

(in partnership with Russia)

# South Shore Charter School, Inc.

Developing A New Type of Public School to Serve the South Shore

## Our Approach

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We use projects and apprenticeships to integrate learning, encourage daily reading and writing, and motivate achievement in academic and skill competencies for college, work, and life. Our student projects and apprenticeships are in the areas of environment, human service, communication, and entrepreneurship. Students choose projects within each of these areas in which they are interested and our teachers will encourage them to branch out and not avoid things that they will need to know in the future. Groups of students working together on projects are encouraged to work as a consulting team on the project with their work completed to the client's satisfaction.

Our projects place the student at the center of a diverse and mutually respectful educational community of teachers, parents, inter-generational community volunteers, and experienced practitioners who all act as general coaches and student advocates. We encourage and assist heavy parent and other adult reinforcement of students as workers through extensive student writing and reading. Our process is reinforced by the resources of many college, nonprofit, and business partners. We use these active, daily partnerships to connect our students' learning with the current needs of the marketplace on the South Shore or with needs in the areas where our home-schoolers live.

Our students are encouraged to progress at their own speed to cover all of the academic and career competencies that our curriculum requires for their age level. They will spread their work over an extended-day and extended-year schedule. Their individual progression is regulated by their demonstrating their competency through presentations to their teachers, standardized tests, portfolio assessments, and regular exhibitions of mastery. All of this will be tracked by an interactive computerized system. The exhibitions of mastery are interdisciplinary before diverse panels of internal and external practitioners in the academic and life competencies being demonstrated. For our home-schoolers, while most of their work is via mail, telephone, and electronic mail; we require each of them and one of their parents to visit the Charter School twice a year for a three-day, face-to-face exhibition of mastery.

We work to foster character, initiative, leadership, problem solving, critical thinking, team work, and communication as well as academic skills in math/science/technology, the humanities, and communication. As incentives, high school aged students may earn transferable college credit from Suffolk University and Massasoit Community College for much of their work and may also qualify for paid apprenticeships on their own projects or in area organizations.

The South Shore Charter School is located in Hull and is initially drawing students from Kindergarten - 2nd grades and 7th-10th grades from across the South Shore. We also provide support programs for students and parents involved in home schooling. The Charter School was founded and is managed by Dovetail Consulting which reports to a nonprofit Board of Trustees that is answerable to the State Secretary of Education.

no school board?  
no local control

# South Shore Charter School, Inc.

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## Information For Applicants

The South Shore Charter School is now accepting applications from interested K-2nd and 7th-10th grade students and their parents for the school year beginning in September of 1995. During this fall and winter, parents of students who apply will be involved in the development of the curriculum and will be assisted in beginning to work with their children to prepare them for our curriculum framework, learning process, and culture.

To apply, parents or guardians of interested students should write a brief letter of why they would like their child to be in the Charter School and how they might be helpful to their student's education. Students who will be in the 7th-10th grades in the fall of 1995 should also write a letter explaining their reasons for wishing to attend the Charter School and ways in which they have helped others. Their letter should be co-signed by a parent and have a copy of the student's resume attached. Parents and teachers will be encouraged to attend a brief evening or weekend meeting each week. Students and parents will negotiate and co-sign individual learning contracts.

During the Fall and Winter of 1994-1995, we are offering Suffolk University and Massasoit Community College courses for adults and high school students, high school apprenticeships in environment, human service, and communication, Saturday and vacation enrichment programs, and monthly inter-generational forums introducing our curriculum, process, and teachers.

For further information, please complete and return the form below.

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- Send an application for my child to attend the Charter School in September of 1995.
- Send me an application for my child to enroll as a Charter School Home-Schooler.
- Put me on the invitation list for the pot-luck Intergenerational Forums.
- Enclosed is a check for \$40, please enroll me in the "Friends of the Charter School".
- I will volunteer as a tutor, instructor, or mentor for the Charter School's students.
- Send ( student or  instructor) registration information for our Saturday & Vacation Enrichment Programs beginning in November of 1994
- Send registration information for the 2nd offering of Massasoit Community College courses to begin in January of 1995

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Potential Student(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable To: *South Shore Charter School, Inc.*  
936 Nantasket Ave. ♦ Hull ♦ Mass. ♦ 02045 ♦ (617) 925-3078 ♦ FAX 925-9818

lifelong learning →  
training

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