

New Jersey Department of Education Renaissance Schools Facilities Notification

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- Outline the process that a renaissance school project must follow in order to notify the Commissioner of any school facilities, other than the initial school facility included in the application, in which the renaissance school project will be located.

Process

Per N.J.S.A. 18A:36C-4.b (10), the non-profit entity operating the renaissance school project shall submit a facility notification to the Commissioner of Education. A complete and acceptable facility notification consists of the following elements:

1. A formal letter to the Commissioner of Education. (See criteria below.)
2. Receipt(s) certifying that copies of the facility notification were submitted to the renaissance school district.

The facility notification should also be copied to the following:

Titles:

District Superintendent
Chief Innovation Officer
Deputy Chief Innovation Officer

Names:

Paymon Rouhanifard
Evo Popoff
Amy Ruck Kagan

Upon receipt and review of the facility notification, the Commissioner may contact the renaissance school project to request additional information.

Facility Notification Criteria

All of the information below must be included in the facility notification letter submitted to the Commissioner.

1. **Provide the rationale for the renaissance school project's additional facility.**

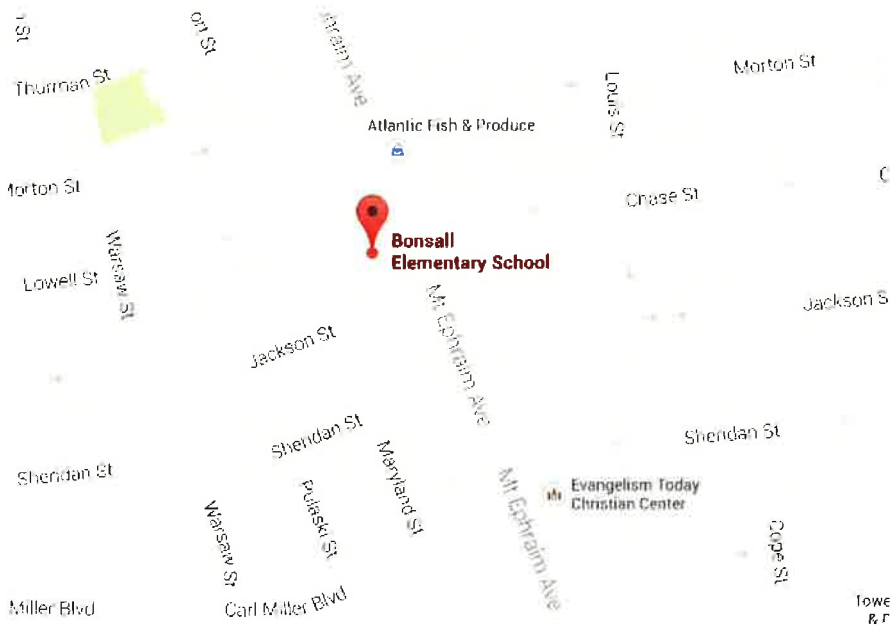
Camden Prep seeks to relocate from its temporary location at the First Nazarene Baptist Church to a new location at the Bonsall Family School, located at 1575 Mt. Ephraim Avenue. The school's current location is not large enough to adequately serve the school's growing enrollment. While the Bonsall facility will only be a temporary space for Camden Prep due to Camden Prep's long term plans to move to a newly constructed facility in Whitman Park, Bonsall will eventually be a permanent home for a second K-8 school. As a temporary home for Camden Prep, the Bonsall facility will serve approximately 330 students in grades K-4 in 2015-2016.

2. Provide information about the grade spans and the number of students that will be served. Include a proposed enrollment chart.

During the 2015-2016 academic year, Camden Prep intends to serve approximately 330 students in Grades K-4 at the Bonsall School Building and eventually relocate to a newly constructed facility for the 2017-2018 school year where it will eventually serve grades K-8. A detailed grade by grade enrollment chart is included in Exhibit I. During the 2015-2016 school year, Camden Prep will serve grades K-4 alongside a co-located District Middle School serving grades 5-8. It is our understanding that over time, the District Middle School will phase out allowing Camden Prep to open a 2nd K-8 campus in the building.

3. Provide an address and description of the proposed renaissance school project facility. Include the number of classrooms, common areas, and recreational space.

The proposed Renaissance school project facility will be located at 1575 Mt. Ephraim Avenue, home to the current Bonsall School (see location of building on map included below).



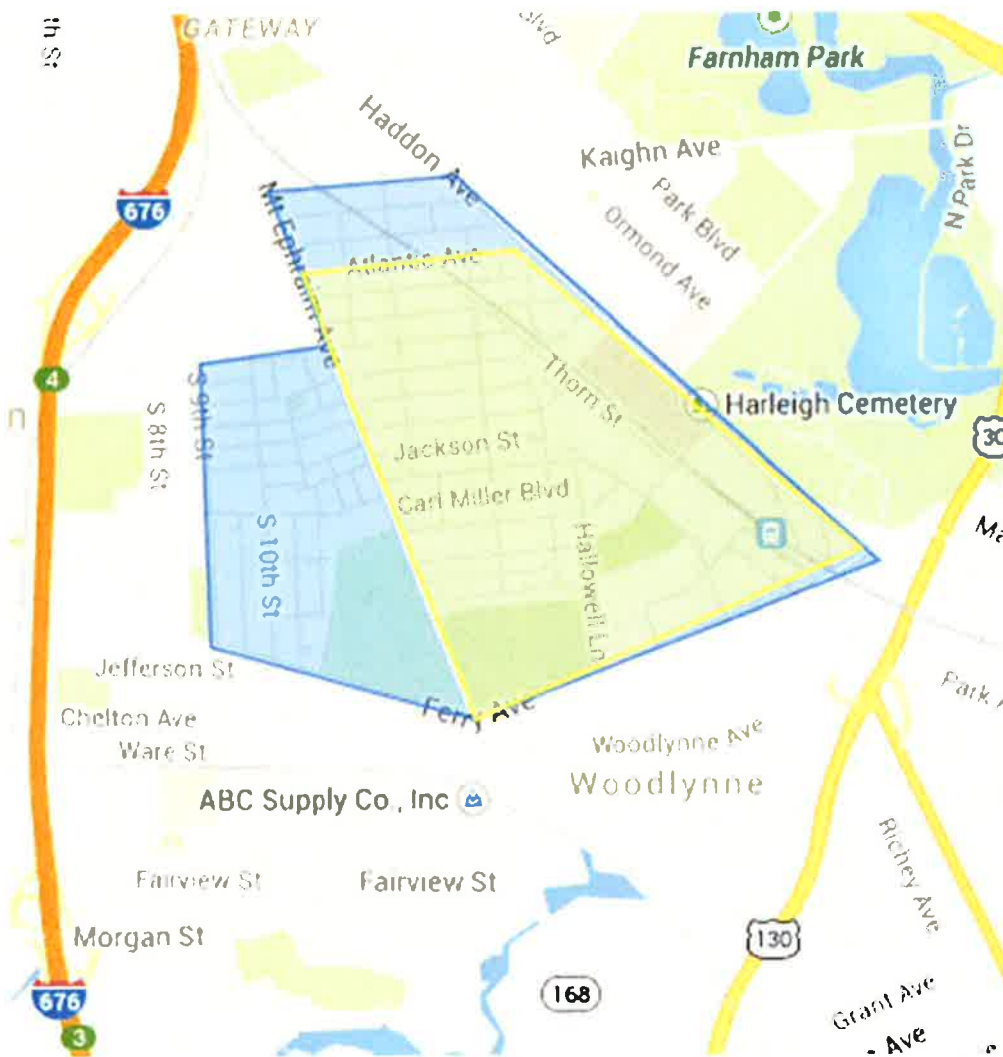
The Bonsall School is located on the border of the Liberty Park and Whitman Park neighborhoods and bordered by Jackson Street, Warsaw Street and Lowell Street. The facility is approximately 128,486 square feet (SF) and currently serves a PK-8 population of students. Floor plans of the existing Bonsall building can be found in Exhibit II. The original building was built in the late 1800s/early 1900s and has twice been expanded to accommodate growing enrollment. The first addition was made to the building in the 1950s and the 2nd addition in the 1970s. The building is three stories tall and provides over 50 classrooms, which is more than sufficient for operating a full size K-8 school of 800+ students. Classroom sizes vary from 590SF to 1150SF. There is a large gymnasium of 7149 SF and a second gym/multipurpose room of 5991 SF with a stage in the facility.

Current photos of the facility can also be found in Exhibit II.

4. Provide assurances that the facility is located within the approved urban campus area, per N.J.S.A. 18A:36C-4.b(10). Provide any updated attendance area maps related to the project and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36C-8.

Camden Prep's currently approved Renaissance catchment area includes the yellow shaded portion of the catchment area map below. Given Camden Prep's plans to utilize the existing Bonsall School building (which currently includes the catchment area shaded in blue below), Camden Prep proposes to amend its catchment area to reflect this slightly larger catchment area. This new catchment area will be bounded by S. 9th Street and Mt. Ephraim Avenue to the west, Kaighn Avenue to the north, Haddon Avenue to the east and Ferry Avenue to the south.

This facility is within the approved urban campus area for Camden Prep because it is fewer than 1.5 miles away from our anticipated new site.



- 5. Provide assurances that the facility meets school facility regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education pertaining to the health and safety of pupils, per N.J.S.A. 18A:36C-4.b(11).**

This facility is currently an operating Camden City Public Schools (CCPS) building and according our contacts at CCPS, this facility meets all health and safety standards. Camden Prep provides assurances that any and all future improvements or renovations to the building continue to meet health and safety standards for pupils, per N.J.S.A. 18A:36C-4.b(11).

- 6. Provide assurances that the renaissance school project will submit plans for substantial reconstruction of the facility to the Commissioner.**

Camden Prep hereby provides assurances that it will prepare and complete plans to substantially reconstruct the building and submit plans for substantial reconstruction of the facility to the Commissioner. Plans and timing of the substantial reconstruction will need to be carefully sequenced with CCPS in order to account for the presence of Bonsall Middle School, a District 5-8 campus, which will be co-located with Camden Prep in the building.

- 7. Provide information about how the renaissance school project intends to finance the substantial reconstruction.**

Camden Prep has applied for an allocation of Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCBs) to finance the project. Receiving an allocation of QSCBs for this project, in addition to an allocation for the Renaissance new construction project, will ensure that all required UHA construction projects can be completed. At present, we are awaiting confirmation of an allocation from the NJ Department of Treasury and the NJ Economic Development Authority.

- 8. Provide documentation (i.e. a draft memorandum of agreement, a letter of support or any related contract amendments) demonstrating that the renaissance school project's additional facility is proposed in partnership with the renaissance school district.**

A Draft MOU between Camden Prep and Camden City Public Schools is attached to this submission. The parties worked closely together to develop this document.

Exhibit I

Camden Prep K - 8 Enrollment Projections

Grade	Target Enrollment							
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
K	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
1	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
2	50	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
3	50	50	90	90	90	90	90	90
4	50	50	50	90	90	90	90	90
5		50	50	50	90	90	90	90
6			50	50	50	90	90	90
7				50	50	50	90	90
8					50	50	50	90
Total Enrollment	330	420	510	600	690	730	770	810

**Note: Camden Prep will utilize the Bonsall facility as a temporary facility until a newly constructed building is completed in the Whitman Park neighborhood. Enrollment in gray represents the expected short term enrollment at Bonsall. Enrollment in orange represents the expected long term enrollment for Camden Prep in its permanent facility in Whitman Park. Long term enrollment plans for a 2nd Camden Prep school in the Bonsall facility will be submitted at a later date.

Exhibit II





**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BY AND BETWEEN
THE STATE-OPERATED CAMDEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
AND
CAMDEN PREP**

This Memorandum of Agreement, dated March XX, 2015, is entered into between the State-Operated Camden City School District, located at 201 North Front Street, Camden, New Jersey 08102 (“District”), and Camden Prep, Inc. (“Camden Prep”), a New Jersey non-profit corporation.

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2014, the Commissioner approved Camden Prep’s renaissance project application, in accordance with the Urban Hope Act; and

WHEREAS, on XXX, 2015, the Commissioner approved Camden Prep’s application to utilize a second facility for its renaissance project; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement; and

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the parties as follows:

1. Camden Prep will:

- a. Use the Henry L. Bonsall facility (“Bonsall facility”), located at 1575 Mt. Ephraim Avenue, Camden, New Jersey 08104, as temporary space for its existing “Camden Prep” school in the 2015-2016 school year.
- b. Name its existing school “Camden Prep Bonsall Elementary School” in the 2015-2016 school year.
- c. Enroll any rising kindergarten through 4th grade student in the Bonsall attendance or Camden Prep catchment areas who wishes to attend Camden Prep, including all special education and bilingual/ESL students, up to Camden Prep’s maximum enrollment.
- d. Offer a first-round interview to any member of Bonsall’s current teaching staff who is interested in employment and applies to Camden Prep in the 2015-2016 school year.
- e. Develop a timeline and plan to substantially reconstruct the Bonsall facility, pursuant to the Urban Hope Act, *N.J.S.A. 18A:36C-1, et seq.*, and its implementing regulations.
- f. Submit plans for substantial reconstruction of the Bonsall facility to the Commissioner.
- g. Permit District to post these draft substantial reconstruction plans to the District website.
- h. Move its existing Camden Prep school from Bonsall to a newly-constructed facility in the 2017-2018 school year, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:36C-3*. Allow any Camden Prep family who determines that Bonsall is the best location for their needs to keep their child at the Bonsall facility, provided that all student enrollment is conducted in accordance with the Urban Hope Act.
- i. Continue to serve students in the Bonsall facility by opening a second school, beginning with one or more grades, in the 2016 – 2017 school year.

- j. Make best efforts to partner with the community by providing some of the following partnerships:
 - 1. Adult workshops;
 - 2. Parent workshops;
 - 3. Community fitness events;
 - 4. Resources for local Head Starts and pre-K centers;
 - 5. Community gym access;
 - 6. Participation in the Whitman Park Little League; and
 - 7. Neighborhood clean-up and/or Unity Day staffing.

2. The State-Operated Camden City School District will:

- a. Continue to operate a middle school, serving grades 5 to 8, in the Bonsall facility during the 2015-2016 school year; this middle school will phase out by 2019-2020.
- b. Provide families in the Bonsall attendance area with information on Camden Prep Bonsall Elementary School.
- c. Include Camden Prep Bonsall Elementary School in its kindergarten mailing, to be sent to all families of prekindergarten students.
- d. Grant Camden Prep reasonable access to the Bonsall facility prior to June 2015 to allow for planning for substantial reconstruction.
- e. Enter into one or more agreements with Camden Prep to allow Camden Prep to operate in the Bonsall facility both before and after the District phases out its middle school. Any conveyance will be in accordance with Urban Hope Act.
- f. Designate the Bonsall facility as temporary space for Camden Prep's existing school, until the school moves into its new-constructed facility.
- g. Designate the attendance area attached as Exhibit A as the Camden Prep at Bonsall attendance area.

State-Operated Camden City School District

Camden Prep

State District Superintendent

Board Chair

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

Exhibit A: Camden Prep at Bonsall Attendance Area

The Camden Prep at Bonsall Attendance Area is bounded by the following streets: Kaighn Avenue to the north, Haddon Avenue to the east, Ferry Avenue to the south, and 9th Street to Mt. Ephraim Avenue to the west.

