



Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School

June 27, 2022
Richard E. Alcorn
Executive Director
Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School
317 Russell Street
Hadley, MA 01025
(413) 582-7040
info@pvcics.org

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign
75 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148-4906

Dear Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign,

PVCICS intends to replicate the integrated regional Chinese immersion magnet school model established in Hadley in the greater Worcester area. The mission and key design elements remain the same, as the existing school in Hadley, and are attached. We plan to have the region of service support urban, suburban and rural communities and to achieve a socio-economically, ethnically, culturally diverse population similar to that which exists at our Hadley location. We plan to serve all students who apply, including at risk youth. The information in the attached *Information Sheet* is preliminary and subject to change.

The current board of trustees is applying as a proven provider. The current board includes parents, teachers and both a teacher and student representative. A former PVCICS teacher, who lives in the greater Worcester area is a member of the Board. PVCICS works with Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts to develop K-12 teachers and social workers, who help in our Peace Room. PVCICS has relationships with K-12 schools in both mainland China and Taiwan to advance our cultural mission.

Shortly after receiving our charter in 2007, PVCICS received significant funding from the National Security Language Initiative to develop a K-12 pipeline of students with fluency in Mandarin. PVCICS has fulfilled the commitments made to the United States government in that grant application.

Sincerely,

Richard Alcorn
Executive Director



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Mission and Key Design Elements:

PVCICS has three Key Design Elements: 1) High academic achievement, 2) Proficiency in Chinese language and 3) Develop understanding of Chinese culture. PVCICS's key design elements are embodied in its original charter application and subsequent amendment to be a K-12 regional public charter school dedicated to graduating students with high proficiency in both Chinese and English, combined with high levels of academic achievement. PVCICS is the first public charter school in the United States to offer a K-12 grade Chinese immersion program with the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB DP). PVCICS is an "IB for All" school meaning all students in 11th and 12th grades take IB courses.

- The core of PVCICS's educational philosophy is that through early and sustained immersion in Chinese language with culture integrated throughout, students will achieve high academic attainment, be highly proficient in two languages and develop students' understanding of Chinese culture and the ability to interact successfully with others whose language and/or culture differs from their own. The percentage of the school day spent in a Chinese classroom and English classroom changes depending on the grade level, with a higher percentage of time in the Chinese classrooms in the early grades.

In grades K-5, Chinese language acquisition occurs naturally by using Chinese as the language of instruction during at least half of the school day. As is the practice in immersion programs, no English is used by the teacher during the Chinese portion of the day when core subjects, such as Math, Chinese Language Arts, and Science are taught. During the English portion of the day, English Language Arts and Social Studies are taught.

In grades 6 and higher, English is used as the language of instruction for core subjects however all students continue taking Chinese Language Arts in a two class period daily partial immersion program. In high school, all PVCICS students prepare to take rigorous International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program (DP) courses in 11th and 12th grades and continue taking IB Chinese (Mandarin) courses.

PVCICS is faithful to the mission, vision and educational philosophy defined in its charter. PVCICS's student assessment data provides clear evidence of the students' ability to perform well academically in the Chinese immersion environment. Nationally, PVCICS has gained recognition as a Chinese immersion program and has since 2008 been invited to national conferences to speak about its program, curriculum and immersion model. In 2021, US News and World Reports ranked PVCICS as the #2 public high school in Massachusetts.

317 Russell Street, Hadley, MA 01035

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COMMONWEALTH AND HORACE MANN CHARTER APPLICANT INFORMATION SHEET

This information is included with all application submissions. The application, including this form, is posted on the Department website. Applicants are advised that the primary contact person may be contacted by the public and/or media with questions about the proposed school.

Name of Proposed Charter School: TBD

School Address (if known): TBD

School Location (City/Town REQUIRED): Within the region of service

Primary Contact Person: Richard E, Alcorn

Role or relationship of contact person to proposal: Executive Director

Address [Street, City/Town, State, and Zip Code]: 317 Russell Street, Hadley, MA 01035

Daytime Tel: (413) 582-7040

Secondary Tel:

Email: info@pvcics.org

1. The proposed school will open in the fall of school year: 2023-2024 2024-2025

School Year	Grade Levels	Total Student Enrollment
First Year	K-1	88
Second Year	K-2	132
Third Year	K-3	176
Fourth Year	K-4	220
Fifth Year	K-5	308
Sixth Year	K-6	352
Seventh Year	K-7	396
Eighth Year	K-8	440
Ninth Year	K-9	484
Tenth Year	K-10	528
Eleventh Year	K-11	572
Twelfth Year	K-12	616
<i>Add additional rows as needed to show planned growth to reach full proposed grade span and maximum enrollment.</i>		

2. Grade span at full enrollment: K-12

3. Total student enrollment when fully expanded: 616

4. Age at entry for kindergarten, if applicable: September 1



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5. If applicable, the proposed Horace Mann charter school is: New or Conversion

6. If applicable, the proposed type of Horace Mann¹ charter school is:

Horace Mann I Horace Mann II Horace Mann III

¹ The revision of M.G.L. c. 71, § 89 in 2010 created three types of Horace Mann charter schools, each with a particular set of requirements. For a description of Horace Mann II Charter Schools, see the Questions and Answers document at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/about.html>.



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Questions #7-10 are for applications for a Commonwealth charter school ONLY.

7. Will this proposed Commonwealth school be a regional charter school? Yes No

If yes, list the school districts (including regional school districts) in the proposed region. Please only list districts that are included in *District Information on Enrollment Projections for New Applications and Expansion Amendments* at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/new/?section=app2>. (Use additional rows if necessary.)

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| ___ WORCESTER___ | ___ Shrewsbury___ | ___ Northborough___ |
| ___ Westborough___ | ___ Southborough___ | ___ West Boylston___ |
| ___ Boylston___ | ___ Holden___ | ___ Sterling___ |

If no, please specify the district's population as reported in the most recent United States census estimate for the community the school intends to serve: _____.

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall not approve a new Commonwealth charter school in any community with a population of less than 30,000 as determined by the most recent United States census estimate [available at <http://www.census.gov/>], unless it is a regional charter school. (MGL c. 71 § 89(i)(1).

8. For all proposed Commonwealth charter schools, list the districts that are contiguous with the proposed school's district or region. Please only list districts that are included in *District Information on Enrollment Projections for New Applications and Expansion Amendments* at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/new/?section=app2>. (Use additional rows if necessary.)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

9. Will the proposed Commonwealth charter school serve a district where overall student performance on the MCAS is in the lowest 10 percent, as designated in *District Information on Enrollment Projections for New Applications and Expansion Amendments* or in [any updated analysis](#) performed by the Department? Yes No

10. Will the proposed Commonwealth charter school serve a district or districts in which the 9 percent net school spending cap is, or could be, exceeded by applications during the upcoming cycle?

Yes No

11. Have members of the applicant group previously submitted an initial application or final application that did not result in a charter? Yes No

If yes, is the present submission related in content to the previous application? Yes No

If yes, please indicate the name of the previous proposal and the year submitted.



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_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



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12. Do members of the applicant group currently operate or are they employed by a private or parochial school? Yes No

If yes, please indicate the person's name, the school name and school location, and dates of employment or affiliation.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

13. Are any members of the applicant group present or past members of a charter school board of trustees (other than the one applying for the new charter), a school committee, or other type of public governing body? Yes No

If yes, please indicate the person's name; the charter school name and school location, or school committee district; and dates of membership.

The applicant group is the PVCICS Board of Trustees. PVCICS has been in operation since the Fall of 2007.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____