



Charter Schools Institute

The State University of New York

SUNY Board Approves Application to Establish a New Charter School in Manhattan

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New York - Upon recommendation of the SUNY Charter Schools Institute and the Charter Schools Committee of the State University of New York Board of Trustees, the full Board of Trustees today voted to approve an application to establish the Harlem Success Academy Charter School 5.

The school will be located in Harlem and plans to open in August 2010. The school will initially serve 180 students in developmental kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade during its first year of operation and grow to serve 557 students in developmental kindergarten through fifth grade by the final year of its charter.

The mission of Harlem Success Academy Charter School 5 is to provide New York City elementary students, particularly those from economically-disadvantaged neighborhoods, with the knowledge, skills, character, and disposition to meet and exceed New York State standards and give them the resources to lead and succeed in the school, college, and life.

This is the sixth replication of the Harlem Success Academy Charter School, approved by the Board of Regents, to be approved by the State University Trustees. Harlem Success Academy Charter Schools 6 and 7 were approved by the State University Trustees on September 15, 2009. Each school will partner with the not-for-profit charter management organization Success Charter Network.

Consistent with its sister schools, Harlem Success Academy Charter School 5 will implement a curriculum that includes the Success for All (SFA) Program for students in developmental kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade. This program provides schools with research-based curriculum materials, extensive professional development in proven instructional strategies, assessment data-monitoring tools, and one-on-one tutoring for struggling students and also includes 100 minutes of uninterrupted, daily reading instruction.

All applications received by the SUNY Charter Schools Institute on behalf of the State University Trustees undergo a rigorous and thorough review not only by Institute staff, but also by a panel of nationally renowned experts from the fields of education and other related areas, representing the charter and traditional school arenas.

Pursuant to its review protocols, the Institute interviews the lead applicant and founding trustees for all submitted applications. Those applications that the Institute considers moving forward—based on staff review, feedback from the external expert panels and the personal interview—move into the

Request for Amendment (RFA) phase of the Institute's review process. In this phase, the Institute makes very specific requests for amendments to the application to ensure its clarity, as well as educational, fiscal and legal soundness. In addition, for applicants proposing to contract with a management organization, the Institute conducts its own due diligence regarding the management organization in terms of its capacity to provide the proposed services, including its fiscal and organizational soundness. If an application remains in the review process through the RFA phase, a second interview of the lead applicant and school's proposed board of trustees is then conducted by one or more members of the State University Trustees' Charter Schools Committee.

In making its recommendation for the approval of this application to the State University Trustees, the Institute prepared a detailed Summary of Findings and Recommendations for Harlem Success Academy Charter School 5 that is available at: <http://www.newyorkcharters.org/newsPRs.htm>.

Additional details about SUNY's application review process are available on the Institute's website at: <http://www.newyorkcharters.org/openAppKit.htm>.

The Charter Schools Institute was created by the State University Trustees to assist them in carrying out their responsibilities under the New York Charter Schools Act of 1998. Guided by the rigorous standards set by the State University Trustees, the Institute's oversight of SUNY-authorized charter schools is comprehensive, including: acceptance and evaluation of new school charter applications; ongoing oversight and evaluation of all charter schools subsequently authorized by SUNY; reporting to the public on each school's performance and progress; and conducting a comprehensive evaluation when a school applies to renew its charter.