Executive Summary

At West Virginia Academy (WVA) our goal is to improve public education both locally as well as throughout the state of West Virginia by establishing a successful public charter school in the Morgantown area that will serve students in Preschool through 12th grade from both Monongalia and Preston Counties. In the future, we hope to use this successful model to open other campuses around the state to provide more families with a school choice option in their area.

WVA will be a family oriented institution, where the whole family can be educated in one location at the same time. We will be divided into a nursery school, a primary school and a secondary school. Our primary school will consist of kindergarten through fifth grade levels. Our secondary school will include sixth through twelfth grade. While not technically under the purview of the charter law, our nursery school will include a preschool and pre-K to provide access to early childhood education as a benefit to help retain outstanding faculty and staff and to serve families with students in our charter school. We plan to open in the Fall of 2022 with an offering of preschool through tenth grade. Our intention is to add the 11th and 12th grade programs as our school receives approval through the rigorous International Baccalaureate training program.

As a family-oriented institution, we plan for all children within the same family to have the same start and end time for school. This will save families significant time and money from making multiple trips or arranging for multiple drop offs for bus transportation each morning and afternoon. We also plan to have before- and after-school programming that is overseen by teachers. Before school programs will start at seven in the morning with physical activities, mental exercises, and breakfast options. We will also be providing after school enrichment programming focused on academics, clubs, the arts, and physical education. After school programming will run until six o'clock each evening. The academic components of our supplemental programming will better meet the needs of at-risk students and low income families will gain access to this programming at a free or reduced cost.

At West Virginia Academy, our students are referred to as scholars. A scholar is a person who exhibits an accelerated learning competency and/or possesses a high degree of mastery of core knowledge. The goal for our students at West Virginia Academy is simple: **Every Student becomes a Scholar.**

In order to accomplish our ambitious mission, everything we will do will be dedicated to educating the whole child as an innovative wraparound community school. According to the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), the whole child approach "ensures that each student is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged, sets the standard for comprehensive, sustainable school improvement and provides for long-term student success."[1] West Virginia Academy has researched and adopted an integrated student

[1] See the ASCD Whole Child Approach, available at http://www.ascd.org/whole-child.aspx

support system, offering a variety of wraparound services that influence a child's development and readiness to engage and learn in school. Research has shown that academic outcomes are a result of both non-academic and academic support.[2]

West Virginia Academy aims to prioritize our funding, programs, and class schedules to **provide growth experiences** for our entire school community. WVA has adopted a weekly schedule to maximize efficient learning. Student activities, assemblies, field trips, and other programs, when possible, will be scheduled on an Experience Day each week that will typically occur on Friday. Experience Days give the students more time to work on service learning projects and engage in intra-mural competition as part of our West Virginia Academy Ambassador achievement program. Our school will be unique among charter schools in that we will provide transportation to students in our primary recruitment area. During the day these buses will be available to support experiential learning and field trips. This feature is also vital in reaching out to historically underserved students who may not enroll in our school unless transportation is provided.

The West Virginia Ambassador program provides a framework for our students to engage in service, mentorship, intra-mural competition, and student government within our school. While participating in this program, our primary students will gain respect and a sense of loyalty and belonging within our school, the great state of West Virginia, and the wonderful country that we live in. Secondary students will gain a unique international and global perspective in all subjects. The Ambassador program has four areas of focus and students will be assigned to a team based on one of the four areas for the school year and then rotate through all of the teams every four years. The program will also play an important role with outreach as participants plan and execute culminating events for the community in coordination with our parent association.

At West Virginia Academy academic success will be built on four target areas: communication, collaboration, leadership, and innovation. Our evidence-based curriculum and delivery methods have proven results in helping students of all backgrounds, including, in particular, historically underserved student populations. West Virginia Academy's philosophy includes the belief that **each student can learn and master material** when taught by highly effective educators who are empowered through adequate training and materials. High expectations and student outcomes was the sole motivation for the programs and curriculum we have adopted in our school.

West Virginia Academy is a data-driven school where we will constantly be in a state of self-assessment and improvement across our entire organization. Formative assessments are built into all our curriculum to help teachers monitor student progress and ensure the students are achieving mastery in their subjects. Students are leveled according to their ability so that mastery is obtainable for each student. At-risk students will benefit greatly from our year-round/term schedule that allows more consistent access to academic remediation, enrichment programming, and nutrition. Throughout the year our Online Component and

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[2] Moore, K. A., & Emig, C. (2014) Integrated Student Supports: A Summary of the Evidence Base for Policymakers. *Child Trends*. 1-8.

Academic Extended Courses will help provide remediation as well as enrichment and acceleration to meet all the individualized needs of our students.

Our Primary School will be a Core Knowledge school. Once a basic understanding of core knowledge topics has been mastered, our students will naturally transition to the inquiry-based International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) that guides the curriculum and academic programming in our Secondary School. West Virginia Academy's Secondary School mission builds upon the primary school knowledge by increasing global awareness through developing intercultural communication skills and a holistic approach to problem solving. This program will give our sixth through tenth grade students a unique international perspective of society and provide instruction in a manner that draws clear connections between the real world and their academic studies. Students, in their Junior and Senior years, will choose between the IB Diploma Program (DP) and graduate with a significant amount of higher education credit or complete the IB Career-Related Program (CP) and gain significant experience in their choice of future career.

A principle of **universal accountability** will apply to our school as a whole as well as to all who enter, whether as a learner, a teacher, or an administrator. Accountability among teachers and administrators will be achieved by aligning incentives with organizational objectives using a merit pay structure. The overall environment of accountability applies to every student who is expected to come to school ready to learn and will be taught in a highly supportive, but also rigorous learning environment.

The purpose of public education could be summarized as giving **all students the opportunity to succeed** without regard to their family's background, socio-economic status, or ethnicity. All students are welcome at West Virginia Academy, but we recognize that certain groups of students have been historically underserved within the public school system in West Virginia including, in particular, low SES, minority, and ELL students. We designed our Primary Recruitment Area (PRA) to attract as diverse a student body as possible. We plan to engage these diverse communities through our outreach efforts so that our actual enrollments reflect the diversity of our PRA.

In conclusion, West Virginia Academy is uniquely positioned to innovate with respect to curriculum delivery, provide expanded experiential learning opportunities, and implement a culture of universal accountability that will benefit a highly diverse community of students. Our school will adopt a unique approach to team sports, physical education, and enrichment classes like art and music. Our primary recruitment area is designed to recruit and retain historically underserved populations, and our transportation plan will ensure that students from all backgrounds can attend our school. Lastly, our West Virginia Ambassadors program will provide service learning opportunities, team building, and mentorships that provides a foundation that will enhance the rest of their lives.