



# Charter Schools Institute

*The State University of New York*

## **SUNY TRUSTEES APPROVE STATE'S FIRST NEW CHARTER SCHOOLS SINCE JULY CAP INCREASE**

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### **For Immediate Release: Friday, October 26, 2007**

New York City - The State University of New York Board of Trustees, upon recommendation of its Committee on Charter Schools and the SUNY Charter Schools Institute, voted today to approve eight new charter schools to be located in: Manhattan (3); the Bronx (1); Brooklyn; (2), Queens (1); and upstate, in Troy (1) as listed below. Each of these schools plans to open in the fall of 2008. The Trustees' action marks the first approval of new charter schools in the state in nearly two years.

The New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 initially set a cap of 100 new charter schools; a cap that was met in January of 2006. In April of 2007, the New York State Legislature, with the support of Governor Eliot Spitzer, voted to raise the cap to 200 charter schools, effective July 1, 2007, as part of the 2007-08 budget process.

"The SUNY application review process, revised to align with the recent revisions to the New York Charter Schools Act, is a demanding one in which only the most competitive applications are advanced for approval," said State University Trustee and Committee on Charter Schools Co-Chair Edward F. Cox.

"By approving these charter schools the Trustees continue to expand the choices of families looking to give their children a quality education," said Board of Trustees Vice Chairman and Committee on Charter Schools Co-Chair Randy A. Daniels. "When you create choice and competition among public schools, you give all children a better chance for an education worthy of their highest aspirations."

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 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 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, and educational, fiscal and legal soundness. If an application remains in the review process through the RFA phase, a second interview of the lead applicant and schools' proposed boards of trustees is then conducted by one or more members of the State University Trustees' Committee on Charter Schools.

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“It has been almost two years since the Institute has received new charter school applications and made subsequent recommendations to the State University Trustees for approval,” said Dr. Jennifer G. Sneed, Charter Schools Institute Senior Vice President. “This has truly been an exciting time and an opportunity for us to put to work all that we have learned in eight years of authorizing charter schools. The schools approved today have each met the Institute’s and Trustees’ standard of having a high likelihood of significantly improving student achievement, especially for students at risk of academic failure.”

There are currently 96 charter schools operating in New York State. Of those 96 schools, 43 were authorized by the State University Trustees. A recent Institute analysis of the 2006-07 state exams revealed that 74 percent of SUNY-authorized charter schools outperformed their local districts on the State exam in mathematics, and 70 percent outperformed their local districts on the State exam in English Language Arts.

The approved schools are as follows:

- **HARLEM SUCCESS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL 2 (MANHATTAN)**  
Proposed location is NYC CSD 5; first year proposed enrollment/grades served: 155 students/K-1; fifth year proposed enrollment/grades served: 575 students/K-5. The school will contract with the non-profit charter management organization Success Charter Network, Inc.
- **HARLEM SUCCESS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL 3 (MANHATTAN)**  
Proposed location is NYC CSD 5; first year proposed enrollment/grades served: 155 students/K-1; fifth year proposed enrollment/grades served: 575 students/K-5. The school will contract with the non-profit charter management organization Success Charter Network, Inc.
- **HARLEM SUCCESS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL 4 (MANHATTAN)**  
Proposed location is NYC CSD 3; first year proposed enrollment/grades served: 155 students/K-1; 5; fifth year proposed enrollment/grades served: 575 students/K-5. The school will contract with the non-profit charter management organization Success Charter Network, Inc.
- **GREEN DOT NEW YORK CHARTER SCHOOL (BRONX)**  
Proposed location is NYC CSD 7; first year proposed enrollment/grades served is: 115 students/9; fifth year proposed enrollment/grades served: 420 students/9-12. The School will be supported by a partnership with both Green Dot Public Schools and the United Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation.
- **ACHIEVEMENT FIRST BROWNSVILLE CHARTER SCHOOL (BROOKLYN)** Proposed location is NYC CSD 23 First year proposed enrollment/grades served: 84 students/5; Fifth year proposed enrollment/grades served: 708 students/K-3, 5-8. The school will contract with the non-profit charter management organization Achievement First, Inc.
- **COLLEGIATE CHARTER SCHOOL (BROOKLYN)**  
Proposed location is NYC CSD 17; first year proposed enrollment/grades served: 81 students/5; fifth year proposed enrollment/grades served: 366 students/5-8. The school will contract with the non-profit charter management organization Uncommon Schools, Inc.

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- **CARL C. ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL FAR ROCKAWAY (QUEENS)**  
Proposed location is NYC CSD 27; first year proposed enrollment/grades served: 108 students/K-2; fifth year proposed enrollment/grades served: 216 students/K-5. The school intends to partner with the not-for-profit Foundation for a Greater Opportunity, whose mission is to help charter schools.
- **TRUE NORTH PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL (TROY)**  
Proposed location is the city of Troy; first year proposed enrollment/grades served: 78 students/5; fifth year proposed enrollment/grades served: 299 students/5-8. The school will contract with the non-profit charter management organization Uncommon Schools, Inc.

In making its recommendation for approval to the State University Trustees, the Institute prepares detailed Summary of Findings and Recommendations documents that thoroughly describe each school. These documents will be available via the homepage of the Institute's website shortly following the Board of Trustees' meeting, please see "What's New" at: [www.newyorkcharters.org](http://www.newyorkcharters.org).

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

The application review process is one of several SUNY authorizing practices featured in a recently released publication from the United States Department of Education entitled, Supporting Charter School Excellence Through Quality Authorizing, available at: <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/choice/charter/authorizing/authorizing.pdf>.

The Charter Schools Institute was created by the SUNY Board of 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 SUNY Board of 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.