”

Broward Charter’s learning gains meet the statutory requirement for comparable learning gains for similarly situated students in nearby schools. In fact, Broward Charter’s learning gains beat all the other nearby District schools at 15 of 36 points of comparison.² A copy of this data

¹ This First Amendment is filed to reflect data on comparable schools that was provided to Broward Charter by FDOE after the initial Waiver of Termination Request was filed.

² This is based on the growth of all applicable categories of comparison, even those with cell sizes of less than 10 students. As of the date this First Amended Waiver of Termination is filed, District Staff have used a narrower data set for analysis, based on concerns of student privacy. District Staff’s published data combines categories in order to reach a cell size of 10. District Staff’s published data also excludes comparison in some categories because the cell sizes are below 10. When categories are combined and student scores excluded, the result is an analysis that does not comply with statutory requirement of comparing similarly situated students. It is also an unfair analysis for a small charter school because it does not consider all the students served by the charter school. Broward Charter formally objects to the combination of comparison categories and exclusion of student scores in the determination of whether to grant this Waiver of Termination. If there are concerns about student privacy due to the small cell size,

comparison is attached hereto. Because of its strong learning gains and other factors, the FCAT score for Broward Charter improved from 308 in 2013 to 384 in 2014, missing a “D” by 11 points. This is a one-year increase of 76 points. Staff from Broward Charter report that they were never informed by the District of the ability to locate missing scores from students. After receiving their FCAT grade, Broward Charter discovered the missing scores. However, it was too late for those scores to be included. If the missing data had been included, Broward Charter would have received at least 5 additional points. While this would not have resulted in a higher FCAT grade, it is important to note because Broward Charter’s FCAT score does not actually reflect the learning gains of all the Broward Charter students. It also underscores how much improvement Broward Charter made between the two years.

Broward Charter’s FCAT score increase was also greater than the comparison schools. When looking at the FCAT scores of the comparison schools, one school made no improvement between the two years, and two of the six comparison schools actually dropped a letter grade between the two years. Broward Charter’s improvement in its FCAT score was more than double the any improvement in 4 of the 5 schools that actually showed improvement, and 28 points higher than the next highest school.

In the granting of a Waiver of Termination, the State Board carefully considers why a school like Broward Charter is worthy of a waiver. The answer is simple: the school is on a clear path to receiving a higher grade. When Broward Charter’s benchmark testing showed that it was not moving in the right direction in the 2013-14 School Year, its governing board replaced its principal and added an assistant principal in the middle of school year. Both the principal and assistant principal are administrators with experience in achieving two-grade increases in school

then the results can be redacted from public view. However, student privacy concerns should not prevent the data from being considered in making a determination.

district schools in Miami-Dade. The new principal has also consulted on school reform across the United States. In addition, the weakest learning gains for the school occurred in 5th grade math, and that teacher has been replaced. Over the summer of 2014, Broward Charter held free reading and math boot camps for its lowest performing and ELL students. These camps were well attended by students who are enrolled for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year.

The improvement in FCAT scores, the learning gains of the school, and the actions taken by Broward Charter over the summer in preparation for the 2014-2015 school year should give the State Board great confidence that the granting of a waiver to Broward Charter will be rewarded with at least a one grade level improvement next year.

Respectfully submitted this 5th day of August, 2014.

/s/ Shawn A. Arnold

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the foregoing First Amended Request for Waiver of Termination by Broward Charter School of Science and Technology was served via email and U.S. Mail on counsel for the School Board of Broward County, Robert P. Vignola, Esq., Robert.Vignola@browardschools.com and the Director of Charter School Management and Support, Jody Perry, Jody.Perry@browardschools.com, this 5th day of August, 2014.

/s/ Shawn A. Arnold _____

Report for BROWARD CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL (K-7)

Charter School

065055	06	BROWARD	5055	BROWARD CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL (K-7)
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Nearby Elementary Schools:

062071	06	BROWARD	2071	PASADENA LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHL
062861	06	BROWARD	2861	PINES LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
063191	06	BROWARD	3191	EMBASSY CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Nearby Middle Schools (Grade 6-7 Students):

061881	06	BROWARD	1881	PINES MIDDLE SCHOOL
062571	06	BROWARD	2571	PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL
060861	06	BROWARD	0861	DRIFTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

2013-14 Percent Making Learning Gains in Reading - No Extra Weighting in Numerator

District #	School #	School Name	Prior-Year Level 1	Prior-Year Level 2	PY Level 3 and Above	ELLs*	SWDs *
06	5055	BROWARD CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL (K-5 only)	100%	43%	67%	NA	33%
06	2071	PASADENA LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHL	70%	56%	76%	71%	56%
06	2861	PINES LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	76%	47%	66%	56%	52%
06	3191	EMBASSY CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	65%	65%	78%	85%	58%
06	NA	All Three Traditional Schools, Combined Population	71%	56%	75%	72%	56%

2013-14 Percent Making Learning Gains in Math - No Extra Weighting in Numerator

District #	School #	School Name	Prior-Year Level 1	Prior-Year Level 2	PY Level 3 and Above	ELLs*	SWDs *
06	5055	BROWARD CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL (K-5 only)	60%	13%	50%	NA	67%
06	2071	PASADENA LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHL	65%	55%	70%	68%	46%
06	2861	PINES LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	37%	45%	61%	56%	54%
06	3191	EMBASSY CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	54%	67%	78%	75%	56%
06	NA	All Three Traditional Schools, Combined Population	50%	55%	73%	67%	51%

2013-14 Percent Making Learning Gains in Reading - Includes Extra Weighting for Gains

District #	School #	School Name	Prior-Year Level 1	Prior-Year Level 2	PY Level 3 and Above	ELLs*	SWDs *
06	5055	BROWARD CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL (K-5 only)	110%	44%	68%	NA	37%
06	2071	PASADENA LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHL	76%	60%	80%	74%	61%
06	2861	PINES LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	82%	50%	68%	59%	56%
06	3191	EMBASSY CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	72%	70%	82%	91%	62%
06	NA	All Three Traditional Schools, Combined Population	77%	60%	79%	76%	60%

2013-14 Percent Making Learning Gains in Math - Includes Extra Weighting for Gains

District #	School #	School Name	Prior-Year Level 1	Prior-Year Level 2	PY Level 3 and Above	ELLs*	SWDs *
06	5055	BROWARD CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL (K-5 only)	64%	14%	53%	NA	70%
06	2071	PASADENA LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHL	70%	59%	73%	72%	49%
06	2861	PINES LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	39%	47%	62%	59%	57%
06	3191	EMBASSY CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	58%	73%	82%	80%	58%
06	NA	All Three Traditional Schools, Combined Population	54%	59%	76%	71%	54%

2013-14 Percent Making Learning Gains in Reading - No Extra Weighting in Numerator

District #	School #	School Name	Prior-Year Level 1	Prior-Year Level 2	PY Level 3 and Above	ELLs*	SWDs *
06	5055	BROWARD CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	43%	67%	53%	50%	25%
06	1881	PINES MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	68%	62%	73%	67%	62%
06	2571	PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	70%	62%	71%	77%	66%
06	0861	DRIFTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	65%	56%	67%	55%	54%
06	NA	All Three Traditional Schools, Combined Population (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	67%	60%	70%	63%	60%

2013-14 Percent Making Learning Gains in Math - No Extra Weighting in Numerator

District #	School #	School Name	Prior-Year Level 1	Prior-Year Level 2	PY Level 3 and Above	ELLs*	SWDs *
06	5055	BROWARD CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	75%	46%	85%	100%	75%
06	1881	PINES MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	63%	54%	65%	64%	58%
06	2571	PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	74%	72%	87%	88%	68%
06	0861	DRIFTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	51%	58%	73%	52%	50%
06	NA	All Three Traditional Schools, Combined Population (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	60%	60%	76%	62%	58%

2013-14 Percent Making Learning Gains in Reading - Includes Extra Weighting for Gains

District #	School #	School Name	Prior-Year Level 1	Prior-Year Level 2	PY Level 3 and Above	ELLs*	SWDs *
06	5055	BROWARD CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	46%	73%	56%	55%	28%
06	1881	PINES MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	74%	67%	76%	73%	66%
06	2571	PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	76%	68%	74%	84%	71%
06	0861	DRIFTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	71%	61%	70%	59%	58%
06	NA	All Three Traditional Schools, Combined Population (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	73%	65%	73%	68%	64%

2013-14 Percent Making Learning Gains in Math - Includes Extra Weighting for Gains

District #	School #	School Name	Prior-Year Level 1	Prior-Year Level 2	PY Level 3 and Above	ELLs*	SWDs *
06	5055	BROWARD CHARTER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	88%	51%	86%	105%	83%
06	1881	PINES MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	68%	58%	67%	68%	63%
06	2571	PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	81%	78%	91%	95%	73%
06	0861	DRIFTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	56%	62%	75%	55%	53%
06	NA	All Three Traditional Schools, Combined Population (Grades 6 and 7 Only)	65%	64%	79%	66%	63%