



# News Release

## **SUNY Trustees Approve Four Applications for New Charter Schools and Renew Two Charter Schools**

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Contact: Michelle Bianchi; [Michelle.Bianchi@suny.edu](mailto:Michelle.Bianchi@suny.edu)

New York – Upon recommendation of the SUNY Charter Schools Institute, the SUNY Board of Trustees' Charter Schools Committee ("Committee"), acting on behalf of the full SUNY Board of Trustees, today approved 4 resolutions to approve 4 new charter schools, and approved 2 resolutions to renew 2 SUNY authorized charter schools.

This vote brings the number of SUNY authorized charter schools to 200, serving over 100,000 students. SUNY is the largest authorizer of charter schools in New York State and the largest higher education authorizer in the country.

Brief summaries of each decision follow. Full proposals and related resources can be found here: <http://www.newyorkcharters.org/request-for-proposals/2018-request-for-proposals-round-2-fall-cycle/>

### **Approved New Charters**

- **Lamad Academy Charter School** will open in August 2019 to serve 125 students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The school will grow to serve 375 students in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated location for the school is in CSD 18. Select key design elements include a co-teaching model and robust instructional supports, an emphasis on math and science and an integration of the two across all other subjects, a three-week summer bridge program for all incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students or those that are new to Lamad Academy, and Saturday academy twice monthly to address supplemental instructional needs.
- **Our World Neighborhood Charter School 3** will open in September 2019 to serve 156 students in K-1<sup>st</sup> grade. The school will grow to serve 477 students in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated location for the school is in CSD 30. Key design elements include an emphasis on literacy across the curriculum, socio-economic diversity reflecting the community, a robust intervention program, and use of assessments to inform instruction.

- **Storefront Academy Harlem Charter School** will open in August 2019 to serve 100 students in K-1<sup>st</sup> grade. The school will grow to serve 300 students in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated location for the school is in CSD 5. Key design elements include implementation of a strong academic program, differentiated instruction and Response to Intervention, enrichment through a variety of arts programs, field trips, and adult mentors, opportunity for parent involvement, and a focus on strength of character.
- **Truxton Academy Charter School** will open in August 2019 to serve 68 students in K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The school will grow to serve 141 students in K-6<sup>th</sup> grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated location for the school is in Homer Central School District. Key design elements include project-based learning, STEM with an agricultural and environmental focus, elementary Spanish curriculum, and school family culture.

## Renewals

- **Family Life Academy Charter School III** opened its doors in the fall of 2014 initially serving 100 students in K-1<sup>st</sup> grade. The school is authorized to serve 260 students in K-4<sup>th</sup> grade for 2018-19 and plans to continue to serve that grade range in the next charter term. The school is located in privately leased space at 370 Gerard Ave, Bronx, NY in CSD 7. Family Life Academy Charter School III received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **Grand Concourse Academy Charter School** opened its doors in the fall of 2004 initially serving 181 students in K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The school is authorized to serve 695 students in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade for 2018-19 and plans to continue to serve that grade range for 790 students in the next charter term. The school is located in privately leased space at 925 Hutchinson River Parkway, Bronx, NY in CSD 8. Grand Concourse Academy Charter School received a full-term renewal of five years.

*SUNY is the largest charter school authorizer in New York State and the largest university-based charter school authorizer in the country. The SUNY Charter Schools Institute was created by the SUNY Board of Trustees to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities under the New York Charter Schools Act (the "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; ongoing oversight and evaluation of operating schools; 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. Charter schools in New York trade greater autonomy in exchange for greater accountability for academic outcomes. Each charter school has a charter contract that is signed by its board of trustees and the authorizer of the school. As part of the contract, the accountability plan for each school establishes the academic goals that must be met and how those goals will be measured. Contracts last a maximum of five years as set by the Act. In order to continue operating, a charter school must apply to renew its charter at the end of each charter term. Receiving approval to continue operating is the core of accountability required by the Act.*