



# TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

1701 North Congress Ave. ★ Austin, Texas 78701-1494 ★ 512/463-9734 ★ FAX: 512/463-9838 ★ <http://www.tea.state.tx.us>

Shirley J. Neeley, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

April 2, 2007

Donna Williams  
Cedars International Academy  
1320 E 51st St  
Austin, TX 78723

Dear Ms. Williams:

The commissioner has approved the requested amendment (018-07) to change the grade levels served by the school from K-7 to K-8 effective August 1, 2007.

If you have any questions, please call Monica Sena-Martinez in the Division of Charter Schools at (512) 463-9575.

Sincerely,

Mary Perry, Director  
Division of Charter Schools

*“Good, Better, Best—never let it rest—until your good is better—and your better is BEST!”*

Expansion # 018-07

CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUEST FORM

• Texas Education Agency • Charter Schools Division • Phone (512) 463-9575 • Fax (512) 463-9732

Cedars International Academy

227-817

Name of Charter School

County-District Number

All amendment requests must be made in or attached to a written resolution adopted by the governing body of the charter holder and signed by the members voting in favor. In addition, all amendment requests should include the text and page number, or a photocopy, of the current charter language to be changed, and the text proposed as the new charter language. Expansion amendments, numbers 1-4, must be submitted by February 1 of the year preceding the school year during which the amendment would become effective.

- 1. Add Grade Levels (Expansion Amendment) - Requested effective date: August, 2007
  - Currently approved grade levels: K-7
  - Requested new grade levels: K-8

Attach the written board resolution as described at the top of the page; Attach an education plan for each new grade level to be served; Attach evidence that impact statements have been sent to school districts and charter schools within the geographic boundary of the requesting school.

- 2. Add a Site (Expansion Amendment) - Requested effective date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - New Address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_
  - Is the proposed campus within the currently approved geographic boundary?  No  Yes  
If not, see request below to Change Geographic Boundary.
  - If the amendment is approved, is a campus number requested?  No  Yes
  - If the amendment is approved, should a campus name different from the charter name be used?  No  Yes
  - If the amendment is approved, should mail be sent to the campus?  No  Yes

Attach the written board resolution as described at the top of the page; Attach evidence that impact statements have been sent to school districts and charter schools within the geographic boundary of the requesting school; Attach a certificate of occupancy, or equivalent certificate, appropriate for the proposed use of the facility at the new site; If the specific location is not identified at the time of the amendment request, this information shall be submitted prior to commencing any operations at that site.

- 3. Change Geographic Boundary (Expansion Amendment) - Requested effective date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - School districts and charter schools in currently approved boundary: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Proposed new school districts and charter schools: \_\_\_\_\_

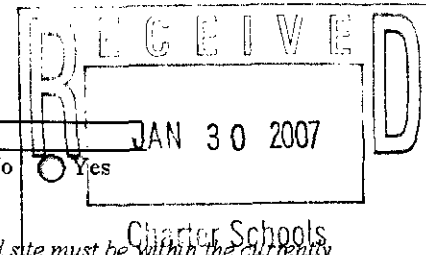
Attach the written board resolution, with the required language (see instructions), as described at the top of the page; Attach evidence that impact statements have been sent to school districts and charter schools within the geographic boundary of the requesting school; Attach another sheet of paper to describe the request, if necessary.

- 4. Increase Maximum Enrollment (Expansion Amendment) - Requested effective date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Currently approved maximum enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Requested new total maximum enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a board resolution with the required language (see instructions); The amendment will not be considered by the commissioner without the appropriate board resolution. Note that the resolution required for this type of amendment is different from that used for other types of amendments; Attach evidence that impact statements have been sent to school districts and charter schools within the geographic boundary of the requesting school.

- 5. Relocate Campus or Site - Requested effective date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - County District Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Proposed Address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_
  - Is the proposed relocation within the currently approved geographic boundary?  No  Yes  
If not, see request above to Change Geographic Boundary.
  - If the amendment is approved, should mail be sent to the campus?  No  Yes

Attach the written board resolution as described at the top of the page; Note that the proposed site must be within the currently approved geographic boundary. If it is not, you must also submit an amendment request to extend the geographic boundary.



- 6. Other Amendment to Charter - Requested effective date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach another sheet of paper to describe the request, if necessary.

Donna Williams (512) 419-1571 (512) 419-1581  
 Signature of Charter School CEO Phone Number Fax Number

Donna Williams 1/12/07  
 Printed Name of Charter School CEO Date



# Cedars International Academy

1320 East 51st Street ● Austin, TX 78723 (512) 419-1551 ● Fax: (512) 419-1581

January 23, 2007

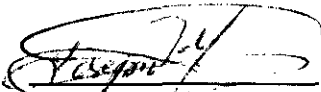
Ms. Monica Sena-Martinez  
Charter School Division  
Texas Education Agency  
1701 North Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701


Dear Ms. Sena-Martinez:


This is to verify that we, the Board of Directors for Cedars International Academy, agree with the amendment to the charter that would change the grade levels served by the school from K-7 to K-8. All school districts that will be impacted have been notified.

Sincerely,


Board of Directors  
Cedars International Academy


  
Joseph Mezher  
Chairman

  
Joe Crowley

  
Dr. Donald Sawyer

  
Rick Wallen

  
Maria Seidner

  
Barney Schulz



1320 East 51st Street ● Austin, TX 78723 (512) 419-1551 ● Fax: (512) 419-1581

January 9, 2007

Ms. Monica Sena-Martinez  
Charter School Division  
Texas Education Agency  
1702 North Congress  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Sena-Martinez:

Attached please find documentation that Cedars International Academy has sent impact statements to all of the charter school impacted by our charter.

The districts that received impact statements include:

Austin Independent School District  
Eanes Independent School District  
Georgetown Independent School District  
Lake Travis Independent School District  
Leander Independent School District  
Manor Independent School District  
Pflugerville Independent School District  
Round Rock Independent School District  
Bastrop Independent School District  
Elgin Independent School District  
Hays Consolidated Independent School District  
Del Valle Independent School District  
Taylor Independent School District  
Lockhart Independent School District  
San Marcos Independent School District  
Hutto Independent School District  
Coupland Independent School District  
McDade Independent School District

If you need any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Williams".

Donna Williams, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

7006 2760 0004 0507 4950

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# Cedars International Academy

1320 East 51st Street ● Austin, TX 78723 (512) 419-1551 ● Fax: (512) 419-1581

## **Education Plan for Expansion Amendment**

Cedars International Academy (CIA) currently is serving K-7 grades. Kindergartens through Grade 4 are served in self-contained classrooms with students participating in special classes that include art, music, Spanish, physical education, and gardening. Students in Grades 5-7 are served in a departmentalized setting with one teacher teaching social studies, one teaching mathematics, and one teacher teaching language arts. Each teacher is responsible for teaching one grade science. When a student is promoted to Grade 8, the parents are forced to seek a different school setting. Thus far, the students have been in a very small, protected environment. For Grade 8, they are put into large urban middle school settings.

With the addition of Grade 8, Cedars would be able to departmentalize for Grades 5-8, and would be able to add an additional teacher that specializes in science. The staff at Cedars feels that departmentalizing the entire middle school program would strengthen the middle school program, especially in the area of science. A schedule has been outlined that would still allow time for Grade 5-8 to participate in at least three of the special classes. Additional physical education time will be provided by participating in after school events in flag football, basketball, and volleyball with other charter schools in the area.

Cedars International Academy limits its class size to 17:1 as per our charter. It is anticipated that 17 additional students at Grade 8 would offset the cost of an additional teacher. Cedars has always had clean audits and is in sound financial condition. According to the preliminary rating for the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST), CIA has a rating of *Superior Achievement*.

If additional information is needed, please do not hesitate to call the Dr. Williams, Superintendent at (512) 419-1571.