



AREA VARIANCE APPLICATION

Part 1. Application Notes

An application for an Area Variance is a request for relief from the dimensional or development standards of the USDO for a specific property. An application may be submitted after denial of a proposed project or development by the Chief Planning Official or the Chief Building Official.

1. The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) reviews the application at a public workshop and public hearing and makes its decision based on the standards in Section 375-5(E)(21)(c)(i).
2. An Area Variance application asks the BZA to change the standard code requirements because of a unique situation. The burden of proof lies with the Applicant and requested variances will only be granted if an application and supporting materials meet the necessary criteria.
3. The BZA is required to grant only the minimum variance that it deems necessary and adequate to address the hardship while preserving and protecting the character of the neighborhood and health, safety and welfare of the community.
4. The decision of the BZA is final and another application for the same or essentially the same approval cannot be submitted within one year from the date of the decision.

Note: A pre-application meeting is available upon request prior to submitting this application.

Part 2. General Information

Project Address: 42 South Dove St	Tax ID Number(s): 76.14-2-1.2
Zoning District: mu-NE	Current Principal Use: middle school

Part 3. Project Description

(Describe the variance and identify the standard(s) or requirement(s) of the USDO proposed to be varied):

Select the type of standard(s) or requirement(s) being varied:

- Lot area
 Lot width
 Impervious lot coverage
 Height
 Minimum setback
 Fence/wall standard
 Off-street parking/loading/circulation standard
 Landscaping/buffer standard
 Exterior lighting standard
 Signage
 Other (Specify; must reference a specific standard in the USDO): _____

Section number of USDO from which the variance(s) is being requested: 375-409 (3)(b) and (5)(a)(i)

Current USDO requirement(s) or standard(s): max allowed 5' OAH, no flashing lights

Proposed requirement(s) or standard(s): Allowance of 8' OAH and digital message sign

Part 4. Character of the Neighborhood

Explain why the dimensional alteration being proposed will not result in a structure or a configuration that will be out of place in the neighborhood or zone district (e.g., the structure's overall size and footprint size and placement are similar to the structures on adjacent properties):

Part 5. Alternatives Considered

Describe the benefit to be achieved by the granting of the variance and why such benefit cannot otherwise be reasonably achieved (detail any alternatives that were considered and rejected, and include evidence where necessary to support your conclusions):

Part 6. Substantiality

Indicate why the requested variances is not a substantial or contextually significant deviation from the prevailing regulation:

Part 7. Impact on Environment

Describe any potential impact on such factors as drainage, traffic circulation, dust, noise, odor, public services, among others (e.g., compliance with the USDO requirement to be varied would result in the removal of three mature trees and a natural berm):

Part 8. Self-Created Difficulty

Explain why the need for the variance requested is not self-created (e.g., the lot was created in 1954 and does not comply with the minimum lot area requirements of the USDO):

Part 4. Submittal Requirement Checklist

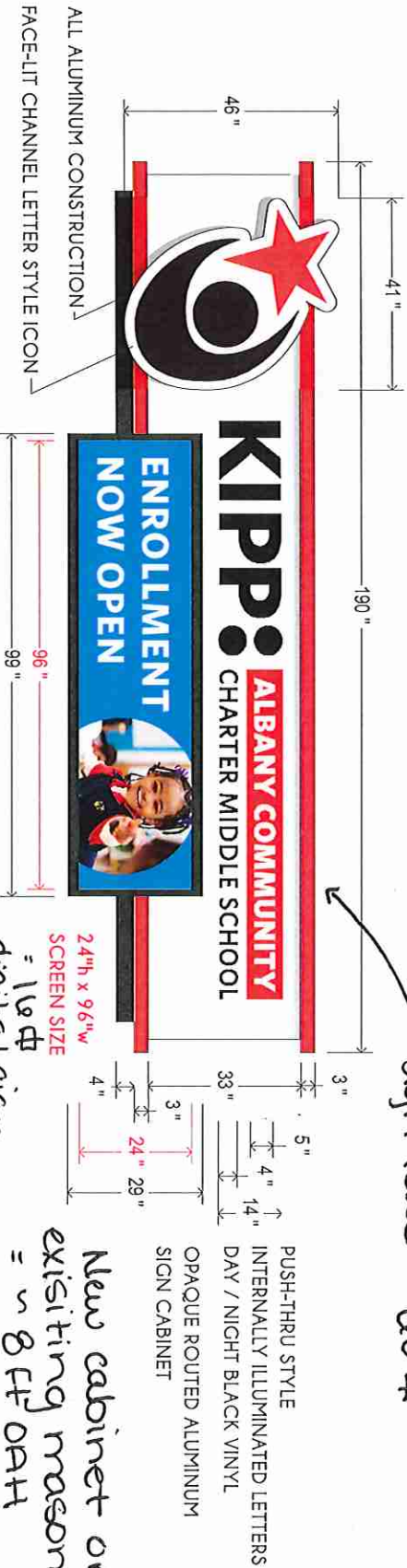
(NOTE: Submit the greater number of required documents for concurrent applications if duplicate submittal documents are listed)

	Required Documents (All Documents Must Be Submitted Electronically)	Electronic Copies	Electronic Submission Name (.PDF)
A. Required for All Area Variance Applications			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Master Application	1	Master Application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Area Variance Application	1	AV
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rejection Letter from Chief Planning or Building Official	1	Rejection Letter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Color photographs of the property in context with surrounding properties	1	Photos
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site Plan showing lot lines, dimensions, buildings, driveways, parking, landscaping, etc., drawn to scale	1	Site Plan [YYYY]-[MM]-[DD]
<input type="checkbox"/>	Application fee as established in the Albany Fee Schedule – Payable to <i>The City of Albany Treasurer</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One- to two-family residence : \$50.00 • All Others: \$150.00 		
B. Voluntary of Upon Request			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Assessment Form as required by SEQR	1	Short or Full EAF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Floor Plans (if new construction or an addition), drawn to scale	1	Floor Plan [YYYY]-[MM]-[DD]
<input type="checkbox"/>	Building Elevations showing building height in relation to buildings on adjacent properties (if variance is for a structure, building, fence, etc.), drawn to scale	1	Elevations [YYYY]-[MM]-[DD]
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project Narrative	1	Project Narrative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any additional information determined to be necessary by the Chief Planning Official	1	[Document Name]

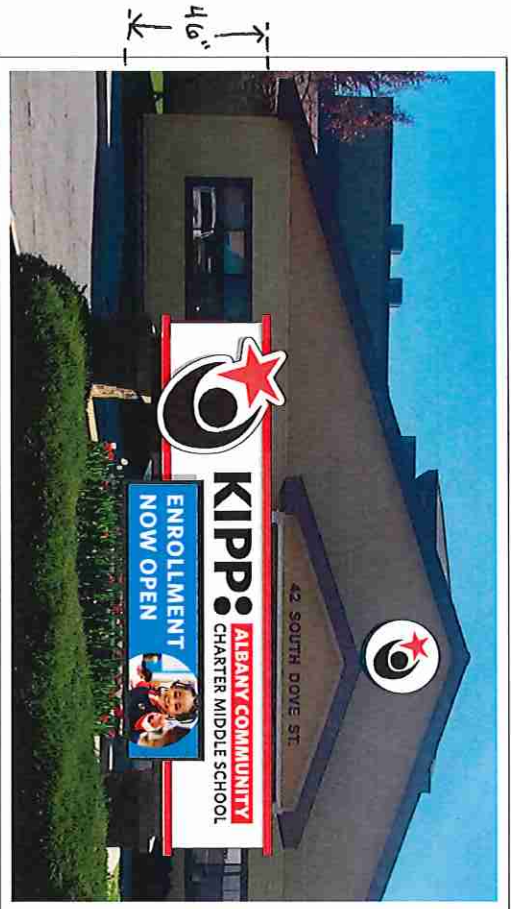
Electronic document submissions shall be sent via email to bza@albanyny.gov, USB Flash Drive, or by another medium approved by the City of Albany Planning Staff. CD and DVD submissions are **not** accepted.

OPTION 1

Freestanding Sign Renovation.
Utilize existing masonry block and steel, remove existing signage components and fit with new internally illuminated signage cabinet and outdoor digital message center



sign face = 100 ft





Project: KIPP Albany Community Charter Middle School

VARIANCE REQUEST #8

Address: 42 S. Dove St.

Proposed Project: Replacement of and/or renovations to existing signage to better identify the elementary school under the new KIPP branding guidelines.

Variations Requested:

8. § 375-409(3)(b) – To allow a sign with flashing/intermittent rotating or moving lights when signs with flashing/intermittent rotating or moving lights is not permitted. Per B. Monument Sign Drawing.

Sign Types Proposed:

Electronically Controlled Sign Copy: 2' x 8': 16 Square feet. Digital message screen to be installed onto existing sign base.

Allowances

Frontages: 1

Wall Signs: 1

Monument Signs: 1

Electronic Controlled Copy: No

Part 4. Character of the Neighborhood

Even though the signage that has been proposed is not a common feature of the neighborhood, it plays an integral role in this block's identity and in public communication. The proposed sign package will not negatively impact the character of the neighborhood but enhance it. Please review attached images of the school and surrounding community-based properties. Since the main properties that will have clear vision of the signage are all public spaces, we are able to demonstrate how the requested deviation from the ordinance will not adversely affect residential homes as no glare or lighting will be projected towards these homes.

Part 5. Alternatives Considered

Alternatives for the proposed monument sign included manual changeable copy.

The manual changeable copy signs have been found to be less effective in public communication than the digital versions. The digital message boards are favored in the ability to swiftly and effectively communicate school and public bulletins quickly so that the surrounding public can be the most efficiently informed. The digital board at the requested size also reduces the visual signage clutter around the property.

The proposed height best allows for in-car traffic viewing of the pertinent information that will be displayed on the sign and allow the sign to clearly communicate this schools' designation as an



elementary school. The existing sign masonry and structure is being utilized to limit costs and construction impact.

Part 6: Substantiality

The proposal is a substantial deviation from the prevailing regulation. However, it is minimal in upgrades to the existing signage found at this property and as such, could not be considered a substantial.

Part 7: Impact on Environment

The proposed sign may have minimal noise and dust impact from the installation process, but the impact will be limited to the immediate surrounding area and would not rise to the level of disturbance to any neighboring property. The proposed sign will not cause any long-term impact on air quality, noise, odor, dust, or pollution because there are no use of chemicals or materials with emissions.

The wall signs will remain non-illuminated and therefore cause no adverse lighting on the surrounding properties. The monument signs which have been proposed with internal lighting and with digital message boards will be pre-programmed for self-dimming based on ambient lighting. All lighting can be programmed off during the nighttime as well.

Part 8: Self-Created Hardship

KIPP Charter Schools has recently undergone a rebranding initiative and conveniently at a time where the ACCS schools' signage has reached a point of degradation that for best representation of the school bodies a refresh is needed likewise, and as such, could be considered a self-created hardship.