

July 2014

## Two New Horace Mann Charter Schools Proposed for Boston

*Horace Mann in-district charters continue to be a powerful tool for reform within the BPS*

Two new proposals for Horace Mann in-district charter schools in Boston are before the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for review. Horace Mann schools are under the jurisdiction of the School Committee, are funded by the BPS budget and employ BTU members, but have the autonomies of a charter school. The BPS currently is operating six Horace Mann schools to turn around underperforming schools and add more quality options for Boston parents and students.

### Types of Horace Mann Schools

The 2010 Achievement Gap law created three categories of Horace Mann in-district charter applications:

- Horace Mann I - new school requiring approval by both the school committee and local collective bargaining unit
- Horace Mann II - conversion of an existing school requiring approval by only the school committee
- Horace Mann III - new school requiring approval by the school committee only

These in-district charter schools retain the state Chapter 70 aid within the City, making it available to the School Department.

### Current Requests

The BPS, in partnership with the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School/Boston Plan for Excellence, is proposing to operate the Dearborn 6-12 STEM Academy in a new facility starting in SY2015-16. Students at the current Dearborn school, designated Level 4 by the

state, would be served by the new school. Up Academy, which already operates two Horace Mann II schools in Boston, has proposed to run a third school, but no details on grade level or location are currently available.

### Horace Mann Schools in Boston SY13-14

	Application Type	Date Approved
Day/Evening Academy	I	1998
Green Academy	III	2011
Dudley St. Neighborhood School	III	2012
EM Kennedy Academy for Health Careers	I	1998
UP Academy Boston	II	2011
UP Academy Dorchester	II	2013

### Cap Limit

The overall cap for Horace Mann schools is 48, with no more than 14 being Horace Mann III schools. Boston is guaranteed at least 4 of the 14 Horace Mann III schools and currently operates two. Horace Mann II schools do not count against this cap, giving districts greater flexibility to convert underperforming schools.

### Horace Mann Charter Renewal

Charters for all Horace Mann schools must be renewed every five years by DESE, with approval from both the school committee and the local collective bargaining unit, even when union approval was not needed to grant the initial charter. The education reform bill that was killed in the Massachusetts Senate would have enabled Horace Mann II and III schools to be renewed without union approval. A new reform bill should include the same provision.