



SUNY Authorized Charter Schools

Charter Facts

Updated:
November/December 2006

SUNY and Charter Schools

The New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 granted the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York the power to authorize 50 charters, for the purpose of organizing and operating independent and autonomous public charter schools offering instruction in grades K-12. The Charter Schools Institute was created by the Board of Trustees in February 1999 to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities under the Act.

Guided by the rigorous standards set by the 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.

About SUNY Authorized Charter Schools

- At the start of the 2006-2007 school year, 40 SUNY authorized charter schools are serving nearly 12,000 students.
- Of those 40 schools, 34 (85%) have waiting lists for admission totaling more than 8,000 additional students.
- Five additional SUNY authorized charter schools are scheduled to open in 2007/2008.
- Since granting its first charter in 1999, the Board of Trustees has voted not to renew, i.e., close, five charter schools. Consonant with its commitment to accountability, these schools were closed for failing to meet the goals outlined in their accountability plans, the standards of the Charter Schools Act, and/or the Board's rigorous standards for improving student achievement.

SUNY Authorized Charter Schools Performed Well on 2005-06 State Exams

The New York State Education Department recently released scores from the 2005-06 administration of the standardized exams in Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA); the first data to be released since the implementation of a new state-wide testing program last year. Overall scores show positive results for the state's charter schools.

An Institute analysis of the data looked at the percent of scores at Levels 3 and 4 (proficiency and advanced performance) of tested grades in SUNY authorized charter schools as compared to the scores of those same grades in each school's local district. Highlights include:

Top 5 SUNY authorized charter schools with the largest % of students at levels 3 and 4 as compared to their local districts *

	Charter School	District
English Language Arts		
Tapestry (Buffalo):	78%	30%
Carl C. Icahn (Bronx):	82%	40%
KIPP S.T.A.R. (Manhattan):	63%	38%
South Buffalo (Buffalo):	55%	30%
Brooklyn Excelsior (Brooklyn):	60%	41%
Mathematics		
Carl C. Icahn (Bronx):	97%	46%
Harlem Village (Manhattan):	82%	39%
Tapestry (Buffalo):	69%	29%
King Center (Buffalo):	83%	44%
KIPP S.T.A.R. (Manhattan):	77%	39%

Reports detailing individual school performance on both exams are available on the Institute's website: www.newyorkcharters.org/parentPerformance.htm. (Related article on page 2.)

* Results for five SUNY schools that opened in Sept. 2005 (thus open for less than one year at the time of the test administrations in Jan. and March 2006), are not included in any comparative analyses. Results for these schools, positive or negative, likely reflect the skill level of incoming students rather than the effectiveness of the school.

Institute Launches Enhanced Website: www.newyorkcharters.org

In redesigning www.newyorkcharters.org, the Institute was committed to making its website an easy-to-navigate, comprehensive resource for both SUNY authorized charter schools and—should the current New York State cap be lifted—those individuals or groups interested in applying to open a new charter school. At the same time, the Institute wanted to create an information resource for current and prospective charter school parents, elected officials and members of the community-at-large interested in learning more about New York charter schools and the role of the State University of New York as a charter authorizer.

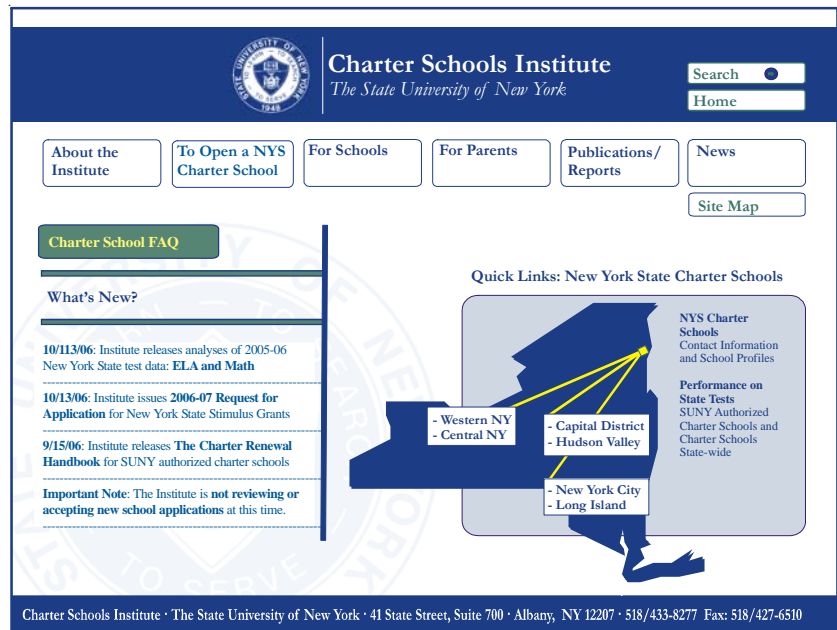
The Institute worked to achieve these multi-faceted goals by organizing information to be included on the site into six major categories:

- **About the Institute**
Featuring a welcome message from SUNY Chancellor John R. Ryan, this section of the site details the mission of the Institute and its scope of work, and includes a staff roster with biographies and contact

information for both Institute offices (Albany and New York City).

- **To Open a NYS Charter School**
In the event that the current cap on new charter schools should lift, this section of the site provides

➤ Continued (please see WEB, page 4)



SUNY Authorized Charter Schools: Academic Performance

- Seventy-two (72) percent of operating SUNY authorized charter schools—open for at least one year at the time of the test administration—outperformed their local districts on the State’s 2005-06 exam in mathematics.
- Seventy-four (74) percent of operating SUNY authorized charter schools—open for at least one year at the time of the test administration—outperformed their local districts on the State’s 2005-06 exam in English Language Arts.
- SUNY authorized charter schools that outperformed their local districts in both English Language Arts and mathematics:
 1. Bronx Better Learning C.S. (Bronx)
 2. Bronx Preparatory C.S. (Bronx)
 3. Brooklyn Excelsior C.S. (Brooklyn)
 4. Buffalo United C.S. (Buffalo)
 5. Carl C. Icahn C.S. (Bronx)
 6. Community Partnership C.S. (Brooklyn)
 7. Eugenio Maria de Hostos C.S. (Rochester)
 8. Harlem Village Academy C.S. (Manhattan)
 9. Grand Concourse Academy C.S. (Bronx)
 10. Family Life Academy C.S. (Bronx)
 11. KIPP S.T.A.R. College Prep C.S. (Manhattan)
 12. Roosevelt Children’s Academy C.S. (Roosevelt)
 13. Sisulu-Walker C.S. of Harlem (Manhattan)
 14. South Buffalo C.S. (Buffalo)
 15. Tapestry C.S. (Buffalo)
- In addition to meeting performance standards on state exams, SUNY charter schools are required to develop—and report annually on their progress toward meeting—a comprehensive set of student achievement measures as detailed in their respective Accountability Plans.

SUNY Authorized Charter Schools: Grades Offered, Enrollment

City/Area	School	Grades Offered 2006-07	Enrollment as of 10-11-06	Grades Offered at Full Implementation of Charter
Albany	Achievement Academy Charter School	5-6	145	5-8
	Albany Community Charter School	K-1	104	K-4
	Albany Preparatory Charter School	5-6	111	5-8
	KIPP Tech Valley Charter School	5-6	162	5-8
	New Covenant Charter School	K-6	701	K-6
Bronx	Bronx Charter School for Better Learning	1-4	229	1-5
	Bronx Charter School for Excellence	K-3	200	K-4
	Bronx Preparatory Charter School	5-12	521	5-12
	Carl C. Icahn Charter School	K-7	280	K-7
	Family Life Academy Charter School	K-5	286	K-5
	Grand Concourse Academy Charter School	K-4	285	K-4
Brooklyn	Achievement First-Bushwick Charter School	K-1	163	K-8
	Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School	K-7	648	K-7
	Community Partnership Charter School	K-5	288	K-5
	Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant	K-3	177	K-5
	Leadership Preparatory Charter School	K-1	116	K-4
	UFT Charter School	K-2, 6	355	K-9
Buffalo	Buffalo United Charter School	K-7	484	K-7
	King Center Charter School	K-4	104	K-4
	KIPP Sankofa Charter School	5-8	250	5-8
	Oracle Charter School	7-10	243	7-12
	South Buffalo Charter School	K-8	641	K-8
	Tapestry Charter School	K-9	269	K-12
Manhattan	Amber Charter School	K-6	364	K-6
	Girls Preparatory Charter School	K-2	139	K-4
	Harbor Science and Arts Charter School	1-8	210	1-8
	Harlem Day Charter School	K-5	263	K-5
	Harlem Link Academy Charter School	K-2	162	K-4
	Harlem Village Academy Charter School	5-8	199	5-8
	KIPP S.T.A.R. College Prep Charter School	5-8	332	5-8
	Leadership Village Academy Charter School	5-6	114	5-6
	Sisulu-Walker Charter School	K-3	241	K-5
Queens	Merrick Academy - Queens Public Charter School	K-5	461	K-5
	Our World Neighborhood Charter School	K-8	670	K-8
Rochester	Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School	K-6	290	K-6
	True North Rochester Prep. Charter School	5	80	5-8
Roosevelt	Roosevelt Children's Academy Charter School	K-8	502	K-8
Rotterdam	International Charter School of Schenectady	K-8	693	K-8
Troy	Ark Community Charter School	K-6	179	K-6
Wainscott	Child Development Center of the Hamptons	K-8	65	K-8

To open in 2007/2008 (City, Grades Offered at Full Implementation of Charter):

Bedford Stuyvesant Collegiate C.S. (New York, 5-8); Carl C. Icahn C.S. Bronx North (New York, K-5); Family Academy C.S. of NY (Bronx, K-6); Green Tech Charter High (Albany, 9-12); and Henry Johnson C.S. (Albany, K-3)

WEB: Continued from page 2

details on how to apply to the State University Board of Trustees and includes a link to the SUNY application and resources helpful in its completion.

■ **For Schools**

This most in-depth section of the website is currently divided into seven subsections: Accountability Plans and Progress Reports; Compliance Resources; Fiscal Operations Resources; Grant Opportunities; School Visits; Renewal; and School Performance. In short, the *For Schools* section was designed to serve as a one-stop resource for SUNY authorized charter schools regarding the expectations, policies and practices of the SUNY Board of Trustees and the Institute (as a result, this section is also a valuable resource for anyone interested in understanding the SUNY authorizing process). Schools can refer to this section of the website to download key documents and for answers to commonly asked questions, such as: how to apply for a NYS Stimulus Grant, how to prepare an Accountability Plan Progress Report, or what notification is required when a school's board wants to add a new trustee. This section of the site also provides detailed information on the charter renewal process—including a guide for parents and community members.

■ **For Parents**

With the complete roster of New York charter schools (including those authorized by the Board of Regents, NYC Chancellor and local school districts), this section of the site features detailed school profiles: current enrollment, grades offered, school descriptions, latest state test results, links to each school's state report card, application information, and—in the case of SUNY authorized charter schools—links to Institute school-visit and renewal-visit reports. The *For Parents* section also includes an overview of charter schools generally and offers guidance for parents considering a charter school.

■ **Publications/Reports/Links and News**

These two sections of the website feature links to Institute publications, reports, and news releases. Also included are external links to charter related associations, organizations and resources.

The Institute continues to work to enhance its website and welcomes your feedback. Please send comments or suggestions via e-mail to charters@suny.edu.

About School Choice

The New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 called for the creation of schools that would “provide opportunities for teachers, parents, and community members to establish and maintain schools that operate independently of existing schools and school districts,” and meet the following objectives:

- (a) Improve student learning and achievement;
- (b) Increase learning opportunities for all students, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for students who are at-risk of academic failure;
- (c) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods;
- (d) Create new professional opportunities for teachers, school administrators and other school personnel;
- (e) Provide parents and students with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system; and
- (f) Provide schools with a method to change from rule-based to performance-based accountability systems by holding the schools established under this article accountable for meeting measurable student achievement results.

Charter schools are tuition-free, public schools—open to all children—that receive public education funding. What distinguishes a charter school from other public schools is that it is generally independent of the local school district and is governed by its own self-selected board of trustees.

Striking the delicate balance between giving schools autonomy and providing responsible oversight—and between treating the schools as independent institutions and still assuring accountability—are among the most pressing challenges facing today's charter school authorizers. It was with great pride that SUNY learned it was identified in the May 2006 *Issue Brief* from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools as, “...a particularly effective authorizer. It has taken its authorizing duties seriously—both in approving and in overseeing charters—and has not been afraid to close charters that haven't lived up to their promises.”