



## For Immediate Release

Contact

Julia Bowen, Executive Director

413.743.7311 ext. 120

[Julia.Bowen@bartcharter.org](mailto:Julia.Bowen@bartcharter.org)

January 30, 2013

### **Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Votes to Allow BART to Accept More Students and Students from Pittsfield**

**BART**  
1 Commercial Street  
P.O. Box 267  
Adams, MA 01220

www.bartcharter.org  
t 413 743 7311  
f 413 743 7327

Pamela Johnson,  
Chair  
Julia Bowen,  
Executive Director  
Cynthia Brown  
Dianne Cutillo  
Emily Eakin  
Jodi Joseph,  
Secretary  
Christine O'Connor,  
Vice Chair  
William Polk  
Robert Stegeman  
Charles Swabey,  
Treasurer  
Christopher Perkins

On Tuesday, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved the Berkshire Arts & Technology (BART) Charter Public School's requests to increase the enrollment cap from 308 to 363 students and to include Pittsfield among the cities and towns that the regional school is chartered to serve.

"These decisions represent a vote of confidence in BART; we are grateful that the state recognizes our students' successes and wants to expand the opportunity to attend BART to so many more," said Julia Bowen, the school's Executive Director.

Pittsfield students will now receive the same enrollment preference as students in Northern Berkshire County. Students are accepted at BART through a lottery; by state law, students in the school's defined region receive preference over those from other Massachusetts cities and towns.

In recent years, BART has not had enough seats to meet the demand for interested students, especially in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The increase in the enrollment cap will allow the school to serve more students, thus limiting the need for a waitlist. The school's maximum enrollment is stipulated in the charter; any changes must be approved by the Board of Education.

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has also granted another 5-year charter renewal for Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public School. This third charter will remain in effect until 2018, when state law requires the school to apply again.

Over the last four years, BART has demonstrated strong academic success and parents have expressed nearly unanimous satisfaction with the school. 100% of BART 10<sup>th</sup> grade students earned proficient or advanced in both the English language arts and the math MCAS exams, a result achieved by only 4 of the 380 districts in Massachusetts. BART's college acceptance



BART

1 Commercial Street  
P.O. Box 267  
Adams, MA 01220

www.bartcharter.org

t 413 743 7311

f 413 743 7327

Pamela Johnson,  
Chair

Julia Bowen,  
Executive Director

Cynthia Brown

Dianne Cutillo

Emily Eakin

Jodi Joseph,  
Secretary

Christine O'Connor,  
Vice Chair

William Polk

Robert Stegeman

Charles Swabey,  
Treasurer

Christopher Perkins

rate remains at 100% for all graduates, past and present. These and other BART student successes have led to an increase in demand for enrollment; the approval of the requested amendments will reduce the need for enrollment waitlists.

Additional information about BART students' achievements as well as the renewal and amendment decisions can be found at [www.bartcharter.org](http://www.bartcharter.org).

### *About BART Charter Public School*

*BART is a nationally recognized, award-winning, tuition-free public middle and high school focused on preparing students for college. One hundred percent of BART's graduates have passed a college course and have been accepted into college prior to graduation. BART does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, homelessness or age.*