

KIPP: Albany

COMMUNITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

KIPP Albany Community Charter Schools, formerly known as the Albany Community Charter Schools (ACCS), serve approximately 800 scholars in grades K-8 at 65 Krank Street and 42 S. Dove Street, Albany. Founded in 2006, ACCS merged with KIPP Tech Valley to form KIPP Albany Community Public Charter Schools in July of 2020. KIPP Albany schools have a longer school day and year to provide advanced instruction, placing scholars on a pathway to success in college, career, and beyond.

At KIPP Albany, we believe collaboration with parents, families, and community is instrumental to the success of our scholars. In an effort to rebrand, update existing deteriorated signage and improve communication with the community, we respectfully request the Board of Zoning Appeals approve the variances requested for 65 Krank Street and 42 South Dove, Albany.

Serving 470 scholars at 65 Krank Street, adequate signage during arrival and dismissal times is essential for school operations to flow safely and smoothly. Regardless of the direction of the traffic flow, drivers see the building from afar but are unable to see signage in its current condition. Updated building signage with crisp lettering and a visible monument sign will increase visibility and decrease traffic congestion during arrival and dismissal. A digital messaging board will allow parents and families to see important updates from the school, providing transparency of school happenings.

KIPP ACCS Middle School, located at 42 South Dove Street, Albany, serves approximately 230 students in grades six through eight. The existing monument sign base will be preserved in an effort to save costs. Variances requested for wall signs are to update existing signage as well as add a matching branding icon to the building to support brand identification. While the requested digital messaging board is an addition to the existing signage, the tool will allow the school to message to the community, similar to 65 Krank Street.

As part of a regional effort to tackle food insecurity during the pandemic, KIPP Albany hosted 12 drive thru food pantries from October 2020 through March of 2021, including six pantries at the 65 Krank Street location. These events were open to the public and distributed over 400,000 lbs of food to the greater Capital Region. Locations for the food distribution were chosen internationally to service food deserts within our under-resourced neighborhoods in the Capital Region.

As a food distribution site, the lack of visible signage and markings at 65 Krank presented a struggle to members of the public looking to access the food giveaways. At present, the monument sign is hidden behind large trees and not visible from most vantage points approaching the school. The proposed monument sign will be visible from all angles. A digital messaging board will provide a platform for school and community announcements, such as future food pantries, to be clearly displayed for the public. Updated signage on the school facade will increase visibility, replacing the existing faded signage and blocking ghosting caused by sun damage.

The school environment at KIPP ACCS is rooted in an open and welcoming culture to encourage the collaboration of all stakeholders in the education of scholars. We believe as a community we must work together to help scholars reach their full academic potential and have options for college, career, service and beyond. The proposed updated signage to the building will increase visibility to the community, allowing for transparency and awareness of school operations.

