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**Charlotte Lab School to Offer Admissions Preference for Students Living in Economically Disadvantaged Households**

*School is One of Only a Few Schools in NC to Gain Approval for New Procedures*

**Charlotte, NC:** Charlotte Lab School (CLS) is pleased to announce the implementation of new lottery procedures, which give preference to students living in economically disadvantaged households. CLS originally asked the Charter School Advisory Board to review their proposal, and the State Board of Education approved the request earlier this year.

Head of School Dr. Moss Brown explains why diversity is important to Charlotte Lab School. "A diverse student body that is reflective of the Charlotte community has been a part of the CLS vision since the school's inception, and it is reflected in our original charter school application to the State Board. Research shows a diverse student body enriches the learning experience for all students<sup>1</sup>, improving students' cognitive skills, as well as critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration skills<sup>2</sup>. We also believe it is our obligation as a public school to serve all children."

Currently, CLS has more than 1,100 applicants for grades K-6 for this coming year and will continue accepting applications until 11:59pm on Friday, March 10, 2017. However, fewer than 100 meet the criteria for students who live in economically disadvantaged households throughout the city. "We continue to reach out to organizations and partners in underrepresented communities in hopes of letting people know about Lab and the lottery preference available. Our applicant pool does not yet reflect the socioeconomic diversity we hope to achieve, but we truly believe our school community will be strengthened, and our students' learning will be enriched, by serving a diverse student body," says Moss Brown.

CLS's current percentage of students living in economically disadvantaged households is approximately 20%. In order for the school to reflect the diversity of the City and local school system, their goal is to increase this population to about 40%. Because CLS is entering their 3rd school year and is already operating at full capacity, with little expected attrition, it will take about 3-5 years to achieve this goal.

CLS is positioned to meet the needs of a more diverse student body by providing the following supports:

- Additional teacher assistants and behavior assistants
- On-site resources, including OT and speech
- Transportation to/from cluster stops; school covers fees for those who qualify
- Daily hot lunch and breakfast/after school snacks available at no cost for those who qualify

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/reports/2009/02\\_2009\\_EducationIntegrationBenefitsReport.pdf](http://www.kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/reports/2009/02_2009_EducationIntegrationBenefitsReport.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://tcf.org/content/report/how-racially-diverse-schools-and-classrooms-can-benefit-all-students/>

- High quality after school tutoring programs and activities; scholarships are available
- Diverse staff
- Strong advisory program that emphasizes student social-emotional and character development
- Commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and the preparation of our students for college and a global workplace

The school's public lottery will take place on March 20. All families are encouraged to apply by completing an application on the school's website at <http://www.charlottelabschool.org/#/applying-to-lab> or calling the school's office at (704) 464-3830.

### **About Charlotte Lab School**

Charlotte Lab School (CLS) is an intentionally diverse, public k-8 charter school seeking to close the mobility and opportunity gaps in Charlotte, NC through innovative approaches to teaching, learning, and supporting whole child development. CLS opened its doors in fall 2015 as the first of a small network of innovative schools that will redefine the k-12 school experience in order to provide a model of what's possible in public education and to serve as an incubator for talent and innovation in the greater Charlotte area. Located in Center City Charlotte, CLS currently serves 400 students in grades k-5 and will grow to include 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes this fall, ultimately serving 750 students in grades k-8. Learn more at [charlottelabschool.org](http://charlottelabschool.org).