Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

October 15, 2026

Agenda Item:	Increased Enrollment Charter Amendment: Great Oaks High School and Career Center – Des Moines Amendment
State Board Goal:	Goal 5
State Board Role/Authority:	The State Board is an authorizer of Iowa charter schools per Iowa Code subsection 256E.1(4).
Presenter(s):	None – Consent Agenda
Attachment(s):	Three
Recommendation:	It is recommended that the State Board approve the amendment request for Great Oaks High School and Career Center – Des Moines.
Background:	After authorization, “an enforceable and renewable charter school contract shall be executed between the founding group and the State Board setting forth the academic and operational performance expectations and measures by which the charter school will be evaluated” pursuant to Iowa Code sections 256E.9 and 256E.10 and the other rights and duties of the parties of Iowa Code subsection 256E.6(1). As the authorizing agent for the State Board, the Department of Education has reviewed the charter school contract amendment request and provides a recommendation. Great Oaks High School and Career Center – Des Moines has submitted contract amendment language, rationale, desired outcome and evidence of a public meeting.

Iowa Charter School Amendment Request Form Great Oaks High School and Career Center - Des Moines

The ***Iowa Charter School Amendment Request Form*** is completed by an authorized Charter School that requests consideration of a proposed contract amendment to the State Board of Education.

1. **Requested Amendment**

A. Cite existing contract language to be amended.	B. Provide specific proposed amended language.
Current Charter School Contract, Section 6.6 - Enrollment: "…The Charter School will target 300-400 at-risk high school aged students.	**Proposed amendment to Section 6.6:** "The minimum number of students who shall be enrolled in the school shall be 80 and the maximum number of students who may be enrolled in the school shall be 400."

2. **Rationale** Describe the rationale for the language revision from 1A to 1B. Provide sufficient detail to explain the need for the amendment.

Great Oaks High School and Career Center - Des Moines respectfully requests an amendment to increase the contract maximum enrollment from 240 to 400 students. The 240-student maximum was established from the pre-opening enrollment assumptions contained in the original charter application. That application projected planned total enrollment of approximately 100 students in Year 1, 120 in Year 2, 160 in Year 3, 180 in Year 4, and 200 in Year 5, with a Year 5 maximum of 240 students.

Since opening, enrollment demand has outpaced those early assumptions. In connection with the school's Charter School Program (CSP) expansion grant, Great Oaks developed updated five-year projections showing a total student body of 300 in FY 2026-27, followed by 325, 350, 375, and 400 students. The projected growth is tied to an intentional expansion of career and technical education, work-based learning, career-connected programming, and the academic and student supports necessary to serve additional opportunity youth.

Increasing the authorized maximum to 400 will align the charter contract with the school's current growth trajectory and CSP expansion plan and will ensure that future enrollment does not exceed the maximum approved by the State Board. This request does not change the grades served, the school's mission, admissions requirements, or its commitment to serving opportunity youth.

3. **Desired Outcome** Describe the desired outcome of the amendment.

The desired outcome is State Board approval to amend Section 6.6 of the Great Oaks High School and Career Center - Des Moines charter contract by increasing the maximum authorized enrollment from 240 to 400 students while retaining the current minimum enrollment of 80 students.

The 400-student figure is an authorized ceiling, not an expectation that enrollment will increase to 400 immediately. Enrollment growth will be phased and managed in alignment with staffing, facility capacity, fiscal sustainability, student-support capacity, academic performance, and the school's ability to implement high-quality CTE and work-based learning programming.

4. **Best Practices** Describe how previous practices that led to the established contract language (1A) will change to support the current amended language (1B). How will the charter ensure effective implementation of the proposed amendment?

The original enrollment projections were developed before Great Oaks had Iowa operating history or actual enrollment-demand data. Under the amended maximum, Great Oaks will use an annual, data-driven enrollment planning process consistent with the review contemplated in Section 6.6.1 of the contract.

Before increasing enrollment, school leadership and the Governing Board will review actual enrollment and demand, facility and safety capacity, staffing levels and licensure, special education and student-support capacity, CTE and work-based learning capacity, budget and cash-flow projections, and student outcomes including attendance, academic progress, retention, and graduation. Staffing, instructional resources, and student supports will be scaled in advance of or alongside enrollment growth rather than after capacity has been exceeded.

The Governing Board will review enrollment and operational capacity at least annually, school leadership will monitor enrollment and program capacity throughout the year, and Great Oaks will continue consultation with the Authorizer as required by the contract. Enrollment will not exceed 400 without any additional approval or contract amendment required by the State Board.

5. **Documentation**
   a. The amendment is approved by the charter school governing board (meeting agenda and minutes reflecting approval of the amendment request).
   b. A public meeting with stakeholders addressing the proposed change/s to the charter contract. Note that a designated public comment specific to the amendment on the governing board agenda may fulfill the public meeting requirement. Include names and roles of each individual that participated in public comment and a summary of their input.

GB Amendment Approval: To be attached following Governing Board action. The Governing Board agenda will include a specific item to discuss and approve the request to amend Section 6.6 by increasing the maximum enrollment from 240 to 400 students. The meeting minutes will reflect the formal motion, second, vote, and final action.

PM Amendment: The Governing Board agenda will include a designated opportunity for public comment specific to the proposed enrollment amendment. The submitted documentation will identify the name and role of each individual who participates in public comment and summarize the input received. If no public comment is received, the minutes will document that the opportunity was provided and that no comments were offered.

Special Meeting
Agenda

September 14, 2026
4:00 PM
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81403199017?pwd=SPHOj4kX50hIEA9guDKZZcjBJ0NlwP.1
Dial-In Number: 1-646-931-3860
Meeting ID: 814 0319 9017
Passcode: 971296

I. Call to Order: _____

II. Roll Call

Board Members:

- Kathy Leggett , *Board President*
- Jenny Palmer, *Board Vice President*
- Joe Murphy, *Board Member*

Other Attendees:

- Kris Byam, *Executive Director*, *Great Oaks High School & Career Center*
- TJ Jumper, Director, *Great Oaks High School & Career Center – Des Moines*
- Amy Goodson, *Amy Goodson Co., LLC*
- Joe Crawfis and/or Cory Boruvka, *Charter Treasurer, LLC*

III. Public Comment

This Section is reserved from comments from the public related to the Amendment to Charter Contract, Section 6.6 - Enrollment

IV. Review of Agenda and Proposed Resolutions

V. Action & Discussion Items

a) Amendment to Charter Contract, Section 6.6 - Enrollment

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the Amendment to the Charter Contract, Section 6.6 as presented, and authorizes its board president to any necessary documentation to effectuate said Amendment.

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____

	Leggett	Palmer	Murphy
Aye			
Nay			

VII. Confirmation of Next Meeting: Thursday, October 22, 2026 4:00 PM
Great Oaks High School & Career Center
100 E. Euclid Avenue, Suite
Des Moines, IA 50313 and/or virtually

VIII. Adjournment

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____

	Leggett	Palmer	Murphy
Aye			
Nay			

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CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION

FOR THE

AMENDMENT TO CHARTER CONTRACT, SECTION 6.6 - ENROLLMENT

Great Oaks High School & Career Center – Des Moines

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors approves the Amendment to the Charter Contract, Section 6.6 as presented, and authorizes its board president to sign any necessary documentation to effectuate said Amendment.

Moved: Leggett Seconded: Murphy

	Leggett	Palmer
Aye	X	X
Nay		

MOTION APPROVED by the Board of Directors at a properly noticed public meeting held on September 14, 2026 at which a quorum was presented.

By: Kathy Leggett
Print Name

Signed by: Kathy Leggett 69F5568391994EC...
Signature

Title: President, Great Oaks High School & Career Center- Des Moines