

**APPROVE CHANGE TO THE EDUCATIONAL FOCUS AND EXPAND THE GRADE STRUCTURE  
OF AMES MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Board approve a change of educational focus to a Marine military academy and expand the grade structure at Ames Middle School (Ames), 1920 N. Hamlin Avenue. The new educational focus will be known as the Marine Leadership Academy at Ames.

Community meetings regarding changing the educational focus and expansion of Ames Middle School were held on July 17, 2013 and Tuesday, November 5, 2013 at 1237 N. California.

**DESCRIPTION:** Effective July 1, 2014, Ames will change its educational focus to the Marine Leadership Academy at Ames and will serve grades 7-12. Initially, Ames may serve a greater number of students in the lower grades than in the upper grades but eventually the academy will serve approximately 175 students in each grade for a total of approximately 1050 students.

**ENROLLMENT:** The current Ames boundary will be redrawn under Board Report 13-1218-EX4 and Ames will become citywide school. All current Ames students are entitled to continue at Ames and will be expected to adhere to the new programmatic focus or to attend its attendance boundary school at Kelyvn Park High School. All future incoming students to the Marine Leadership Academy at Ames will need to apply. For the 2014-2015 school year, all students who submit or have submitted an application for a military school will be considered for Ames. In the 2015-2016 school year and subsequent school years, the Marine Leadership Academy at Ames shall enroll students citywide in accordance with the Admission Policy for Magnet, Selective Enrollment, and Other Options for Knowledge Schools and Programs (11-0824-P02) with the seventh grade being the entry level grade for its junior high program and ninth grade being the entry level grade for its high school program.

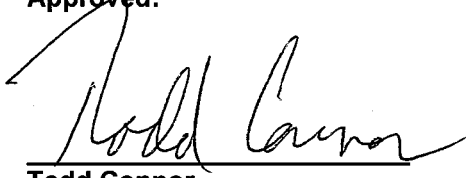
**CURRICULUM:** The Marine Leadership Academy at Ames will provide a unique six-year learning center for strongly motivated students to develop leadership and team-building skills. Students will be offered a rigorous and relevant college preparatory curriculum. Highly motivated seventh and eighth grade students may be offered an opportunity to complete the elementary school curriculum early and take high school courses.

**GOVERNANCE:** Current local school council member terms will end effective June 30, 2014. As Ames will be an alternative school, a Board of Governors will be established in accordance with the Governance of Alternative and Small Schools Policy 07-0124-PPO2 and 105 ILCS 5/34-2.4b.

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:** Ames will be staffed in accordance with Board staffing formulas for all positions.

**FINANCIAL:** The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the fiscal year 2015 budget.

Approved:

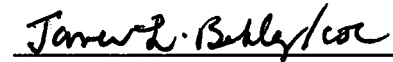


Todd Connor  
Service Leadership Academies Network

Respectfully submitted:

  
Barbara Byrd-Bennett  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to Legal Form: 

  
James Bebley  
General Counsel