

Executive Summary

The focus of Imagine Andrews Public Charter School will be to create a challenging learning environment for students in the Andrews community while addressing the specific needs of the military child as well as the needs of the surrounding community. Through effective classroom instruction, students of Imagine Andrews PCS will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become successful students and responsible citizens. Imagine Andrews PCS will strive to have parents, administrators, staff, and Joint Base Andrews collaboratively involved in the education process.

At its core, Imagine Andrews PCS will be established on the concept of working with the unique challenges faced by children from military families. The Imagine Andrews PCS will incorporate a heightened understanding of the stressors facing the military student as part of its mission. In order to help students deal effectively with these stressors, faculty and staff will be specifically trained to recognize and deal with these unique circumstances experienced by military families. This understanding will ultimately lead to increased student achievement for these students.

The Imagine Andrews Public Charter School will also be a community-based school on many fronts. Understanding the importance of community support to make any school successful, Imagine Andrews Public Charter School will seek a partnership with the military units on Andrews, the schools in the local community and with Prince George's County Public Schools. Additionally, we will work collaboratively with the businesses within Prince George's County, and will encourage involvement from all parents in our school community.

We recognize that this charter school is a school of choice with limited enrollment, and that not all students that desire to attend will be allowed due to space limitations; therefore, we desire to see the special practices of Imagine Andrews Public Charter School shared with our sister schools in the community. To achieve our goal of sharing this educational experience with the Prince George's Community, we will set aside 20% of the available seats for students living elsewhere in Prince George's County; the remaining 80% of seats will be held for children of military families living on Andrews Air Force Base.

Ultimately, we desire to not only see the students of Imagine Andrews PCS progress to academic levels which will ensure their success in high school, college, and the work place, but to also see all children of Prince George's County Public Schools have the same opportunities. With this in mind, continued efforts of partnerships-in-education between the units on Andrews will be encouraged in order to continue their practices of supporting the schools in the community.

We at Imagine Schools feel that the IAPCS application has many unique strengths that will help ensure the school's success. These strengths include:

An education partner the County trusts. As you know, Imagine Schools has had a close working relationship with Prince George's County Public Schools over several years. We look

forward to continuing this partnership with IAPCS while at the same time expanding PGCPs's vision for school choice.

Existing demand. The home school network on base, Andrews Home Educators, consists of approximately 140 school age children. The vast majority of the parents of students enrolled in AHE have expressed a preference to send their children to a school on base. These parents have also expressed a willingness to commit a significant amount of their time during the school year to help IAPCS in any way possible.

More students for Prince George's County Schools. In addition to the home school network on base, many families living at Andrews have enrolled their children in local private schools. These parents have expressed a preference to send their children to a school on base as well. As students in the home school network and those in private schools enroll in IAPCS, they will fall under the PGCPs umbrella for the first time.

Seats for students living off-base. Twenty percent of seats at Imagine Andrews Public Charter School will be held for students living elsewhere in Prince George's County – which should help ease the burden on local elementary schools with recent closing of Morningside Elementary (located within a mile of the base).

Readily available financing. In addition to support of the base, the school will have financing available from AMC East Communities, the owner and operator of more than 1,000 homes occupied by military families on Andrews Air Force Base. While AMC East has pledged \$500,000 initially to support the school, it has also indicated a willingness to donate more to the school going forward if necessary. AMC East has also set aside a site for both a temporary school and a permanent school for IAPCS. (Please see AMC East Letter of Support in Appendix ES-1 for more detail).

Commitment to local schools. Imagine Andrews PCS and AMC East have pledged to adopt Francis T. Evans Elementary School, located immediately off base, as a "sister school." Under this sister school concept, a significant portion of donations raised in fundraisers for IAPCS will be donated to Francis T. Evans.

More money for the local economy. A charter school on base will bring more residents to the base itself. More residents living at Andrews will translate into a greater number of patrons for local stores and businesses in Prince George's County. (Please see Andrews Business Alliance Letter of Support in Appendix ES-1 for more detail).

I am confident that as you review this application, you will see that Imagine Andrews Public Charter School has a tremendous opportunity to become one of Prince George's County Schools' shining stars. We look forward to working with you and your team in the coming months and years to make sure that this happens.