



MARYLAND ALLIANCE OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

June 2019

Message from the Executive Director



It is with great pleasure that I am introducing myself as the new Executive Director of the Maryland Alliance of Public Charter Schools. I am beyond excited for the opportunity to lead and build this amazing organization that supports the essential work you all do – providing exceptional instruction and opportunity to Maryland kids and families.

Since coming on board just a short while ago, I have hit the ground running! I visited some CMIT schools in Laurel (pictured left with their Purdue flag), met with our amazing board work groups, consulted with the Baltimore Sun on articles, have started the process to hire our Baltimore Regional Specialist, seen our Charter Starter program in action, and so much more!

Thank you so much to the Maryland public charter school community for entrusting me with this position. I look forward to meeting every operator, visiting every schools, and building more charter and innovation opportunities for all Maryland families. Please [schedule time with me](#) if you have any questions, concerns, comments, or would like to have a school visit! You can also reach me by phone or [email](#).

Enjoy Your Summer!
McKenzie

Congratulations,

Graduates!

It is an exciting time of year, as Maryland's public charter high schools are graduating students across the state. Public charter high schools are boosting high school graduation and college attendance rates statewide. Maryland has eight public charter high schools serving over 3,500 students. Five of these schools are in Baltimore City. In 2018, the average graduation rate for the Baltimore public charter schools was 80.9%, which is 8 points higher than the Baltimore City average and almost 17 points higher than the non-selective high school graduation rate of 64.2%. Selective criteria-based traditional schools had a high school graduation rate of 90.0%, only 9.1% higher than charter schools. Four Baltimore City Charter high schools had graduation rates over 81%.

Statewide, 2 of the 8 public charter schools graduated more than 95% of their senior classes! Great job!

**Information collected from Maryland Report Card.



The College Park Academy graduates its First Class of Seniors! The College Park Academy (CPA), a Prince George's County public charter school offering a [rigorous college preparatory education](#) for students in grades 6-12, is celebrating the graduation of its **first senior class**. The Class of 2019's 86 students walked the stage at the graduation ceremony taking place on the University of Maryland campus. Graduates have been offered admission and scholarships to a wide array of colleges and universities, from the University of Maryland, UMBC, and Johns Hopkins, to the University of Chicago and Penn State.

We are so proud of the work of our 2019 Maryland charter seniors and cannot wait to see the amazing statistics in the coming months! Well done, everyone!

New Public Charter Schools Opening this Fall!



Baltimore International Academy is replicating in West Baltimore! BIA West is slated to open this Fall in the former Rognel Heights School Building. BIA West will be full



Watershed Public Charter School will be opening in Baltimore County in the Fall. Just as all life in a watershed is connected, we believe that learning is most meaningful

immersion from K-5 and partial immersion from 6th-8th Grade. The school will open with Kindergarten and 6th Grade classes, and will expand each year until it becomes a full K-8th Grade school.

BIA is celebrating 10 years of global education! BIA offers both language immersion and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Middle Years Programme (MYP) in Grades K-8 for students in Baltimore City.

when it crosses disciplines. Our vision is to provide a rigorous and collaborative learning environment emphasizing artistic expression and scientific exploration of the natural world in and outside the classroom. Students develop critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills, as well as a sense of social responsibility and global awareness that promote a lifelong love of learning.

Recently Approved and Coming Soon!



Legends Charter School

Legends Charter School, opening in August 2020 near Largo, MD beginning with grades K-5 and adding a grade each year through 8th grade, will provide an advanced liberal arts college preparatory education supplemented with Blended Learning to personalize scholars learning experience and incorporate financial education to establish robust financial portfolios. To learn more, please visit legendsschools.org.



Clay Hill Public Charter School

Baltimore City Schools approved a new K-8 public charter school which will be a replication of an existing charter school. Learn more at www.pppcs.org. "Patterson Park Public Charter School will replicate its highly sought-after program at a second location in Southeast Baltimore, with a goal of eventually enrolling 540 more kids between kindergarten and eighth grade and exposing them to hands-on instruction that integrates the arts and nature. They plan to open what will be called Clay Hill Public Charter in the Bayview neighborhood in 2020." -[Baltimore Sun](#)



Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School

BMPCS received approval from Baltimore City Schools to expand its current campus and enrollment to include a new Prek-K early learning center in Baltimore City. Plans include an expanded campus, opening in 2020. Located in the urban heart of Baltimore's Arts and Entertainment District, BMPCS is the city's first public Montessori school, with a mission to build a diverse community of joyfully engaged learners and a vision to nurture a love of learning in a small, family-like environment. Today, BMPCS serves 450 students from 26 different zip codes across Baltimore City. Learn more at baltimoremontessoricharter.org.

New Song Academy

New Song Academy was approved by Baltimore City Schools to convert from a New Schools Initiative School to a Public Charter



School . New Song Academy is making a long-term investment in the lives of families in Sandtown-Winchester, supporting students to become leaders in transforming their community. New Song Academy is committed to developing and empowering leaders by providing year-round educational opportunities for children, youth, and their families. Learn more at newsongcommunitylearningcenter.org.

National School Choice Week 2019



schools.

Maryland public charter schools across the state celebrated National Charter School Week. MAPCS actively [shared](#) charter activities on social media throughout the week. Want to know more, [check out the facts](#) about Maryland's public charter

Thanks to all of you who shared stories of student successes, created school videos and amplified the voices of those who support high-quality public school choice for our state's students.

National Charter School Conference

June 30 - July 3, 2019

We'll be in Las Vegas at the 2019 National Charter Schools Conference (NCSC), June 30-July 3. NCSC is the premier conference for current and aspiring leaders in the charter school movement.

To register and learn more about the National Charter Schools Conference, [click here](#). We look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas this summer.



Charter School Program Update

Since March, MAPCS has been busy designing and providing technical assistance and workshops for new, expanding and replicating public charter schools. We've held 5 workshops and 3 webinars, connecting with over 160 people. This Fall, we'll introduce stipends to public charter schools to encourage school-to-school sharing among the public charter and traditional school sectors

Our work is not possible without your generous, tax deductible donations.

Please consider donating to MAPCS to continue

our work advocating and fighting for effective,
innovative, and exciting learning opportunities for
all Maryland families! THANK YOU!



Let's Connect!

