



KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY AMENDMENT APPLICATION

SUBMITTED BY THE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMIES
GOVERNING BOARD

James Bristol, Chairman
Jeff Bradford, Secretary
Scott Schumpert, Assistant Treasurer
Colin Cannonier
Glenn Hunter
Evangeline Motley-Johnson
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APPLICATION TO AMEND A CHARTER AGREEMENT

Part I: General Information

All Applicants Must Complete This Section

Name of Charter School: **KA@ The Crossings**

Amendment Petition Category identified in the Letter of Intent:

Check the box for the category under which this Amendment Petition falls:

- Change in governance structure (including, but not limited to, a change in the nonprofit entity governing the school), or addition of or changes to the charter management organization
- The addition or removal of a grade level or levels
- Changes in student enrollment which fall outside of the minimum or maximum enrollment thresholds set forth in the charter school's charter agreement
- The addition or removal of a plan to provide transportation to students attending the charter school
- Changes to the charter school's location, if outside the geographic area set forth in the charter agreement
- Changes to the charter school's academic focus set forth in the charter agreement
- Changes identified in the charter agreement as material modifications or amendments. Please specify: _____

Other material changes not covered by any of the above categories. Please specify: The governing board of Knowledge Academies announces their intention to consolidate the three schools they operate, Knowledge Academy (KA), KA@ The Crossings, and Knowledge Academy High School (KAHS) into one school with grades 5-12 under the contract of KA@ The Crossings. The KA@ The Crossings contract specifies major material changes as an impetus for an amendment.

It is important to note that MNPS approved Knowledge Academy High School to open in 2015, and KA@ The Crossings to open in 2016, both on the strength of the first Knowledge Academy (KA) that was quickly designated as a Reward School by the State of Tennessee.

Consolidation will allow Knowledge Academies to offer a unique, continuous learning opportunity to the students and community of Antioch, allowing students to remain at one school for their middle and high school experience, create lifelong friendships, and graduate ready to attend college, enter the work force, and become leaders in their communities. It will also allow MNPS to administer fewer contracts,

reducing unnecessary duplication of administrative time. Also of note, because MNPS approved these schools in consecutive years, based on the success of the original KA, there would need to be a renewal in 2025, one in 2026, along with the one currently under appeal for KA. Consolidation will eliminate the need for these additional renewals, allowing MNPS to focus on one charter school only, KA@ The Crossings, and reduce inefficiencies such as multiple state and district reports, administrative time, and duplication of efforts.

EMERGENCY Petition. Please briefly describe the emergency: The governing board of Knowledge Academies has been presented with a unique and compelling opportunity to consolidate three schools into one school with continuous grade levels, beginning at 5th grade and not ending until 12th grade graduation. In thinking through this decision, the board considered that the community has become the fastest growing, most diverse community in Nashville, and both standards and performance expectations for charters have changed since the initial approval of Knowledge Academy.

The urgency for this petition is that during the renewal process, the MNPS board of education voted to non-renew Knowledge Academy Middle School. Even in the face of demonstrable evidence that since 2019, when Noble Education Initiative (NEI) was brought in as a partner by the courageous and bold action of the Knowledge Academies governing board, the school has improved significantly, along with sister schools KA@ the Crossings and Knowledge Academy High School.

Of significance to note:

Knowledge Academy (KA) was designated as a Reward School in 2014, and when it became necessary to make changes, the governing board did not hesitate and took immediate and bold actions that brought in a proven turnaround CMO in NEI. Since 2019, Knowledge Academy (KA) has exited TSI status, and all three schools (KA, KAHS, and KA@ The Crossings) complied with MNPS as its authorizer in every aspect exiting probation status in December 2020.

If our emergency amendment is granted, we will combine all three schools into one, keeping our original total enrollment goals for all three schools (1,112 students), and providing a high quality 5-12 education to all of our students.

The KA Board has so determined, by resolution, that for the reasons set forth above, good cause exists to submit an emergency amendment application to MNPS. The rules of the Charter Commission do not permit an amendment application in the normal course, to change enrollment levels or add grade levels to a charter, e.g., grades 5-8 to an existing high school, or grades 9-12 to an existing middle school, in the spring of the year. *Id.* at § 1185-01-01.04(1)(e)(2). The potential termination of the Knowledge Academy charter on June 20, 2022, means there simply is no other way to consolidate the three KA charters under the authorization of MNPS.

SCHOOL BACKGROUND

Provide the following information about your school:

- a) Campus address: 5320 Hickory Hollow Pkwy, Antioch, TN. 37013
- b) First school year in operation: 2016
- c) Grade levels and enrollment currently serving: 5-8, 110 students
- d) Grade levels and maximum enrollment to be served at maturation of charter agreement, if different: 5-12, 1112 students
- e) End of current charter term: 2026-27

BACKGROUND STATEMENTS

This is an application to amend a school's charter agreement by changing the item selected above. Please submit a narrative and related attachments addressing each of the questions below:

- 1. Provide details on the selected amendment above and describe the requested change, including the school's rationale for the proposed change. Describe any planning that is already underway to prepare for the proposed amendment.**

The governing board believes this is an unprecedented time to undertake a courageous transformation of how we operate Knowledge Academies in the Antioch community. Our community and our students deserve no less than the best school we can offer. Since the original charter approving Knowledge Academy (KA), the community has undergone significant changes, becoming the fastest growing and most diverse community in Metropolitan Nashville. Under the leadership of the governing board and a proven CMO, Noble Education Initiative, we have the passion, the expertise, the reputation, and an exemplary plan to lead Knowledge Academies into becoming a premiere school within MNPS.

By partnering with MNPS to operate a complete, thriving 5-12 model public charter school under the control of the governing board and NEI, we can meet the growing needs of our most at-risk students and exceed the expectations of the communities in which they live. The vision driving this consolidation effort is to demonstrate that the tried-and-true KA model can operate at scale – that our success is not the result of extraordinary circumstances, but instead is a solid, replicable model that can be implemented across the KA network, and perhaps other schools as well. This mission and vision are directly related to the original purpose of charter schools, to be laboratories of innovation and creativity that can be utilized by any school, district, or state willing to partner with a quality operator. Additionally, by operating a high-performing school, we can better support the curriculum design, instructional practice, financial oversight, and back-office resources that great schools require for great outcomes. Most importantly, by growing Knowledge Academies into a 5-12 school, we can raise the general expectation that quality schools are possible for every child and serve our community well.

Since 2019, the changes at KA have been nothing less than remarkable and were supported by the State Board of Education in their October 2019 recommendation that the Knowledge Academy schools should remain open:

- Both of the KA middle schools – Knowledge Academy and KA @ The Crossings – were TVAAS level 3 schools in the Department of Education’s most recent assessment. No middle school in Nashville posted greater growth.
- In 2019, the U.S. Department of Education designated Knowledge Academy, along with 12 other MNPS district and charter schools, for Targeted Support and Improvement (“TSI”). In 2021, KA was the only MNPS charter to make sufficient academic progress to **exit the TSI list**. Likewise, in 2019, KAHS had been designated for the federal Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (“ATSI”). In 2021, **KAHS exited the ATSI list**.
- The KA schools have a **cumulative \$1 million fund balance**. KA is scheduled to operate with a surplus again this academic year. The KA budget has been balanced each of the past two years. The school’s 2020 and 2021 audits contained no audit findings.
- **Enrollment is rising again**, from a cumulative total of 396 at the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year to 438 students. Fifth grade enrollment at KA is up 65% from the end of last school year. Though the pending renewal appeal prevented Knowledge Academy from participating in MNPS’ recent open charter enrollment period, applications for KA @ The Crossings nearly doubled the 2021-22 enrollment.
- MNPS removed the Knowledge Academies schools from their probationary status upon completion of KA’s work plan in December 2020.
- KA has added support staff to the school, including a federal grants coordinator, family engagement representative, Student Services Coordinator, Director of Student Supports, College and Career Readiness Coach, Athletic Director, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Director of School Operations and Compliance. These positions are vital to attract additional federal grant dollars, communicate consistently and frequently with students’ families, and support our students in every aspect of student life.

The three schools are already housed under one roof, with ample room for our proposed enrollment of 1,112 students and we are uniquely positioned to immediately implement the plan upon approval by the MNPS board of education.

2. **How will the proposed amendment support or enhance the school’s mission and goals?**

The governing board of Knowledge Academies, Inc., has determined that the most effective way to enhance the school’s mission and meet our goals is to petition MNPS to amend our charter agreement to consolidate three (3) separate schools into one (1) school serving all grades 5th - 12th as KA@ The Crossings Charter School. The current mission of Knowledge Academy is to prepare students to make the best academic and social choices, leading to a successful life connected to college, community, creativity, and culture. This mission includes all of our students in all grades, even though we are currently three separate schools. Our alumni will graduate college ready and remain connected to their community. Our families will support the development of highly effective student leadership habits. In addition, since NEI has partnered with the Knowledge Academy governing board, academic results have been on an upward trajectory, indicative of our continued commitment to serving the

students and families of Antioch. While state assessments were suspended for 2019-20 due to COVID19, our internal assessments show reductions in students performing in the lowest tiers and upward movement across subgroups. Our current benchmark testing leading into TCAP this spring shows significant growth (**see Attachment 1, MAP and IReady Data**).

It is notable that achieving these results has been due to hard work on the part of our teachers, a solid plan, and a commitment to our families. Knowledge Academies are the only public schools in Nashville that remained open for in-person learning since the Metro Health Department gave permission on October 12, 2020. Our schools were open every school day for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year and have been open every school day since.

Partnering with Noble Education Initiative, Knowledge Academy has created an exemplary educational environment where students are explicitly taught how to take control of their own success. We intentionally foster a learning environment focused on personalized learning and challenging students, where each student understands their academic starting point, sets goals for growth, and understands what is necessary to reach them. Due to this intense focus, Knowledge Academy students are invested in their own accomplishments, and meaningfully participate in the development of their learning paths. KA has been consistently closing achievement gaps, and the importance of doing so is a daily conversation with students and teachers. Using NEI's Continuous Improvement Model (CIM), Knowledge Academy students are immersed in data-driven, standards-based instruction, every day all throughout the year. End-of-year data will confirm what we already know about student learning. Providing a world-class learning experience, our students discover how they learn best and are taught how to be learning resources for themselves and each other. Students at Knowledge Academy are becoming confident, self-directed learners who know that failure is never fatal, but is a part of the learning process, and it is the courage to continue learning that counts in the end. The outcome of this powerful investment into the lives of our students shows not only in our internal academic assessments, but also in the last state accountability assessment. KA's success rate far outpaced surrounding middle schools in all tested academic subjects, as seen in the benchmark testing data (**Attachment 1 MAP and IReady Data**) of this amendment application.

The formative assessment data (see appendix) also demonstrates that the grade level and subject area performance informs the goals below to reduce the not proficient by 10% each year. The baseline data reported below in 2020-2021 demonstrated TVAAS scores of a 3 at both middle schools and growing to a 2 at Knowledge Academy High School. The combined TVAAS significantly outperforms all local public schools.

Social Studies	
Year	Percent Mastered / On Track
Goals	
2023-24	38
2022-23	32
2021-22	24
Results	
2020-21	16

Science**	
Year	Percent Mastered / On Track
Goals	
2023-24	53
2022-23	41
2021-22	26
Results	
2020-21	9

English Language Arts	
Year	Percent Mastered / On Track
Goals	
2023-24	36
2022-23	28
2021-22	21
Results	
2020-21	12.4

Mathematics	
Year	Percent Mastered / On Track
Goals	
2023-24	32
2022-23	24
2021-22	16
Results	
2020-21	7

We further distinguish investment in our students at Knowledge Academy with implementation of Attitude is Altitude (AIA), a robust social emotional learning (SEL) curriculum that challenges students to explore concepts of personal growth while gaining skills in critical thinking and interpersonal interaction. The curriculum helps students develop and strengthen five core competencies, including self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. An overwhelming body of research shows that a strong focus on social-emotional learning improves attitudes about school, increases prosocial behavior, reduces aggression, reduces involvement with the criminal justice system, and decreases mental health problems, and substance abuse. Our emphasis on the whole student with rigorous academics, social-emotional health and well-being, and family involvement has created an environment that allows students maximum success.

Knowledge Academy’s CMO, NEI, has a long history of turnaround success and embodies all of the qualities of a high-performing organization. NEI’s instructional approach is innovative and as a result of the increased autonomy offered to charter

schools has led to tremendous growth and excellent results in the schools it has managed. In 2020, NEI underwent an intensive evaluation by Cognia, the national accrediting organization, and was awarded accreditation as an organization, in addition to the individual accreditation for all KA schools. NEI continually demonstrates a genuine commitment toward challenging students with equitable opportunities for all and ensures alignment of long-range planning and resource management of the key priorities of Knowledge Academy. Building on the school's solid foundation of effective operational practices and adherence to strong values, Knowledge Academies will continue to experience support and increasing success for all learners. **(See Attachment 2, Cognia Accreditation Report)**. Attainment of network accreditation ensures all of our graduates have unlimited opportunities in where they choose to pursue higher education or work opportunities.

3. Describe how the proposed amendment will impact the school's finances. Explain any anticipated revenues or expenses arising from the proposed change. If expenses are anticipated, explain how the school will finance them. Please attach the school's (a) most recent audit, (ii) balance sheet for the fiscal quarter ending thirty (30) or more days prior to submission of the application, and (iii) budgets for the current fiscal year and two (2) succeeding fiscal years assuming the proposed amendment is approved.

Because our budgets for each of the three schools are already set for the year, there will be no impact on the current budget. However, we have attached a combined budget, and also a proposed budget for the succeeding two (2) years for your review **(see Attachment 3 Budget Document)**.

It should be noted that when our amendment is approved, and our three schools are consolidated into one, our IDEA funds should still be based on each of the three schools, as those funds are allocated in arrears. Accordingly, the funds previously allocated through ESSER 2.0 and ESSER 3.0 with use of funds extended through 2023 and 2024 respectively should be protected through the drawdown periods.

4. How has the school informed its external stakeholders (e.g., local school board representatives, neighbors, community partners) and internal stakeholders (e.g., staff, parents) of the proposed amendment? Please attach any written communication (e.g., meeting minutes). Describe any notable support for or opposition to the proposed amendment. If concerns have been brought to the school or governing board's attention, what is the plan to address them?

The emergency status of this proposed amendment to the KA@ The Crossings charter has not given us the opportunity to engage the community, stakeholders, and partners as completely and thoroughly as we would have liked, or normally would have done. However, as was stated at the public hearing for Knowledge Academy renewal, we already have received +/- 100 applications for Knowledge Academy (KA), even without inclusion in the school choice process by MNPS. Throughout the renewal and appeal process, we have engaged our students, parents, and the broader community to gather their input. We will continue this

process throughout the school year and into the summer as the consolidation effort continues. **(Please see Attachment 6 - Community, School, and Stakeholder Support)**

5. **When did the school’s governing board approve the proposed amendment? Please attach minutes from the meeting and vote results.**

The governing board met on Monday, March 14, 2022, and voted to consolidate the three charters they hold into one with grades 5-12. Please see the attached minutes and resolution. **(Attachment 4)**.

6. **FOR EMERGENCY PETITIONS ONLY: Explain the unanticipated extraordinary circumstances giving rise to the emergency amendment application. Identify when these circumstances were first discovered and brought to the attention of the governing board. Why did the governing board determine that the circumstances constituted an emergency that warranted the filing of an emergency petition?**

Knowledge Academy was the first charter school to serve the Antioch Community. The school performed so well that MNPS granted two additional charters (Knowledge Academy High School and KA@ The Crossings) to the Knowledge Academies Governing Board. Knowledge Academy filed a timely renewal application on April 1, 2021, that outlined all of the significant improvements for students that have occurred over the life of the charter. **(Please see the KA Renewal Application as Attachment 5)**. Our renewal application was ultimately turned down by the MNPS school board. KA appealed to the Tennessee Charter School Commission, and the public hearing was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Our position to consolidate has been well-known to MNPS and the Commission, and we sincerely believe consolidation of the three (3) schools into one is in the best interest of the students, families, and community. Our families have demonstrated their commitment to Knowledge Academies and are in favor of a school that offers a continuous 5-12 grade offering without students having to reapply after their 8th grade year to attend KA High School. Consolidating at this time under the KA@ The Crossing contract makes the most sense and it is our position that this action will also benefit MNPS. With fewer schools to administer, the MNPS charter staff will be able to spend more time investing in the academic success of the remaining charters.

We are committed to partnering with our authorizer to make this happen immediately. Consolidation at this time would bring stability to our schools, our community, and our staff. We would not lose staff, and our financial position is exemplary, as we have accumulated a \$1 million fund balance. As can be seen in our Renewal application **(Please see Renewal application, Attachment 5)**, according to the Tennessee State Report Card, KA easily outperformed all other traditional public schools in the area in growth in the 2020-21 pandemic school year.

Additional reasons for the emergency are clear:

- The Antioch area is the fastest growing area of Nashville, and the families moving in deserve a high-quality school option for their students. The students and families already attending the school are dedicated to remaining, and we are continuing to enroll students even though Knowledge Academy was removed as a school choice option by MNPS.
- KA and NEI are poised to move forward with their exemplary turn-around strategy that is already showing results. By ensuring that KA@ The Crossings graduates have the training, skills, and attitudes to succeed in college, work, and life, we will dramatically change the economic and social futures for these young people and, over time, significantly increase college graduation rates for low-income students citywide. At this scale, by serving as a living example for urban school success, we believe we will have a lasting impact that far exceeds our actual student enrollment.

Consolidation of the three Knowledge Academy schools represents the best of partnerships with the authorizer. MNPS gains a high performing, quality school with grades 5-12, and at the same time, has two less charter schools to oversee and two less charter contracts to manage. KA@ The Crossings gains a continuous 5-12 model school which will bring stability and growth to student enrollment, allow students to build lifelong friendships, and continue to be a community school that families can trust with their most precious assets - their children. Our students do not have time to wait - their time is now to ensure all KA@ The Crossings students in grades 5-12 have the opportunity to attend a high performing, student-centered school that prepares them to be outstanding citizens, become community leaders, and contributing members of our society.

**Application to Amend a Charter Agreement
Signature Page**

By our signatures below, we hereby certify that the governing body of the charter school identified herein has approved the submission of this application to amend a charter agreement.

Contact Signature

Richard Page, President of NEI

Contact, Printed Name & Title

richardpage@nobleeducationinitiative.com

Contact Email Address

Date

Board Chair Signature

James Bristol

Board Chair, Printed Name

board@knowledgeacademies.org

Board Chair Email Address

Date

This completed and signed form and all attachments shall be saved as a PDF and submitted to the applicant's authorizer as well as to the Tennessee Department of Education, Division of Choice, at Charter.Schools@tn.gov.

Part II: Specific Amendment Requests

Only Complete the Applicable Subpart for the Amendment the School is Seeking

Subparts:

- A. Change in governance structure (including, but not limited to, a change in the nonprofit entity governing the school), or addition of or changes to the charter management organization
- B. The addition or removal of a grade level or levels
- C. Changes in student enrollment which fall outside of the minimum or maximum enrollment thresholds set forth in the charter school's charter agreement
- D. The addition or removal of a plan to provide transportation to students attending the charter school
- E. Changes to the charter school's location, if outside the geographic area set forth in the charter agreement
- F. Changes to the charter school's academic focus set forth in the charter agreement
- G. Changes identified in the charter agreement as material modifications or amendments
- H. Other material changes not covered by any of the above categories

Subpart B – Grade Levels

ONLY complete this section if applying to add or remove grade level(s)

Amendments Covered by this Subpart: A charter school should use this Subpart B to apply for the addition or removal of one or more grade levels to or from the grade levels set forth in its charter agreement.

Application: Please submit a narrative and related attachments addressing each of the questions below. If a question is inapplicable, mark it N/A.

1. What is the school’s current grade structure?

The current grade levels for KA@ The Crossings for the 2021-22 school year are grades 5-8 inclusive.

2. What is the proposed grade structure?

The proposed grade structure will be grades 5-12 inclusive, consolidating Knowledge Academy Middle School and Knowledge Academy High School into the current KA@ The Crossings school.

3. Describe the documentary evidence of the community need for the proposed grade structure.

Since the approval of the three schools (Knowledge Academy, Knowledge Academy High School, and KA@ The Crossings), the Antioch community has dramatically grown, becoming Nashville’s fastest growing and most diverse community. The challenges of meeting the needs of all students and their families have given us the opportunity to strategically reimagine the educational programs, instructional practices, and school procedures to ensure our students and families are well-served. Please see **Attachment 6, Community, School, and Stakeholder Support**.

Additionally, our families already view Knowledge Academies as one school, and they would appreciate the continuous 5-12 grade structure that would eliminate multiple years of applying (8th graders applying for 9th grade although both schools are in the same building).

According to our market research, there are 154,152 people living within 15 minutes of our school, with 46% of those homes having children under the age of 18 (www.areavibes.com/nashville-tn/antioch/schools). The table below demonstrates a deep and obvious need for quality educational options, as a low percentage are even high school graduates in this area.

Level of Education	Percentage of the Population within 15 Minutes of the School
High School Graduate	18.9%
GED	2.9%
Some college, no degree	16.7%
Associates Degree	7.0%
Bachelor’s Degree	28.4%
Graduate/Professional Degree	14.9%

Less than 30% of the residents have a formal degree and only 19% graduate from high school. KA High School graduated 91.9% of students in 2020, 86.2% in 2021 and is projected to graduate 100% of the Class of 2022. This shows a deep need for high quality educational options such as a consolidated KA@ The Crossing with grades 5-12.

Additionally, a review of the TNDOE’s current report card the academic achievement of the surrounding high schools that are feeders for our middle school students shows a significant need for our consolidated school, as shown in the following table:

MNPS High School	State Designation	Academic Rating	TVAAS Growth
John Overton High School	Targeted Support and Improvement	11.2% Success Rate	Level 1
Antioch High School	Additional Targeted Support and Improvement	Below 5% Success Rate	Level 1
Cane Ridge High School	Targeted Support and Improvement	Below 5% Success Rate	Level 1
Glenclyff High School	No Designation	Below 5% Success Rate	Level 1

Both Knowledge Academy and Knowledge High School were released from the federal designations of Targeted Support (TSI) and Improvement and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) during the 2020-21 school year, a pandemic year. Knowledge Academies were the only schools in the MNPS district that stayed open for in-person learning during the 2020-21 school year, and those efforts of our administrative and teaching staffs are paying off in these results. Knowledge Academy was the only school out of 12 middle schools on the federal TSI list to perform well enough to exit the designation.

Additionally, Knowledge Academy has created unique academic pathways to allow our middle school students to earn high school credits which prepare them to enter the coding, general business, or music industry pathways in high school, another compelling reason to consolidate the schools and create continuous grade levels so that the students may continue in the pathways they have chosen.

Knowledge Academy steadily improved academically, and the governing board's partnership with NEI has stabilized the school financially, with a cumulative fund balance of \$1 million. Teacher compensation has been increased to \$50,000, above the beginning salary scale of MNPS, and there are opportunities to earn performance bonuses.

The consolidation of the three schools will also benefit MNPS, increasing oversight and support efficiency, and reducing administrative tasks for the charter school office. Knowledge Academy has positioned itself as a viable, excellent choice for families in the Antioch area, that will also relieve the district schools that experience overcrowding.

4. How will the addition or removal of the grade levels improve the existing program and benefit students?

As indicated in Question 3, there are many student benefits that will accompany consolidating our three schools under KA@ The Crossings. The need is compelling due to the following factors:

- Both KA middle schools achieved TVAAS level 3 in the 2020-21 school year, the only middle schools in Nashville to achieve those growth levels.
- Both Knowledge Academy and Knowledge High School have exited federal designation lists of TSI and ATIS respectively under the exceptional leadership of the KA governing board and Noble Education Initiative (NEI).
- Cumulatively, the KA schools are in excellent financial condition, with no audit findings since NEI was brought in as a partner, and having a \$1 million fund balance.

- Enrollment is rising again, with KA@ The Crossings applications nearly doubling for 2021-22.
- Knowledge Academy was removed from probation by MNPS in December 2020 due to completion of their work plan.

5. How will the school adapt its physical space to accommodate the addition or removal of grade level(s)?

The school facilities at 5320 Hickory Hollow Parkway currently house all three schools, and have the capacity to house the consolidated KA@ The Crossings at full enrollment of 1,112 students.

6. How will the school adapt its staffing (e.g., teachers, educational aides, special populations staff, etc.) to accommodate the addition or removal of grade levels?

There will be no immediate changes in staffing, since all three schools are currently staffed separately and adequately. No staff will lose positions, and our strategic plan is to increase the teaching and support staff as our enrollment increases in the consolidated school.

7. How does the school’s record of achievement support the approval of this amendment? For purposes of this question, the authorizer will review various measures of success, including but not limited to scores on TVAAS, TN Ready, and the authorizers school performance framework, as well as the school’s financial performance and duration of operations.

Several academic gains have already been discussed, including level 3 TVAAS scores in a pandemic year, stable and compliant finances, and exiting of TSI, ATSI, and probation. We also have our current benchmarking data for our schools, attached here as **Attachment 1**.

8. Complete the proposed enrollment summary for each grade level and each year remaining in the charter agreement. See the table below as the enrollment summary for the consolidated 5-12 school, KA@ The Crossing.

KA Consolidated	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	At Capacity
Fifth Grade	75	100	100	100	100	105
Sixth Grade	75	75	125	125	125	131
Seventh Grade	50	75	75	125	125	130
Eighth Grade	90	50	75	75	125	130
Ninth Grade	100	150	150	150	150	154
Tenth Grade	75	100	150	150	150	154
Eleventh Grade	45	75	100	150	150	154
Twelfth Grade	40	45	75	100	150	154
Total	550	670	850	975	1075	1112

Current Demographics of KA@ The Crossings (Grades 5-8)		
% of Economically Disadvantaged Students	% of Students with Disabilities	% of English Language Learners
27.3%	11.8%	32.7%

Anticipated Demographics of KA@ The Crossings (Grades 5-12)		
% of Economically Disadvantaged Students	% of Students with Disabilities	% of English Language Learners
25%	18%	26%

Subpart C - Student Enrollment

ONLY complete this section if applying to amend enrollment

Amendments Covered by this Subpart: A charter school should use this Subpart C to apply for a change in student enrollment outside of the minimum or maximum enrollment thresholds set forth in its charter agreement.

Application: Please submit a narrative and related attachments addressing each of the questions below. If a question is inapplicable, mark it N/A.

1. What is the school’s current enrollment by grade level?

The KA@ The Crossing enrollment by grade level for 2021-22 is reflected on the chart below:

Grade Level	Enrollment for 2021-22
5	16
6	15
7	27
8	52
Total Enrollment	110

The enrollment by grade level for Knowledge Academy is reflected on the chart below:

Grade Level	Enrollment for 2021-22
5	26
6	32
7	28
8	37
Total Enrollment	123

The enrollment by grade level for Knowledge High School is reflected below:

Grade Level	Enrollment for 2021-22
9	85
10	61
11	38
12	21
Total Enrollment	205
Grand Total (all 3 schools)	438

2. How will a change in enrollment improve the school’s existing program and benefit students?

Students will greatly benefit upon consolidation of our three schools under KA@ The Crossings and increasing enrollment to over 1,000 students. Some of these benefits are:

- Continuing to attend a completely reimagined and compelling school that meets their needs and those of their families.
- Focusing on unique pathways not available in other MNPS schools, and that our

students are excited about as they move into high school.

- On-going educational opportunities in a TVAAS level 3 school, the only middle school in Nashville to achieve those growth levels.
- Both Knowledge Academy and Knowledge High School have exited federal designation lists of TSI and ATSI respectively under the exceptional leadership of the KA governing board and Noble Education Initiative (NEI).
- Cumulatively, the KA schools are in excellent financial condition, with no audit findings since NEI was brought in as a partner, and having a \$1 million fund balance.
- Opportunity to engage with and learn from a diverse student body as enrollment is rising again. KA@ The Crossings applications nearly doubled for 2021-22.
- Attend a school that offers both remediation and intervention during the school day, allowing for students to leverage immediate help when needed.

Additionally, our students will become a part of a supportive, inclusive community that is adequately resourced to meet their needs, ensure high school graduation, and offer programming that does not exist anywhere else in the area.

3. Describe and attach documentary evidence of the demand for this enrollment change. How does the scope, pace, and need for this enrollment change align with current demographic and growth projections in the city.

As mentioned previously, the southeastern area of south Nashville is the fastest growing and most diverse community in the city. According to areavibes.com, over 50% of the families moving into this area has one or more children under the age of 18 that either already are, or will be, in need of a high-quality school option, and a consolidated KA@ The Crossings fits that qualification. Additionally, our expanded school will help alleviate the potential overcrowding that some traditional MNPS schools are already experiencing, or that may become overcrowded by next school year. The cost of living in this area is 4% lower than the surrounding city, which may account for the dramatic growth seen in the past several years (www.areavibes.com/nashville-tn/antioch/schools).

The chart below also shows the need for the school in our area:

Level of Education	Percentage of the Population within 15 Minutes of the School
High School Graduate	18.9%
GED	2.9%
Some college, no degree	16.7%
Associates Degree	7.0%
Bachelor’s Degree	28.4%
Graduate/Professional Degree	14.9%

It is quite clear that students in Antioch are in need of a quality, comprehensive, and diverse educational offering such as we already offer in our three KA schools, and will expand once we consolidate into one school.

4. Describe the school’s post lottery/waiting list process.

Knowledge Academies follows charter law, which requires that if applications exceed contracted enrollment, KA conducts a lottery that complies with the Tennessee legal requirements of a random enrollment. Once the lottery is complete, our registrar immediately reaches out to families chosen to complete the enrollment process. Any students remaining on the wait list are added in the order they are on the list as space becomes available throughout the school year. KA welcomes a diverse and thriving population of students and strives to meet the needs of each student.

Currently this is how we conduct our post-lottery and waitlist for all three schools separately. Once we are consolidated into KA@ The Crossings this process will not change but will be enhanced by the new school grade and enrollment configuration.

5. Discuss the school’s enrollment trends over the past three (3) years, including any waitlist information.

Enrollment is rising again after several years of loss due to MNPS trying to actively close Knowledge Academy. Fifth grade enrollment is up 65% from the end of last school year, and we currently have 100 + applications for 2022-23. We have added a family engagement representative to enhance our recruiting efforts and communicate with our families consistently and frequently during the process.

6. How will the school adapt its physical space to accommodate a change in enrollment?

The school facilities at 5320 Hickory Hollow Parkway currently house all three schools, and have the capacity to house the consolidated KA@ The Crossings at full enrollment of 1112 students.

7. How will the school adapt its staffing (e.g., teachers, educational aides, special population staff, other support staff, etc.) to accommodate the change in enrollment?

There will be no immediate changes in staffing, since all three schools are currently staffed separately and adequately. No staff will lose positions, and our strategic plan is to increase the teaching and support staff as our enrollment increases in the consolidated school.

8. Describe ways that the school ensures recruitment, enrollment, and retention of students with disabilities and English language learners, along with the school's target population.

Students with disabilities and students served in the English Learner (EL) program have always had an equal opportunity for enrollment in our three KA schools. Our enrollment application does not request information regarding disability status or academic performance. Furthermore, KA's marketing materials reflect that it is a "tuition-free" public charter school and that it serves all students, including special populations, and our potential families will be informed of our robust services for students with disabilities and English learners. All KA schools are open enrollment schools of choice and welcome all students that apply. We are committed to enrolling a diverse student population and abide by the provisions in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-13-111 (b) that forbid discrimination and the process is completely random and nondiscriminatory. Our enrollment process also follows Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-13-113, which includes enrolling students according to racial/ethnic balance provisions. We will endeavor to achieve racial/ethnic balance through the comprehensive marketing plan. In order to achieve a racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or within the racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the district, we will focus our efforts on recruiting students within a 15-minute drive-time from the school and provide transportation in order to reach a diverse student population. This effort includes marketing to underrepresented populations with direct mail, community postings, public service announcements, online advertising, and the availability of bilingual staff, as well as employ strategies for reaching "hard-to-reach" populations.

Our new, consolidated KA@ The Crossings will embrace and expand on these recruitment and enrollment practices as we engage the community and develop partners for our newly designed 5-12 school.

9. **How does the school's record of achievement support the approval of this amendment? For purposes of this question, the authorizer will review various metrics of success, including but not limited to the school's scores on TVAAS, TNReady and the authorizer's school performance framework, as well as the school's financial information and duration of operations.** Several academic gains have already been discussed, including level 3 TVAAS scores in a pandemic year, stable and compliant finances, and exiting of TSI, ATSI, and probation. It should also be noted that the Knowledge Academies schools have always demonstrated strong growth, which was maintained during the pandemic year. We also have our current benchmarking data for our schools, attached here as (**Attachment 1**).

Subpart H - Other Material Change

ONLY complete this section if applying for a material change not covered by any other Subpart

Amendments Covered by this Subpart: A charter school should use this Subpart H to apply for a material change to its charter agreement that is not covered by any other Subpart.

Application: Please submit a narrative and related attachments addressing each of the questions below.

1. What provision of the charter agreement is the school seeking to modify? Specify the applicable section and text.

Beginning on page 12 of the current KA@ The Crossings contract, in Section 10, the following is stated:

Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-110, petitions to amend this Agreement shall follow the timelines established in T.C.A. §49-13-108 for approval or denial by the Chartering Authority and appeal to the state board of education. An amendment shall not become effective, and the Charter School may not take action or implement the change requested in the amendment until the amendment is approved by the Chartering Authority.

Not all changes to school operation constitute material changes to the Agreement that require an amendment. However, the following changes are considered material and require an amendment:

- Changes in any Material Term of this Charter Agreement
- Changes in the Charter School's mission;
- Changes in school location (change of site and/or adding or deleting sites);
- Changes in signing authority for the school;
- Changes in enrollment beyond the maximum limit established in this Agreement – increases of more than 5% or 25 students, *whichever is less*; or reductions of more than 50 students or 15%, *whichever is less* and
- Changes in school calendar at all in the first year of operation, by more than ten (10) calendar days in subsequent years in the absence of timely notification of parents or below the requirement to provide at least the same equivalent time of instruction as required in regular public schools in TCA 49-13-105. (See **Attachment 7**, KA@ The Crossings Contract).

The first bulleted material change applies to this amendment to consolidate three schools (Knowledge Academy Middle, KA@ The Crossings, and KA High School) into one under the KA@ The Crossings contract. Bullet #5 also applies, as the total enrollment will increase from the original 400 in grades 5-8 to 1,112 for grades 5-12.

2. What is the proposed change to this provision?

Knowledge Academy middle was at the end of its ten (10) year contract with MNPS this year, and was denied renewal by the MNPS school board on January 11, 2022, by a vote of 7-2. However, prior to this vote, several board members had expressed interest in receiving a consolidation proposal from KA. This amendment request is our response to that interest - consolidating all three schools under the KA@ The Crossings contract.

3. Explain the nature of the proposed change.

The proposed change will create a model middle/high school, with grades 5-12 in a continuous tier. At present, there are three separate charter schools under one roof in the Antioch area - KA Middle, KA@ The Crossings, and KA High School. As chartered, the middle school students at KA and KA@ The Crossings who wish to attend KA High School must reapply to the high school at the end of their 8th grade year. With the proposed change to a continuous 5-12 under the KA@ The Crossings charter contract, both KA Middle and KA High School would consolidate under KA@ The Crossings, thus becoming one school that students can attend for eight (8) consecutive years.

4. Describe how the school arrived at the decision to make this modification.

The area of Southeast Nashville where Knowledge Academies is located has become the fastest growing and most diverse community in Nashville in the past ten (10) years. In their discussions on how to meet these changing demographics, the governing board made the decision to work collaboratively and creatively with MNPS to consolidate our charters, focusing on academic achievement and community innovation to meet those needs. We are submitting this amendment to MNPS as our current authorizer.

Our students have thrived and begun to excel since the governing board brought a new CMO, Noble Education Initiative, as a partner to manage the three schools. In two short years, NEI has made remarkable progress, including:

- Providing in-person instruction during the pandemic year (2020-21), the only schools to do so in the MNPS school district.
- Posting growth scores of Level 3 on the TVAAS measure, higher than every other middle school in Nashville.
- Making extraordinary academic progress so that both Knowledge Academy and Knowledge Academy High School exited their federal designations of TSI and ATSI respectively.

- The KA schools have a cumulative \$1 million fund balance. KA is scheduled to operate with a surplus again this academic year, and has had balanced budgets each of the past two years since NEI partnered with the school. The 2020 and 2021 audits contained no audit findings.
- Enrollment is rising, even though the pending renewal appeal prevented Knowledge Academy from participating in MNPS' open charter enrollment period. Applications for KA@ The Crossings nearly doubled the 2021-22 enrollment.
- Knowledge Academy was removed from probationary status by MNPS in December 2020, after completing the work plan from MNPS.

5. How will this change improve the school's existing program and benefit students?

Students will benefit from a continuous school model that encompasses grades 5-12. Knowledge Academy's CMO, NEI, has a long history of turnaround success and embodies all of the qualities of a high-performing organization. NEI's instructional approach is innovative and as a result of the increased autonomy offered to charter schools has led to tremendous growth and excellent results in the schools it has managed. In 2020, NEI underwent an intensive evaluation by Cognia, the national accrediting organization, and was awarded accreditation as an organization, in addition to the individual accreditation all KA schools hold. Organizational accreditation is synonymous with school or network accreditation, just as with a traditional district school. NEI continually demonstrates a genuine commitment toward challenging students with equitable opportunities for all and ensures alignment of long-range planning and resource management of the key priorities of Knowledge Academy. Building on the school's solid foundation of effective operational practices and adherence to strong values, Knowledge Academies will continue to experience support and increasing success for all learners. **(See Attachment 2, Cognia Accreditation Report)**. Attainment of network accreditation ensures all of our graduates have unlimited opportunities in where they choose to pursue higher education or work opportunities.

All of these qualities together will benefit our students and community for years to come, and our impact will be felt long after students have graduated in their abilities to be community leaders making positive contributions to their world.

6. Provide qualitative and quantitative data to support the requested modification.

The current mission of Knowledge Academy is to prepare students to make the best academic and social choices, leading to a successful life connected to college, community, creativity, and culture. This mission includes all of our students in all grades, even though we are currently three separate schools. Our alumni will graduate college ready and remain connected to their community. Our families will support the development of highly effective student leadership habits. In addition, since NEI has partnered with the Knowledge Academy governing board, academic

results have been on an upward trajectory, indicative of our continued commitment to serving the students and families of Antioch. While state assessments were suspended for 2019-20 due to COVID19, our internal assessments show reductions in students performing in the lowest tiers and upward movement across subgroups. Our current benchmark testing leading into TCAP this spring shows significant growth (**See Attachment 1, MAP and iReady Data**).