


# TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

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

Felipe T. Alanis  
Commissioner of Education

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Sam Greer, Superintendent/Principal  
Cedars International Academy

**From:** Susan Barnes, Assistant Commissioner   
Division of Charter Schools

**Date:** Tuesday, May 28, 2002

**Re:** Notification of Commissioner Action

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The commissioner has denied the requested amendment (56-02) to expand grade levels served to include 7<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2002-2003 school year, because the school is in its first year of operation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call our office at (512) 463-9575.

AMENDMENTS

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\* TX REPORT \*\*\*  
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TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO 0887  
CONNECTION TEL 94191581  
SUBADDRESS  
CONNECTION ID  
ST. TIME 05/29 09:24  
USAGE T 00'38  
PGS. SENT 2  
RESULT OK

1701 N. Congress  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512) 463-9575  
Fax: (512) 463-9732



# Fax

**TO:** Sam Greer **From:** Charter Schools/ Anne Hemenway  
**Fax:** 512-419-1581 **Date:** May 29, 2002  
**Phone:** 512-419-1551 **Pages:** 2 including Cover Sheet  
**Re:** Notification of Commissioner Action **CC:**  
**Website:** <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/charter>

**Notes:**

1701 N. Congress  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512) 463-9575  
Fax: (512) 463-9732

**Texas Education  
Agency**

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 \*\*\* TX REPORT \*\*\*  
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AMENDMENTS

TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO	0258	
CONNECTION TEL		94191581
SUBADDRESS		
CONNECTION ID		
ST. TIME	03/15 11:16	
USAGE T	00'30	
PGS. SENT	1	
RESULT	OK	

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**Texas Education Agency  
 Charter Schools  
 1701 N. Congress Avenue  
 Austin, TX 78701  
 (512) 463-9575  
 (512) 463-9732**

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**Facsimile Transmittal Sheet**

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**To:** Don Sawyer  
 Cedars International Academy

**From:** Charter Schools Division

**School Fax Number:** 512/419-1581

**Today's Date:** March 15, 2002

**School Phone Number:** 512/419-1551

**Re:** Amendment Request Received

**Number of pages, including this one: 1**

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The Charter Schools Division of the Texas Education Agency has received your amendment request. You will likely be notified of the commissioner's decision between two weeks and one month from now. Please do not hesitate to call Kirsten Christophersen at (512) 463-9575 anytime during this process if you have questions or concerns.

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Texas Education Agency  
Charter Schools  
1701 N. Congress Avenue  
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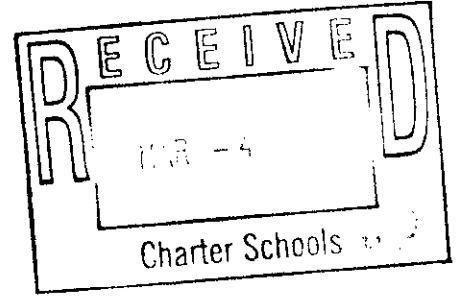
AMENDMENTS

*amend*

**CEDARS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY**  
1320 E. 51<sup>ST</sup> STREET • AUSTIN, TX 78723 • (512) 419-1551

*4-0-02*

February 28, 2002



Mary Perry  
Charter School Division  
Texas Education Agency  
1701 N. Congress  
Austin, Texas

Re: Addition of 7<sup>th</sup> grade class in 2002-03 school year

Mary,

*Handwritten notes:*  
7-1-03

Pursuant to our discussion yesterday, I researched our charter application for evidence of a request to add 7<sup>th</sup> grade in 2002-03. Although I have not made a recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding the addition of 7<sup>th</sup> grade, we would like to maintain the option to do so.

Page 16 of our Charter application reads:

What grades will be served?

K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the first year ***with the option of adding one grade level per year thereafter.***

It is my interpretation of this passage that the school should have the option to add 7<sup>th</sup> grade in 2002-03. Would you please advise me how to proceed on this matter?

Thank you,

*Sam Greer*  
Sam Greer

Superintendent/ Principal

SJG/pc

2. Develop and maintain an outstanding reputation as a quality educational institution.
3. Secure sufficient funding so as not to jeopardize quality.
4. Provide professional development for teachers and administration.
5. Provide excellent support staff
6. Encourage creativity in the classroom.
7. Target and develop community involvement.
8. Encourage parent participation.

Two-year Plan:

1. Have no more than 17 students per classroom.
2. Offer grades K-6, with an expected enrollment not to exceed 119 students.
3. Have an established facility to host the school.
4. Follow an advanced curriculum.
5. Have an active school board.
6. Have an involved PTA.
7. Hire teachers with high qualifications
8. Establish an advanced library.
9. Establish a computer lab
10. Provide each classroom with sufficient number of computers.
11. Provide each teacher with a personal computer
12. Build a playground.
13. Develop a partnership with other educational institutions, technology companies, cultural organizations and institutions.
14. Form a Research and Development Department to insure that the school will remain state of the art.

**B. In succinct terms, describe the educational philosophy or pedagogy of the proposed school that supports how you will reach your vision.**

After careful consideration of the educational goals of this diverse community, it was concluded that the program developed by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) would best match the needs of this area and therefore will be adopted by the Cedars International Academy. This program, offered throughout the world, promotes academic and responsible citizenship.

The International Baccalaureate (IBO) program was originally developed in Switzerland thirty years ago as a rigorous course of study for motivated secondary students. Recently, the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) developed and endorsed a Primary Years Programme (PYP) which fulfills and enhances the mission identified for the Cedars International Academy. The IB program is the perfect program to be offered in the rapidly growing Austin international community where many international corporations have corporate offices. Many of the thoughts and information contained in this application were taken from the IBO material descriptions.

All time, energy, and creativity brought to this project is done so with the expectation that the end result will be a place where all children and adults will recognize and use their personal power to achieve their full potential and in so doing improve the world around them.

We will create learning place where all participants are challenged to discover, use and increase their potential power. By screening decisions through a filter, which asks, "how will this impact the learning of the students? Their ability to build personal power? The quality of their future learning and experience?" we will be proactive in creating and maintaining the desired learning place. Decisions

**A. What are the school's enrollment projections for the first five years?**

500 students.

**What is the school's maximum enrollment goal?**

500 students per year

**What grades will be served?**

K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the first year with the option of adding one grade level per year thereafter.

**How many students are expected to be in each grade or grouping?**

Not to exceed 17 students per class, and not to exceed four classes per grade.

**What will be the maximum class size allowed?**

Not to exceed 17 students per class.

**B. Describe the community or region where the school will be located.**

The community of the International families in Central Texas spread over a radius of 30 miles around Austin. See attached map. Our plans are to focus on the geographical location of the parent's workplace. We will begin our school at a temporary site at 1320 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Austin, TX 78723. A location of Our Lady's Maronite Catholic Church. The site is centrally located between North and South and East and West of Austin and the surrounding areas, at the intersection of interregional highway 35 and highway 183 and very close to highway 290. All of which are major arteries for the influx of workers into the city.

**C. Why was this location selected?**

This location was selected based on the availability of the facility and the location of the site close to the parent's workplace.

**Are there other alternative locations suitable to the needs and focus of the school?**

Not at this time.

**V. Human Resource Information****A. Describe your human resources policies governing salaries, contracts, hiring, and dismissal, sick and other leave, and benefits.**

All hiring and dismissal decisions will be conducted through a joint effort between the School Director, a hiring committee, and the Board of Directors. All policies will be described in detail in policy manual and given to all staff members. All staff and faculty will receive five (5) state personal leave days pursuant to Section 22.003 of the Education Code, and five (5) local days