

CSRB Meeting: May 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Bettis Academy's Amendment Requests: Mission Statement, Enrollment, and Weighted Lottery

Bettis Academy is a public charter school approved in December 2024 to serve students in Wake County. Following a one-year delay granted in May 2025, the school now plans to open in Fall 2027. As part of the Ready-to-Open (RTO) process, the Board of Directors requests amendments to better align the charter with community needs, ensure long-term sustainability, and uphold its mission to serve underserved students in Eastern Wake County.

The request includes three key updates: (1) **refining the mission** to emphasize applied leadership and entrepreneurship in response to evolving workforce demands; (2) **revising the opening grade span** to kindergarten and 9th grade to address secondary capacity needs while establishing a K–12 pipeline and improving facility feasibility; and (3) **implementing a weighted lottery** to prioritize educationally disadvantaged students and maintain equitable access amid regional growth.

Amendment #1: Mission Statement

Bettis Academy seeks to amend its mission to explicitly include applied leadership and entrepreneurial skill development as core outcomes. This reflects the evolving economic landscape of Eastern Wake County and North Carolina (NC), where growth and small business vitality require students to be both job-ready and opportunity creators.

The revised mission emphasizes transferable skills across career fields and will be supported through community-connected, project-based learning with local partners. This update reinforces the school's commitment to academic excellence, alignment with NC's Portrait of a Graduate, and preparing students to lead, innovate, and contribute in a dynamic economy.

ORIGINAL MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Bettis Academy will be to educate underserved students in Eastern Wake County by providing a small learning community, an innovative and academically rigorous curriculum, and hands-on, real-life experiences throughout their academic careers.

REVISED MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Bettis Academy is to educate underserved students in east Wake

County by providing a small learning community, an innovative and academically rigorous curriculum, and hands-on, real-life experiences that emphasize applied leadership and entrepreneurial skills.

Amendment Request #2: Enrollment & Grade Span Reduction

Bettis Academy requests approval to revise its opening grade levels to kindergarten and 9th grade in response to growing enrollment pressures and unmet demand in Eastern Wake County. East Wake High has reached capacity, and local charter waitlists exceeding 900 students highlight the need for additional options, which is supported by community feedback showing 94.4% favor a new high school. The model addresses gaps in access to programs like Career & College Promise (currently under 5% participation) and includes planned partnerships with community colleges to expand college and career pathways. The revised structure also improves facility feasibility and supports a sustainable launch.

Through ongoing community outreach and strategic partnerships, Bettis Academy is building strong enrollment pipelines. Opening with 9th grade addresses immediate secondary needs, while kindergarten establishes a long-term K–12 foundation, which positions the school to expand access and opportunity in the region. Enrollment charts are provided below.

Current Enrollment

Academic School Year	Grade Levels	Total Projected Student Enrollment
Year 1 (SY: 27-28)	K-6	420
Year 2 (SY: 28-29)	K-7	480
Year 3 (SY: 29-30)	K-8	540
Year 4 (SY: 30-31)	K-9	600
Year 5 (SY: 31-32)	K-10	660

Proposed Enrollment

Academic School Year	Grade Levels	Total Projected Student Enrollment
Year 1 (SY: 27-28)	Kindergarten & 9th Grade	150
Year 2 (SY: 28-29)	K-1, 9th-10th	270
Year 3 (SY: 29-30)	K-2, 9th-11th	390
Year 4 (SY: 30-31)	K-3, 9th-12th	510
Year 5 (SY: 31-32)	K-4, 9th-12th	545

Amendment Request #3: Weighted Lottery

Bettis Academy remains committed to serving educationally disadvantaged students in Eastern Wake County, where economic disparities persist despite recent income growth. While nearby communities and potential facility locations may broaden the applicant pool, local data shows continued need, with 62.85% of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch.

To ensure alignment with its mission, Bettis Academy proposes a weighted lottery prioritizing economically disadvantaged students, targeting approximately 45% enrollment. This approach helps safeguard access for the intended population while responding to geographic and demographic shifts. The lottery will be implemented in full compliance with state and federal requirements.

Input Process

Bettis Academy stakeholders, school leadership, and the Board of Directors

Documents

All required documents have been submitted to the Office of Charter Schools.