



Charter Schools Institute

The State University of New York

SUNY Board Grants Highest Renewal to Three NYC Charter Schools

- *Bronx Charter School for Excellence (Bronx) receives a full-term, five-year Initial Renewal*
- *Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant (Brooklyn) receives a full-term, five-year Initial Renewal*
- *Grand Concourse Academy Charter School (Bronx) receives a full-term, five-year Initial Renewal*

Contact: Cynthia M. Proctor (cynthia.proctor@suny.edu)
Charter Schools Institute, State University of New York
41 State Street, Albany, New York 12207
518/433-8277, ext. 2051

For Immediate Release: Thursday, March 26, 2009

Syracuse - Upon recommendation of the Charter Schools Institute, the Charter Schools Committee of the State University of New York Board of Trustees voted on Tuesday to grant full-term, five-year initial renewals to three New York City-based charter schools: Bronx Charter School for Excellence, Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant, and Grand Concourse Academy Charter School. This action extends the charters of all three schools through the 2013-14 school year.

The full-term, five-year renewal is the highest renewal designation that the State University Trustees award.

- **Bronx Charter School for Excellence** currently serves 300 students in Kindergarten through 5th grade and will continue to do so during its second charter term.

Bronx Charter School for Excellence	2007-2008		
	Tested Grades	% at Levels 3 & 4	
		Charter School	CSD 11
English Language Arts	3-4	86.6	57.8
Mathematics	3-4	97.9	82.0

Renewal Report excerpt:

(Full report available at: <http://www.newyorkcharters.org/pubsReportsRenewals.htm>)

“At the time of the renewal inspection visit, Bronx Excellence reflected a school well-poised to continue building and expanding on its current academic practices that have yielded positive performance outcomes. Bronx Excellence had created a warm, respectful environment where learning is valued and the school had established high expectations for student behavior.

Over the last two years of its Accountability Period, Bronx Excellence has substantially improved its performance on the state’s English language arts exam. In the most recent year,

the school exceeded its absolute proficiency targets and far-outperformed its local community school district, demographically similar schools state-wide, and a neighborhood school located a few blocks away, which it included in its Accountability Plan. The school surpassed the performance target set by the state for all public schools under its NCLB accountability system in both years as well. Additionally, as measured by the Early Childhood Literacy Assessment System (ECLAS 2), Bronx Excellence’s Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students consistently demonstrated grade level appropriate literacy skills during each year of the Accountability Period.

During the last two years, from the time Bronx Excellence first began administering the state’s mathematics exam, the school exceeded its absolute performance targets each year, but fell short on its comparative measures in the first year. In the most recent year, nearly 100 percent of the school’s students scored at or above proficient and Bronx Excellence far-outperformed its local community school district, demographically similar schools state-wide, and the neighborhood school included by Bronx Excellence in its accountability plan. In addition to exceeding its growth target on the New York State mathematics test, Bronx Excellence reported considerable year-to-year progress on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) math test, with students performing just above the national norm on the most recently administered assessment.”

- **Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant** currently serves 286 students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. During its second charter term, the school plans to expand by one grade each year and will ultimately serve 604 students in Kindergarten through 10th grade by 2013-14.

Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant	2007-2008		
	Tested Grades	% at Levels 3 & 4	
		Charter School	CSD 16
English Language Arts	3-4	93.4	53.9
Mathematics	3-4	100.0	88.7

Renewal Report excerpt:

(Full report available at: <http://www.newyorkcharters.org/pubsReportsRenewals.htm>)

“Over the last two years of its Accountability Period, Excellence Charter School has demonstrated consistently strong achievement on the state’s English language arts exam. The [all boys] school has exceeded its targets for absolute proficiency and year-to-year growth, as well as the target set by the state for all public schools under its NCLB accountability system in each year. Excellence Charter School has far-outperformed its local community school district and demographically similar schools state-wide. Additionally, as measured by the nationally norm-referenced TerraNova assessment, the school’s first and second grade students have consistently performed above the national norm in reading.

During the last two years, from the time Excellence Charter School first began administering the state’s mathematics exam, it has posted extraordinary results. With 100 percent of students scoring at-or-above the proficient level in both years, the school surpassed its absolute targets and exceeded the performance target set by the state for all public schools under its NCLB accountability system. Each year, Excellence Charter School has far-outperformed its local community school district and demographically similar schools state-

wide. Moreover, on the nationally norm-referenced TerraNova assessment, the school’s 1st and 2nd grade students have consistently performed well above the national norm and demonstrated considerable year-to-year progress.”

- **Grand Concourse Academy Charter School** currently serves 376 students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. The school does not plan to add any new grades during its second charter term.

Grand Concourse Academy Charter School	2007-2008		
	Tested Grades	% at Levels 3 & 4	
		Charter School	CSD 9
English Language Arts	3-4	78.0	43.9
Mathematics	3-4	94.6	71.4

Renewal Report excerpt:

(Full report available at: <http://www.newyorkcharters.org/pubsReportsRenewals.htm>)

“Over the last two years of its Accountability Period, GCA has demonstrated consistently strong achievement on the state’s English language arts exam. The school has exceeded its targets for absolute proficiency, as well as the target set by the state for all public schools under its NCLB accountability system. The school has far-outperformed its local community school district and demographically similar schools state-wide. During the last three years, from the time GCA first began administering the state’s mathematics exam, it has recorded solid results on the state’s mathematics exam. The school surpassed its absolute targets with more than 90 percent of its students scoring at the proficient level in the last two years. The school has far-outperformed its local community school district and demographically similar schools state-wide in all three years.

GCA has strong instructional leadership, establishing a culture of high academic and behavioral expectations that is understood by teachers, parents, and students. The leadership team has set goals in line with the school’s Accountability Plan and has taken action in line with these priorities. There has been a comprehensive system in place for teacher evaluations that provides direct feedback to teachers. Teachers find the feedback constructive and supportive. GCA has been exemplary in regularly communicating each student’s progress and growth to his or her parents/guardians and in communicating overall school performance to parents and the school community.”

Complete details on SUNY’s charter renewal process are available at:

<http://www.newyorkcharters.org/schoolsRenewOverview.htm>.

The Charter Schools Institute was created by the SUNY Board of Trustees to help it in carrying out its responsibilities under the Charter Schools Act. Guided by the rigorous standards set by the SUNY Board of Trustees, the Institute’s oversight of SUNY authorized charter schools is comprehensive, including: evaluating initial applications for the opening of charter schools; providing technical assistance and guidance to schools where necessary; requiring schools to take remedial action or placing schools on probation; conducting a comprehensive evaluation when a school applies to renew its charter; and reporting to the school and the public on each school’s performance and progress.