



**Charter Schools Institute**  
The State University of New York

2021-22

# APPLICATION FOR CHARTER RENEWAL

FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY  
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK BOARD OF TRUSTEES

# SUNY AS A CHARTER AUTHORIZER

The Act designates the State University of New York Board of Trustees (“SUNY Trustees”) as one of two statewide chartering entities, or “authorizers,” along with the Board of Regents, each having authority to grant charters for the purpose of organizing charter school education corporations to operate one or more independent and autonomous public charter schools. SUNY is the largest charter school authorizer in New York State and the largest university based authorizer in the country.

The SUNY Charter Schools Institute’s (the “Institute’s”) work in this regard is designed to support the SUNY Trustees’ commitment to the guiding principles of the Act: to establish schools that operate in an academically, fiscally, and legally sound manner and provide outstanding educational opportunities for all students especially those at risk of academic failure; and to oversee approved schools in a manner that respects their independence and autonomy while holding them accountable for student achievement results—including a commitment to close schools that have failed to live up to their promises. Through renewal, the Institute makes recommendations to the SUNY Trustees’ Charter Schools Committee (the “Committee”) on each school’s renewal.

Since its inception, the Institute has been recognized on numerous occasions for the quality of its authorizing practices. The CfBT Education Trust and the World Bank featured SUNY’s authorizing practices in an online toolkit promoting public and private partnerships to support quality education. The toolkit, which includes a case study detailing SUNY’s charter approval process, strategies for oversight, and criteria for schools to earn charter renewal, can be found at [this link from the Education Development Trust website](#). The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (“NACSA”) awarded SUNY planning and implementation grants to support its work relating to the replication of high quality charter schools. NACSA also awarded SUNY the Award for Excellence in Improving Authorizer Practice recognizing SUNY for having the “best application process” for creating new charter schools. This award was particularly notable given it was the first year that the Act required SUNY to transition to a request-for-proposals process.

Positive results in the classroom affirm recognition of SUNY’s authorizing work. Results from the 2018-19 New York State tests for all public schools showed 91% of SUNY authorized charter schools outperformed their district of location on the mathematics assessment and 88% outperformed their district on the English language arts (“ELA”) assessment. According to a review of the data from the January 2010 CREDO study, SUNY authorized charter schools yield greater gains in student achievement than their New York City charter and district peer schools. Further, in the Institute’s regression analysis of each charter school compared to demographically similar schools (comparable percentages of economically disadvantaged students) statewide, SUNY authorized charter schools consistently perform better than projected to a meaningful degree in both ELA and mathematics.

SUNY authorizes 213 charter schools serving approximately 114,000 students across New York State in the 2020-21 school year:

- 189 in and around New York City- Manhattan (40); Brooklyn (71); Bronx (58); Queens (16); Staten Island (1); Roosevelt (1); Hempstead (1); Uniondale (1);
- 6 in the Capital District- Albany (5); Troy (1); and,
- 18 in Western/Central New York – Buffalo (10); Elmira (1); Homer (1); Ithaca (1); Rochester (5).

The SUNY Trustees support diversity and innovative program design in the charter schools they authorize. The SUNY Trustees set a high bar of expectations for student achievement particularly for students most at risk of academic failure, but realize there is more than one way to meet that bar.

Among the portfolio of SUNY authorized charter schools are: schools with a particular focus on English language learners (“ELLs”); multiple schools using the Core Knowledge curriculum; schools implementing the International Baccalaureate Programme (“IB”), including offering IBE diploma; single gender schools; a Montessori program; two schools devoted to providing a high quality educational program to high needs students with autism; a school devoted to students who are or have been enrolled in the child welfare system, are homeless, or who have graduated from a failing middle school; a school infusing the principles of sustainability throughout the curriculum; and, many more.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT RENEWAL

| 2

TIMELINE

| 3

INTRODUCTION:  
RENEWAL  
OVERVIEW

| 6

ELECTRONIC FILE  
CONVENTIONS

| 10

APPLICATION FOR  
CHARTER RENEWAL

| 11

# ABOUT RENEWAL

The charter renewal process is central to the autonomy-for-accountability bargain that serves as the foundation for the Act and for the high standards and expectations of the SUNY Trustees. As such, the SUNY Trustees do not automatically grant charter renewal; a school must demonstrate that it has earned the opportunity to serve students in an additional charter term. An Application for Charter Renewal is the means by which an education corporation makes its case for charter renewal and/or renewal of its authority to operate a school for an additional charter term. In order to make a compelling case for renewal, the education corporation must present clear and concise evidence of the school's attainment of the State University of New York Charter Renewal Benchmarks (the "SUNY Renewal Benchmarks").<sup>1</sup>

The SUNY Renewal Benchmarks, grounded in the body of research from the Center for Urban Studies at Harvard University,<sup>2</sup> describe the elements in place at schools that are highly effective at providing students from low income backgrounds the instruction, content, knowledge, and skills necessary to produce strong academic performance. The SUNY Renewal Benchmarks detail the elements an effective school must have in place at the time of renewal.

Consistent with the Policies for the Renewal of Not-for-Profit Charter School Education Corporations and Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York (the "SUNY Renewal Policies"),<sup>3</sup> the Institute conducts renewal reviews, including an on-site evaluation visit, near the end of each school's charter term. Unlike regular school evaluation visits, which focus mainly on the school's academic program and organizational capacity, renewal reviews address all of the SUNY Renewal Benchmarks. All of the following forms the basis of the Institute's Renewal Recommendation to the SUNY Trustees:

- evidence collected during the renewal review process;
- student performance data throughout the current Accountability Period and from prior periods;
- information submitted by the school; and,
- information in Institute files and obtained from previous visits.

The Committee votes to renew or not renew a school. The Committee acts on behalf of the full SUNY Board of Trustees and the Committee's action is final.

Education corporations may not appeal the Committee's decision.

## **Note About COVID-19 School Closure Period**

For all schools due for renewal in the 2021-22 school year, the SUNY Trustees recognize the profound impact that school closure presents. Due to the absence of reliable 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade state test scores for the final two years of the schools' Accountability Periods and the cancellation of Regents exams in June and August 2020 and January and August 2021, for the purposes of attainment of the state assessment dependent academic measures in each schools' Accountability Plan, the SUNY Trustees will rely on the first three years of data available during the Accountability Period for schools in a subsequent charter term, and the first two years for schools in an initial charter term including results from the January 2020 administration of the Regents exams. The Institute will closely review data that each school submits with its Accountability Plan Progress Report from nationally normed and internal assessments.

1. Version 5.0, May 2012, available at: [www.newyorkcharters.org/renewal/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/renewal/).

2. An extensive body of research identifying and confirming the correlates of effective schools exists dating back four decades. Selected sources include: [www.scholar.harvard.edu/files/fryer/files/dobbie\\_fryer\\_revision\\_final.pdf](http://www.scholar.harvard.edu/files/fryer/files/dobbie_fryer_revision_final.pdf); and, [gao.gov/assets/80/77488.pdf](http://gao.gov/assets/80/77488.pdf).

3. Available at: [www.newyorkcharters.org/renewal/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/renewal/).

# RENEWAL TIMELINE\*

Phase	Description	Approximate Timeline
Submission of the Application for Charter Renewal	<p>A charter school education corporation submits its Application for Charter Renewal to the Institute.</p> <p>The deadline for receipt of all application materials is 5 p.m. on August 16, 2021. If COVID-19 related issues arise and impact an education corporation’s ability to submit on time, the education corporation should reach out to the Institute as soon as possible.</p> <p>Note: Accountability Plan Progress Reports are due August 16, 2021.</p>	August 16 <sup>th</sup>
Notice and Opportunity for Comment	<p>Pursuant to the Act, within 30 days of receipt of an Application for Charter Renewal, the Institute notifies the district of location and public and private schools in the same geographic area about receipt of the application, when the SUNY Trustees may act on it, and the district’s obligation to hold a public hearing. The Institute also posts the notices on its website and invites and considers written comments from the public. The Institute forwards district comments to the SUNY Trustees and, if the SUNY Trustees approve the application, to the Board of Regents. In some cases, the Institute may ask the school to respond to such comments.</p> <p>Within 30 days of the above notice, the district of location holds a hearing to solicit comments from the community. The failure of a school district to hold a hearing will not prevent the issuance of a renewal decision or charter.</p>	August – October
Application Review	The Institute reviews the application as well as the existing data and records in its files collected on the school over the life of the charter.	August – November
Application Revision (Request for Amendment Process)	The Institute may ask for amendments to parts of the application, some of which may be required by statute, because the Institute incorporates parts of the application into the renewal charter if the SUNY Trustees grant renewal.	August – April

\*This timeline is the typical Renewal timeline; however, please monitor [www.newyorkcharters.org/renewal/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/renewal/) in case further issues arise with COVID-19 related facility closures.

Phase	Description	Approximate Timeline
Renewal Visit	<p>The Institute typically conducts a site visit to the school, during which it observes instruction, conducts interviews, and reviews documentary evidence including information relating to academic achievement, curriculum, pedagogy, internal assessment, board governance, and fiscal and legal compliance. The Institute typically conducts an interview of the education corporation’s board of trustees during the visit or on a separate date.</p> <p>During or after the renewal visit, the Institute may require additional documentation and other evidence where necessary and appropriate. The Institute may also conduct follow up visits where it deems necessary.</p> <p>For some networks, the Institute may conduct interviews with network level staff members.</p> <p>As of the publishing of this application, the Institute is still considering a few options for conducting visits in fall 2021. Where possible, the Institute will conduct full in person visits, but also recognizes that, depending on specific health and safety guidelines, visit teams may conduct a portion of the visit remotely.</p> <p>Over summer 2021, the Institute will connect with each school due for renewal in 2021-22 to determine scheduling and possible options for visits.</p>	September – December
DRAFT Renewal Recommendation Report	<p>Based on the totality of information and evidence collected over the course of the charter term, including the application for renewal, previous evaluation visits and the renewal visit, as well as other pertinent information, the Institute produces a draft report of its findings which contains a preliminary renewal recommendation.</p> <p>The Institute shares the draft report with the education corporation and invites factual corrections to ensure accuracy.</p> <p>Where the Institute makes a preliminary recommendation of non-renewal, it provides the education corporation with an opportunity to provide written comments in opposition to the recommendation. In addition, the Institute offers an opportunity to have Institute staff appear at the school to listen to a presentation of evidence in opposition to the preliminary non-renewal recommendation.</p>	October – February

Final Renewal Recommendation Report	<p>Based on the evidence it has compiled and analyzed, including any evidence in opposition to a preliminary non-renewal recommendation, the Institute prepares its final recommendation report for the Committee.</p> <p>The Institute sends the final report to the Committee and the education corporation, and provides the Committee with any comments from the district of location.</p> <p>The education corporation must distribute the final Institute report to the school community.</p> <p>Where the Institute’s renewal report recommends non-renewal, the education corporation may petition the Committee for an opportunity to oppose the recommendation.</p> <p>If the Committee grants a petition, the education corporation may present documentary evidence as well as legal arguments. The Committee determines the form, time, manner and place, and other specifics of the petition.</p>	December – March
Phase	Description	Approximate Timeline
Action of the Charter Schools Committee	<p>The Committee votes to renew or not renew a school’s charter. The Committee acts on behalf of the full SUNY Board of Trustees and the Committee’s action is final.</p> <p>Education corporations may not appeal the Committee’s decision.</p>	Ongoing during the school year
Action of the Board of Regents	<p>The Institute sends a proposed renewal charter, which includes the renewal application, to the education corporation for signature and then forwards it to the Board of Regents for action (consisting of either approval or return to the SUNY Trustees for further consideration). The Board of Regents has 90 days to review the proposed renewal charter.</p> <p>If the Board of Regents takes no action on the proposed renewal charter, it will be approved by operation of law and the charter will be renewed.</p> <p>If the Board of Regents returns the proposed renewal charter, the Committee, on behalf of the SUNY Trustees, may either resubmit the proposed charter (with or without modification) or abandon the proposed charter. The education corporation must agree to any modification in writing.</p> <p>If the Committee resubmits the proposed renewal charter, the Board of Regents has 30 days in which to act. If the Board of Regents does not vote to approve the resubmitted renewal charter, the charter will be deemed approved and issued by operation of law on the 31<sup>st</sup> day.</p> <p>If the Institute recommends or the Committee votes to abandon the proposed renewal charter, the education corporation will be permitted to petition the Committee to overturn the recommendation or vote.</p>	Within 90 days of the submission by the Institute



# INTRODUCTION

## RENEWAL OVERVIEW

### RENEWAL OUTCOMES

#### Initial Renewal

The SUNY Renewal Policies define three potential outcomes for SUNY authorized charter schools coming to renewal for the first time: Full-Term Renewal (five years); Short-Term Renewal (typically three years); or, Non-Renewal (closure). During the fifth year of a school's initial charter term, the Institute makes a renewal recommendation to the SUNY Trustees based on the extent to which the school has met or come close to meeting its Accountability Plan goals, has in place an effective educational program as assessed using the Qualitative Education Benchmarks, and has met all other benchmarks related to governance, compliance, and fiscal soundness.

#### Subsequent Renewal

The SUNY Renewal Policies define two potential outcomes for SUNY authorized charter schools that have already been renewed at least one time: Full-Term Renewal (five years) or Non-Renewal (closure). The SUNY Renewal Policies specifically do not provide a Short-Term Renewal outcome for schools in subsequent charter terms. When making recommendations regarding subsequent charter renewals, the Institute relies most heavily on student achievement data and schools' performance against Accountability Plan goals as the standard all schools must meet or come close to meeting. While cancellation of the state exams and Regents assessments disrupts the availability of data to determine Accountability Plan goal attainment, the Institute will closely examine and consider evidence of academic success from nationally normed or internal assessments.

Any school facing charter renewal should weigh carefully whether it has the track record of success necessary to meet the criteria for renewal. Prior to submitting an application, an education corporation board should review the SUNY Renewal Policies, examine data analyses and other reports provided by school leadership, and review communications from the Institute regarding the school's performance against its Accountability Plan goals and measures. If upon consideration of these factors, the board finds that the school does not meet the requirements for renewal, the Institute strongly suggests that the board consider not submitting an application for charter renewal. Should the board decide against applying for renewal, the school would continue to operate for the final year of the charter term while the education corporation, with the assistance of the Institute, begins wind down procedures for the school to close at the end of the school year. For more information about this process, please contact the Institute's General Counsel.

## RENEWAL FINDINGS

In addition to making a recommendation based on a determination of whether the school has met the SUNY Trustees' specific renewal criteria, the Institute must make the following findings required by the Act:

- the school, as described in the Application for Charter Renewal, meets the requirements of the Act and all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations;
- the education corporation can demonstrate the ability to operate the school in an educationally and fiscally sound manner in the next charter term; and,
- given the programs it will offer, its structure and its purpose, approving the school to operate for another five years is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes of the Act.<sup>4</sup>

As required by Education Law § 2851(4)(e), a school must include in its renewal application information regarding the efforts it will put in place to meet or exceed the SUNY Trustees' enrollment and retention targets for students with disabilities, ELLs, and students who are eligible applicants for the federal Free and Reduced Price Lunch ("FRPL") program. The Institute may ask for further information and evidence regarding the school's current efforts regarding these students.

## RENEWAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Institute makes renewal recommendations based on a variety of evidence gathered and analyzed over the course of a charter term. This evidence includes a school's Application for Charter Renewal and record in meeting or coming close to meeting the school's Accountability Plan goals. The Qualitative Education Benchmarks guide the assessment of strength and effectiveness of the academic program that was in place during on-site evaluation visits conducted throughout the charter term.

The Institute uses the following four interconnected questions for framing its renewal reviews and to determine if a school has made an adequate case for renewal:

- 1) Is the school an academic success?
- 2) Is the school an effective, viable organization?
- 3) Is the education corporation fiscally sound?
- 4) If the SUNY Trustees renew the education corporation's authority to operate the school, are its plans for the school reasonable, feasible, and achievable?

For additional information regarding the renewal criteria for SUNY authorized charter schools, please refer to the SUNY Renewal Policies.

**This Application for Charter Renewal is available on the Institute's website at:  
[www.newyorkcharters.org/renewal/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/renewal/).**

**The Institute will post all updates/modifications to this document online.**

4. See New York Education Law § 2852(2).

# INTRODUCTION

## RENEWAL APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS

### INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE

Rather than providing a full response to each request and reproducing information already in Institute files, an education corporation may submit some Responses and Exhibits required in the Application for Charter Renewal by referencing the Terms of Operation of the existing charter agreement<sup>5</sup> between SUNY and the same education corporation.

Education corporations must use the Renewal Application Checklist (the “Checklist”), discussed in a subsequent section of this document, to indicate the submission status of all required components. An Application for Charter Renewal is incomplete until the education corporation provides all required Responses and Exhibits, either by submitting new material or incorporating by reference. Note that education corporations cannot incorporate by reference all components of the Application for Charter Renewal. The Checklist indicates which components require submission of original material.

Note: Documents to be incorporated by reference must have been submitted to the Institute as part of original, merger, renewal, or revision application. Any documents submitted to the Institute prior to the 2015-16 school year in original form may not be incorporated by reference.

### FORMATTING AND SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

An education corporation must submit all required information as either a “Response” or an “Exhibit.” Responses generally comprise the school’s documentary evidence of success in the current charter term while Exhibits generally provide information to be incorporated into a new charter agreement should the SUNY Trustees approve the Application for Charter Renewal.

#### ***Page Formatting***

Application Responses and Exhibits should be typed in a traditional typeface (e.g., Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial) at a font size of 11 points or larger. Margins, in all directions, should be at least an inch. While double spacing between lines of text is most preferred, spacing should be set at a minimum of 1.15. Application Responses and Exhibits should also include page numbers at the bottom of every page. If the Institute does not specify a page limit, please provide a response that is as thorough yet succinct as possible. Applications will not automatically be disqualified if Responses and Exhibits fail to adhere to the recommended page format. However, application materials that excessively disregard recommended formatting (e.g., illegible font size) and/or page limits will only be considered at the Institute’s discretion. In such instances, the Institute may request the applicant to revise and resubmit the application sections, further delaying the review process.

5. These appear under Exhibit A – Terms of Operation of the current charter agreement.

### ***Submitting Materials to the Institute***

Education corporations must submit all materials as digital files to the Institute by the deadlines noted in the Renewal Application Timeline (see page i). It is not necessary to submit a paper copy of the full renewal application.

Applicants must upload all files to Epicenter, which is an online system to help schools meet compliance requirements and to manage documents. All schools currently have school leaders and staff members with existing log in credentials to Epicenter. Please note that this is the only way schools will be able to submit the Application for Charter Renewal materials. Please email [charter.epicenter@suny.edu](mailto:charter.epicenter@suny.edu) if the education corporation needs any support or help with using Epicenter or if the education corporation needs to add more users to Epicenter. To add new users, a representative from the education corporation must complete the Epicenter User Security Request Form found at [www.newyorkcharters.org/accountability/renewal/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/accountability/renewal/).

The education corporation has the opportunity to incorporate some submissions by reference. If this is the case, the education corporation should indicate as such in the narrative field for the submission and still submit every required entry for the Application for Charter Renewal.

The inclusion of one or more files that the Institute determines are inaccessible (i.e., Institute staff are unable to open or read the file(s)) may result in the finding that the application is incomplete. Upon review of electronic submissions and at its discretion, the Institute may request a paper copy to clarify formatting and other issues.

### ***Electronic Formatting***

Submit digital files as follows:

- Epicenter will have a submission collection for both the Responses and Exhibits;
- When submitting Responses and Exhibits, each submission should be titled and formatted as described in the table below. Note that the Application Checklist has the proper filename in quotations for each item, and this format should be used when completing the application.  
**Please be sure that MS Word® files contain no tracked changes.**
- Acceptable electronic formats for the saved files are MS Word®, MS Excel®, or Adobe Acrobat® only as indicated below. Scanned files in Adobe Acrobat® format should be OCR'd (Optical Character Recognition) and Optimized to reduce the file size. Do not submit files in any file type except as directed in the table below.

### ***Types of Submissions***

During the renewal process, the education corporation will submit the Application for Charter Renewal by the set deadline. As visit dates are planned, the education corporation will have another set of entries to submit to the Institute in the form of pre-visit documentation to help assist with the school visit schedule and information gathering. The due date is typically three weeks before the scheduled visit. An additional entry is set for each school with a deadline of December 31 to allow education corporations to submit any further information in regard to Renewal including data corrections and other documentation.

# ELECTRONIC FILE CONVENTIONS

Response	Required File Name	File Type
A	A_Transmittal Form_School Name	MS Word® or Adobe Acrobat®
B	B_App Checklist_School Name	MS Excel®
C(1)	C1_Executive Summary_School Name	MS Word®
C(2)	C2_Overview_School Name	MS Excel®
D(1)a	D1a_APPR_School Name	MS Word®
D(1)b	D1b_Annual Reports_School Name	MS Word®
D(2)a	D2a_Satisfaction_School Name	MS Word®
D(2)b	D2b_Contact Info_School Name	MS Excel®
D(2)c(1)	D2c1_Handbook_School Name	MS Excel®
D(2)c(2-13)	D2c<number>_<Policy Name>_School Name	MS Word®
D(2)d	D2d_Assurances_School Name	MS Word® or Adobe Acrobat®
D(3)a	D3a_Fiscal Policies_School Name	MS Word®
D(3)b	D3b_Miscellaneous Fin_School Name	MS Word®
D(4)a	D4a_Educational Program_School Name	MS Word®
D(4)b	D4b_Governance Structure_School Name	MS Word®
D(4)c	D4c_Fiscal Plan_School Name	MS Word®
D(4)d	D4d_Facility Plan_School Name	MS Word®
E	E_Supplemental Info_School Name	MS Word®

Exhibit	Required File Name	File Type
A	A_Mission_School Name	MS Word® or Adobe Acrobat®
B	B_KDE_School Name	MS Word®
C	C_Enrollment_School Name	MS Word® or MS Excel®
D	D_Calendar and Schedule_School Name	MS Word
E	E_Staffing Plan_School Name	MS Word® or MS Excel®
F	F_Accountability Plan_School Name	MS Word®
G	G_Enrollment and Retention Plan_School Name	MS Word®
H	H_By-Laws_School Name	MS Word®
I	I_Code of Ethics_School Name	MS Word®
J	J_Management Contract_School Name	MS Word® or Adobe Acrobat®
K	K_Budget Projection_School Name	MS Excel®

## RESOURCES

The Institute's Renewal webpage includes links to multiple documents related to the renewal process. Additional information is available at:

[www.newyorkcharters.org/accountability/renewal/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/accountability/renewal/).

# APPLICATION FOR CHARTER RENEWAL

## TRANSMITTAL FORM

All schools must submit a signed Transmittal Form with the Application for Charter Renewal.

The Institute accepts digital and handwritten signatures. If a handwritten signature is used, applicants should include a scanned copy of the signed form with the application, and ensure the Institute receives the paper copy of the Transmittal Form, bearing the original signature, by the application deadline. The Transmittal Form outlines the enrollment and grades being requested for the next charter term; **the same grades and enrollment details need to align with the Exhibit C Enrollment Chart and the Budget Projection submission.** Include brief biography sketches of each board member in the Transmittal Form. The Transmittal Form is available on the Institute's website at: [www.newyorkcharters.org/charter-renewal-application/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/charter-renewal-application/).

## WHAT TO SUBMIT:

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Transmittal Form as an Adobe Acrobat® file named: **A\_Transmittal Form\_School Name**

## RENEWAL APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Complete the Checklist found here: [www.newyorkcharters.org/charter-renewal-application/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/charter-renewal-application/).

Carefully complete each column per the instructions below.

### **Column A**

- For each relevant Response or Exhibit, indicate whether the submission incorporates a full response to the request or if it references an already existing document. Note that education corporations may only incorporate materials that the SUNY Trustees have already approved.
  - Note: Documents to be incorporated by reference must have been submitted to the Institute as part of original, merger, renewal, or revision application. Any documents submitted to the Institute prior to the 2015-16 school year in original form may not be incorporated by reference.
- Education corporations that do not incorporate a Response or Exhibit by reference should select "No," attach the appropriate document to the application, and move to the next item on the Checklist.

The remaining columns should only be completed if the answer in Column A was "Yes."

**Column B**

- If the incorporated information applies to all schools in the education corporation (effectively revising the terms of operation of the existing schools), select “All Schools.”
- If the response applies only to the renewal school and not to other schools in the education corporation, select “Renewal School.”
- If there is only one school in the education corporation, select “N/A.”

**Column C**

For each relevant Response or Exhibit, indicate if the referenced document will be revised (“Yes”) or will not be revised (“No”). See below for details:

- Incorporating by reference with no revisions indicates that the approach described in the referenced document was either (a) part of the SUNY charter application for another charter school in the education corporation and will now be put in place at the renewal school, or was (b) already in place at the renewal school and will continue. The education corporation should not submit new documents in these cases.
- Incorporating by reference with revisions suggests that the renewal school would use a substantially similar approach as described in the incorporated document, but would apply some small changes. For example, the renewal school may incorporate the education corporation’s existing special education program, except to add a setting that is not part of the current terms of operation. In these cases, include only a description of the proposed revision.

**Column D**

- Provide the name, title, filename, etc., of materials that you are incorporating. If you are referencing a subsection of a document, identify the section as specifically as possible. For example, if the education corporation were to choose to incorporate by reference the special education services of a school approved by the SUNY Trustees under the January 2011 RFP, the corresponding information to be supplied should read, “Attachment 13(a) – Students with Disabilities,” which is the part of the Terms of Operation of the Charter Agreement dated June 15, 2011 that explains the special education services for the school. If the reference is to another education corporation’s charter or to the Terms of Operation of a specific school within an education corporation, please indicate that clearly.
- If the Institute approved a material revision to the education corporation’s charter, the renewal application should include the date(s) of the original charter and of the material revision, as applicable. For example, “January 15, 2011 Charter Agreement, Exhibit A, Response 12 as amended by the charter revision of March 2013.”
- Applications do not need to note non-material revisions, but a best practice would be to draft those changes into the response and indicate that it would be applicable to the entire charter school education corporation.

**Column E**

Indicate the year that SUNY approved the relevant section of the charter. Typically, this would be the date that the SUNY Trustees approved the renewal school’s original charter, a renewal charter for the current renewal school or another school in the same education corporation, a merger, or a material revision.

**WHAT TO SUBMIT:**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Application Checklist as a MS Excel® file named: **B\_App Checklist \_ School Name**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Please note the following in preparing the Executive Summary:

- As the Application for Charter Renewal looks both backward and forward, the Executive Summary should articulate how and to what extent the vision, design, and implementation of the school's current charter have proven effective in improving student achievement, and what changes, if any, the education corporation envisions if the SUNY Trustees renew the charter.
- The Institute puts more weight on a discussion of the processes that the education corporation took to remedy specific leadership, organizational, or programmatic deficiencies, rather than simply promoting a claim of current school effectiveness. Such a discussion shows the resilience and depth of the organization and its ability to address future challenges. The description would further benefit from an explicit link between the organizational issues and student performance before the education corporation undertook corrective action and the resulting change in performance.
- While the focus of the Executive Summary must be the school's record of improving student learning and achievement, this section should cover all aspects of the education corporation's operation, e.g., governance, financial stability, plans for the next charter term.
- The Executive Summary should include a summary of the school's response to the challenge including any lasting, or expected, changes to the school program. Include any lessons learned and accomplishments made during the COVID-19 facility closure period. In addition, the Executive Summary should include a brief summary of the school's analysis and understanding of current student achievement levels in the absence of state test data.
- Please include a section of the Executive Summary with a description of the efforts to support students, families, and the schools' staff members during the COVID-19 facility closure period. The Institute, and the SUNY Trustees, are interested in understanding as much about the efforts, challenges, and successes schools undertook during this time.
- The Executive Summary must not exceed 15 pages in length.

### WHAT TO SUBMIT:

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Executive Summary as a MS Word® file named:

**C1\_Executive Summary\_School Name**

## STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

All schools must submit a Statistical Overview with the Application for Charter Renewal. The Institute will provide the school(s) a pre-populated Statistical Overview (based on BEDS Day data including the preliminary data available for 2020-21) for the education corporation to review and provide edits/comments and resubmit. The pre-populated template will be available through Epicenter. The Statistical Overview requires schools to review/provide information regarding:

- Enrollment: including students with disabilities, ELLs, and economically disadvantaged students;
- Retention: including number of students eligible to return from the previous academic year and the number of those students who returned; and,
- Discipline data.



- **Note:** For education corporations with more than one school, the statistical overview must include data for each school in the education corporation in addition to the charter school(s) under renewal consideration.

## WHAT TO SUBMIT:

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Statistical Overview as a MS Excel® file named:  
**C2\_Overview\_School Name**

# ACADEMIC SUCCESS

*The Act requires that schools demonstrate the ability to improve student learning and achievement.*

## ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The school's application must include the most recent annual Accountability Plan Progress Report (2020-2021) indicating its progress in achieving the academic goals (and each of the specific measures) in its Accountability Plan.

- This response must be completed by August 16, 2021.
- The Regents' cancellation of the administration of 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade exams in ELA and mathematics and the June and August administrations of the Regents exams in all subjects prevents the calculation of metrics used for accountability reporting during 2020-21. Uncertainty about the reliability of 2021 state exam and Regents data also complicates analysis and interpretation of any resulting scores. The Accountability Plan Progress Report must discuss the extent to which the school has made progress toward meeting the goals included in its Accountability Plan. All of the required measures will not be available to determine goal attainment. Instead, schools will use other available data to report growth, gap closing, and absolute achievement during the final two years of the Accountability Period according to the Institute's framework for analysis of nationally normed and internal assessment data. Please continue to monitor the Institute's weekly newsletter and Accountability webpage ([www.newyorkcharters.org/accountability](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/accountability)) for more updated information.
- The school's Accountability Plan Progress Report is a key lever for the school to make its case for renewal. Each section of the report includes space to present additional quantitative evidence of high academic outcomes. Schools should use this opportunity to present all quantitative data that is relevant to make the school's case for renewal, including any comparative data the school uses in evaluating and discussing its performance. Schools should also use this opportunity to present information aligned to the framework for analysis of norm-referenced standardized tests in support of describing progress toward meeting Accountability Plan goals during 2020-21.
- The Institute issued specific guidance regarding how education corporations should complete the Accountability Plan Progress Report for the 2020-21 school year following the COVID-19 facility closure period. Please find that guidance on the Institute's website at [www.newyorkcharters.org/Accountability/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/Accountability/).

## ANNUAL REPORTS

The Act requires that each annual report in the current charter term be part of a renewal application. The Institute has these reports on file so an education corporation need not re-submit annual reports previously filed. Additionally, the school should ensure that at least the most recent annual report is posted on the school's website as required by the Act.

### WHAT TO SUBMIT:

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Accountability Plan Progress Report as a MS Word® file named:

**D1a\_APPR\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Annual Report as an Adobe Acrobat® file named:

**D1b\_Annual Reports\_School Name**

## ORGANIZATIONAL VIABILITY

*In accordance with the Act, a school must demonstrate that it is an effective and viable organization. The Act specifically stipulates that indications of parent satisfaction must be included in an application for charter renewal.*

### PARENT/FAMILY SATISFACTION

Provide parent and student survey results or other verifiable data that attest to parent satisfaction with the school's academic program. The school must demonstrate that it administered the surveys and interpreted results using generally accepted evaluation methods (including method of administration, time of year, and response rate). If the school self-administers a survey, include a copy of or link to the actual survey administered as well as the raw results by question. The Institute requires the submission of additional information regarding demand and persistence prior to the renewal visit.

- New York City schools: For schools that participate in the NYCDOE Family Satisfaction Survey, schools may submit an analysis or brief narrative of the results. Please provide a link to the most recent survey results. If the school conducts its own survey, please submit the above required information.

### STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION

In an MS Excel® file, provide contact information with parent names and addresses of all students enrolled in the school by grade to enable the Institute to communicate directly with families regarding the renewal process, if necessary.

## SCHOOL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Submit a complete Parent and/or Student Handbook (from the most recent academic year) or similarly comprehensive document.

If the Parent and/or Student Handbook does not contain all of the policies listed below (e.g., policies listed in 2 through 12), attach the Handbook as one response and each remaining policy as a separate response.

- 2) Admissions/Enrollment Policy;
- 3) Student Discipline Policy (including Special Education Discipline Policy, if separate);
- 4) Dress Code (if any);
- 5) Student Retention/Promotion Policy;
- 6) Complaint Policy (which should clearly articulate how to file a formal complaint alleging a violation of law or the charter, and provide appropriate appeals information);
- 7) Health Services Policy including Medication Policy (even if those match district policies);
- 8) Personnel policies and/or employee manual;
- 9) Collective Bargaining Agreement(s), if applicable;
- 10) Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”) policies, annual notices, and sample waiver form, if applicable (see the Confidentiality of Student Records guidance at [www.newyorkcharters.org/category/operational-resources/compliance/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/category/operational-resources/compliance/) for more information);
- 11) Policies and procedures for implementing Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to serve students with disabilities not covered by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and
- 12) Freedom of Information Law (“FOIL”) Notice, which should, at a minimum, identify the records access officer and the records access appeals officer (and appropriate contact information for each), FOIL “regulations,” information subject matter list, and the FOIL list of officers and employees (which should identify all personnel, including the board, along with their public office addresses and any public salaries). See the FOIL guidance at [www.newyorkcharters.org/category/operational-resources/compliance/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/category/operational-resources/compliance/) for more information.
- 13) Teacher Certification Processes and Procedures: Please submit a narrative that explains how the school(s) approach(es) hiring qualified teachers including any methods to get uncertified teachers on a path to gaining certification. Include how the school monitors certification status and supports teachers to ensure the school remains compliant with the Act. Include any higher education or external partnerships that the education corporation maintains to support teachers gaining, maintaining, or extending certification.

## ASSURANCES

All Applications for Charter Renewal must include a list of specific Assurances signed by the school leader and education corporation board chair. In lieu of conducting in person physical plant checks, the Institute will require specific submissions in Epicenter, which will include photographic evidence of certain items. Schools will submit the physical plant check submissions at the same time that on site documents are due to the Institute.

The Institute accepts digital and handwritten signatures. If handwritten signatures are used, applicants should include a scanned copy of the signed form with the application, and ensure the Institute receives the paper copy, bearing original signatures, by the application deadline. The Assurances form is available on the Institute's website at: [www.newyorkcharters.org/charter-renewal-application/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/charter-renewal-application/).

## WHAT TO SUBMIT:

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Parent Satisfaction Survey as an Adobe Acrobat® file named:  
**D2a\_Satisfaction\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of Contact Information as a MS Excel® file named:  
**D2b\_Contact Info\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Handbook and School Policies and Procedures as a MS Word® file named:

**D2c1\_Handbook\_School Name;**  
**D2c<NUMBER>\_<POLICY NAME>\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Assurances as a MS Word® or Adobe Acrobat® file named:  
**D2d\_Assurances\_School Name**

## FISCAL SOUNDNESS

*The Act requires an education corporation to demonstrate its ability to operate the school in a fiscally sound manner in a subsequent charter term.*

## FISCAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL AND PROOF OF DISSOLUTION RESERVE FUND

Include all recent updates. NOTE: best practice is for the finance committee and full board to review and update the manual annually. In addition, provide bank statement proof of the Dissolution Reserve Fund as a separate account balance as required under the SUNY charter agreement.

## ADDITIONAL MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

Any documents related to budgeting and long-range planning; internal controls; financial reporting; and, financial condition. Include any NYS Comptroller or NYC Comptroller Audit Reports during the charter term and information on active audits taking place.

## WHAT TO SUBMIT:

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Fiscal Policies and Procedures as a MS Word® file named:  
**D3a\_Fiscal Policies-Dissolution Fund\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of Miscellaneous Financial Documents as a MS Word® file named:  
**D3b\_Additional Fin\_School Name.**

Financial Policy and Procedure Manual and Dissolution Reserve Fund bank statements as well as any audit reports may be included as Adobe Acrobat® files.

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

The Institute will accept information not specifically required in the Application for Charter Renewal if the education corporation believes this supplemental information is essential for making its case for renewal. The collective length of this section must not exceed 25 pages.

### WHAT TO SUBMIT:

Submit the completed electronic copy of any Supplemental Information as a MS Word® file named: **E\_Supplemental Info\_School Name**

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Unlike other sections of the application, this section focuses on the education corporation's future plans rather than the outcomes achieved during the current charter term. In addition to a number of narrative Responses, the application requires submission of a series of Renewal Charter Exhibits ("Exhibits") that the Institute will incorporate into a new charter agreement should the SUNY Trustees approve the application. Generally, the main difference in substance between the narrative Responses and the Exhibits is that exhibits outline the "what" that the school will do if renewed; the narrative responses, on the other hand, provide the "why" and the "how." Put together, these documents allow the Institute to determine if the education corporation's and school's plans for the next charter term are "reasonable, feasible, and achievable."

Requirements for both types of submissions are set forth below.

An important note: The Institute analyzes the school's accomplishments during the existing charter term as relates to the Qualitative Education Benchmarks and the school's performance on Accountability Plan goals in making renewal recommendations. While the Institute asks applicants to identify future plans, no school will receive a positive recommendation based only on those plans. Without demonstrating success via the SUNY Renewal Benchmarks and the Accountability Plan goals in the current charter term, no school's future plans alone are sufficient to earn renewal.

### **Responses**

The nature and content of each response is likely to differ greatly depending on the degree of difference between the school's current operations and its plans for the next charter term. Schools choosing not to change any elements of their current program or structure need only incorporate a response by reference and indicate such on the Application Checklist; whereas, schools choosing to make some changes must identify them and schools making material changes must provide extensive documentation and detail. Examples of significant changes include, but are not limited to, offering new grades, expanding enrollment, moving locations, shifting the focus of the educational program, switching from a management company structure to self-management, and adding a school level, e.g., adding a middle or high school.

## PROPOSED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Provide an overview of the planned educational program. For those schools seeking to make significant changes in one or more aspects of the educational program, the narrative response must detail each of these changes, not only stating the school's planned change, but how and why as well. It is likely that in explaining why it is seeking a change in the next charter term, the school's experiences in the present charter term will inform its response. It is also highly likely that the narrative response will heavily cross-reference the relevant Renewal Charter Exhibits including, perhaps, those that are not directly related to the educational program.

For this submission, consider any modifications or updates to the school's educational program as it has been affected by the COVID-19 facility closure period. Some questions to consider include:

- What changes to instructional strategies or staffing structures for the 2021-22 school year will be made and are driven by what the education corporation learned during the COVID-19 facility closure period or as a result of budgetary challenges?
- How is the school collecting student achievement data in the absence of state tests?
- How is the school addressing any accumulated learning losses due to remote/hybrid learning models conducted since March 2020?
- How has the school ensured effective supports for students with disabilities and English language learners during the hybrid/remote learning period?
- Is the education corporation making any other structural changes to the educational program as a result of the COVID-19 facility closure period?
- If the school is altering its daily, weekly, or annual calendar for the 2021-22 school year or a future charter term, how will the educational program adapt to these changes? Note, Exhibit D is a detailed outline of any requested changes to the daily, weekly, and annual calendar, so the Educational Program submission does not need to detail the changes in the schedule/calendar.

## GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The education corporation must provide details on what plans, if any, it has to ensure the sustainability of its success (e.g., creating a recruitment committee on the education corporation's board of trustees; providing a transition and training plan for the new board members).

Within the school's **governance structure** response, the following should be included, if applicable:

For education corporations making material changes to their governance structure, the narrative response must focus on the reasons behind those changes, referencing where necessary any appropriate events and outcomes from the present charter term that are driving these proposed changes. The response must also indicate with clarity how and why those governance changes will allow for the kind of oversight that will result in satisfactory student achievement results.

Some education corporations filed their initial or renewal charter application "in conjunction with" an existing 501(c)(3) organization, yet that entity was not managing the school. Rather, and most often, it was assisting the school in other ways. Where an education corporation did in fact partner with such an organization, it must discuss the status of the relationship including whether it will continue in the next

charter term and, if so, under what terms and parameters. Likewise, the education corporation must indicate if the relationship is dissolving or will be dissolved. This type of partnership is not equivalent to a partnership with an Educational Service Provider (“ESP”)/Charter Management Organization (“CMO”). As such, the information required with regard to ESP/CMO partnerships as set forth below is not required here.

Consistent with other narrative responses, where an education corporation is making a significant school change, for example, adding a middle school, the narrative response should discuss the governance challenges inherent in that transition.

If an ESP or CMO manages the school or the education corporation is associated with a group of education corporations that share services or have common governance, describe any expansion of the ESP/CMO and/or other group either in or out of New York State during the next charter term including: the names and locations of new or planned schools, how the CMO or ESP and/or other group has adjusted its operations to address expansion, and how such expansion has and/or is projected to impact the school. The education corporation may provide its own or its CMO’s or ESP’s most recent Business Plan if it covers the term of the proposed renewal charter term.

Include any governance and board changes as a result of the COVID-19 facility closure period in this submission.

## FISCAL PLAN

Describe the education corporation’s fiscal plan for the term of the proposed renewal charter term specifically identifying future enrollment, staffing, and facility plans and assumptions, and discuss how those plans are financially reasonable and feasible. If the education corporation operates **more than one school, please provide a separate budget for each school whose charter is up for renewal.**

This information must be consistent with the Budget Projection for the term of the renewal charter (template available at: [www.newyorkcharters.org/charter-renewal-application/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/charter-renewal-application/)), which must serve as the cornerstone of the education corporation’s fiscal plan. Please ensure that the Budget Projection covers the entire term of the next charter and includes a description of all revenue and expenditure assumptions.

Clearly describe any facility financing plans and the related timing of such transactions.

Provide the link to the plan for the school’s use of available CRRSA and ARP ESSA federal funds to respond to learning losses due to COVID-19.

## FACILITY PLAN

Clearly describe how the school’s facility plans will meet the needs of the educational program for the proposed charter term including any commitments that partner organizations or host districts have made to support the school.

**Clearly describe any upcoming facility financing plans and specifics of the timing needs.**

## WHAT TO SUBMIT:

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Proposed Educational Program as a MS Word® file named:

**D4a\_Educational Program\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Governance Structure as a MS Word® file named:

**D4b\_Governance Structure\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Fiscal Plan as a MS Word® file named:

**D4c\_Fiscal Plan\_School Name (and separate education corporation plan, if applicable)**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Facility Plan as a MS Word® file named:

**D4d\_Facility Plan\_School Name**

### *Renewal Charter Exhibits*

## MISSION STATEMENT

Provide the mission statement for the next charter term.

If the mission differs from the current charter term's mission statement, include any explanation for the changes.

## KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS

The Key Design Elements are a distillation of the core components of the school's educational and organizational plans for the term of the renewal charter.

The elements are those that collectively constitute the essential design features of the school and that define what the school would be in the next charter term. The Key Design Elements describe what the school will do if the SUNY Trustees approve its application for renewal and formally become part of the renewal charter. Please include any summer school programs in the Key Design Elements.

## PROPOSED ENROLLMENT

Provide the proposed enrollment in chart form using Tab 2 of the Five-Year Budget Outlook Template (at: [www.newyorkcharters.org/charter-renewal-application/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/charter-renewal-application/)). Provide the grades the school proposes serving in each year of the next charter term, the number of students expected to be in each grade, the age range of students that it will serve, and the maximum number of students per year.

Please be sure that the chart reflects any anticipated attrition over the charter term. The enrollment chart must only cover the number of years for which the school is seeking renewal. If the school will serve Kindergarten during its renewal term, please indicate the date by which a child must reach age five in order to be eligible to attend the school (e.g., December 1). Pre-Kindergarten ("pre-K") programs are considered a program and enrollment of pre-K is not considered a chartered grade for enrollment purposes and should not be included in the proposed enrollment chart. Include any information on pre-K programs operated by the school but do not add the pre-K enrollment into the Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment numbers. Copy the enrollment chart from Tab 2 of the Five-Year Budget Projection to submit as the proposed enrollment chart. ***The Transmittal Form, Enrollment Chart, and Budget Projection grades and enrollments must align internally.***



## MASTER SCHOOL CALENDAR

Provide an overall school calendar that clearly indicates the number of days of instruction for the first year of the new charter term with the number of days listed on the top of the first page. Where the calendar is different for different grades (for example, the school plans to have its middle school academy provide a longer school year than the elementary academy), the calendar should so indicate. Alternatively, the school can submit separate calendars for each set of grades (elementary, middle, etc.). When summing the number of days of instruction, please assign each instructional day a value of 0.5 or 1.0 as follows:

- For Kindergarten – 6<sup>th</sup> grade, half days (i.e., days assigned a value of 0.5) are days in which the total instructional time sums to at least 2.5 hours but is less than 5 hours. Full days (i.e., days assigned a value of 1.0) are days in which students receive at least 5 hours of instruction.
- For 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, half days (i.e., days assigned a value of 0.5) are days in which the total instructional time sums to at least 2.5 hours but is less than 5.5 hours. Full days (i.e., days assigned a value of 1.0) are days in which students receive at least 5.5 hours of instruction.
- For all submissions, summarize the following points in regard to the calendar:
  - total number of days of instruction for the school year including whole and half days;
  - total number of hours of instruction for the school year including and not including additional instructional time such as tutoring;
  - first and last day of classes;
  - organization of the school year (i.e., semesters, trimesters, quarters, etc.);
  - all planned holidays and other days off, as well as planned half days; and,
  - dates for summer school, orientation, and other activities outside of the core academic calendar, if planned.

If the education corporation plans to alter its schedule for the 2021-22 school year due to COVID-19 facility closures, include those changes in this submission along with an explanation of the rationale for changing the annual calendar. Please notify the Institute if you plan to begin your school year earlier than typical for the 2021-22 school year.

## SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Provide a daily school schedule that clearly details the total hours of instruction the school will provide and in what subjects. Where different grades have different schedules, provide all such schedules. If the school includes any high school grades, it must submit a schedule that permits the Institute to determine if the school will provide the number of instructional units each year as required by the New York Education Commissioner’s Regulations to award a terminal degree.

- Note: The Institute will request a detailed daily class schedule closer to the visit date to help with visit scheduling.
- Include any revisions to the daily schedule, with rationale, if the education corporation plans to alter its daily schedule for the 2021-22 school year due to COVID-19 related facility closures.

## STAFFING PLAN

The staffing plan must include ***an annotated organizational chart, a narrative, and a copy of the Staffing Chart*** (available on Tab 3 of the Five-Year Budget Outlook at: [www.newyorkcharters.org/charter-renewal-application/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/charter-renewal-application/)). The annotated organizational chart should depict who will carry out the key educational and supporting administrative functions during the next charter term. The accompanying narrative must describe the key educational staff positions for each year of the proposed charter. The Staffing Chart template will automatically fill in the Five-Year Budget Projection and calculate personnel costs based on average salaries for each category. To ensure accuracy of budget projections, confirm that all staff members reflected in the organizational chart are included in Tab 3 of the budget template. Copy the staffing plan from Tab 3 of the Five-Year Budget Projection to submit with the proposed staffing plan.

## ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

The education corporation must develop a draft Accountability Plan for the proposed charter term, including any measures that may apply to grade levels included in proposed program expansions. Note that the plan must be consistent with the most current edition of the Guidelines for the Creation of an Accountability Plan, and the Institute’s framework for analysis of nationally normed standardized assessments, both available at: [www.newyorkcharters.org/accountability](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/accountability). The Institute will return for amendment plans that are inconsistent with these Guidelines. The prospective plan must be consistent with any new grade levels proposed by the school, such as high school accountability measures for middle schools proposing to add such grades.

## PLAN FOR MEETING ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION TARGETS<sup>6</sup>

The education corporation must include a plan for the school to meet or exceed enrollment and retention targets established by the SUNY Trustees for students with disabilities, ELLs, and students who are eligible to participate in the FRPL program. SUNY and the New York State Board of Regents (the “Board of Regents”) finalized the methodology for setting targets in October 2012. Schools can use the New York State Education Department’s enrollment and retention target calculator to find its specific targets, available at: [www.newyorkcharters.org/accountability/enrollment-retention/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/accountability/enrollment-retention/).

***In this submission, please provide an analysis of the school’s progress toward meeting its enrollment and retention targets. If the school does not meet its targets for any subgroup, please provide in this exhibit an explanation about why and how the school will work to make progress toward meeting the goal in any future charter term.***

For meeting **enrollment targets**, indicate the recruitment strategies the school will employ to attract students including, but not limited to:

- where in the school district (or CSD in New York City) the school believes it will be able to locate students with disabilities, ELLs, and students who are eligible to participate in the federal FRPL program;
- with respect to each category of students, specifically describe how the school will target an identified population in the school’s outreach efforts;
- outreach to parents in the community for whom English is not their primary language, including language(s);

6. According to Education Law § 2851(4), all schools submitting renewal applications after January 1, 2011 must include in the application the efforts it will put in place to meet or exceed enrollment and retention targets for the sub-populations as prescribed by the SUNY Trustees and based on the enrollment and retention figures of the selected populations attending public schools within the school district in which the charter school is located, or in New York City, the Community School District. Repeated failure to meet such targets is grounds for charter revocation per Education Law § 2855(1)(e).

- outreach to parents of students with disabilities;
- outreach to parents of students who would qualify for the FRPL program;
- any at-risk admissions factors or set-asides (sometimes collectively referred to as “admissions priorities”) the school intends to offer that would increase the likelihood of enrolling targeted students;
- personnel responsible for overseeing the school’s marketing and outreach efforts and the means by which such personnel will record and/or preserve their recruitment activities; and,
- methods for evaluating the efficacy of the school’s recruitment and enrollment efforts in each category during the charter term.

For meeting **retention targets**, indicate retention strategies or specific programmatic elements at the school that will assist in retaining the three target populations including, but not limited to:

- the school’s general strategy for retaining students;
- the specific programmatic elements at the school that will provide services to, and will assist in, retaining the three target populations; and,
- personnel responsible for monitoring and overseeing the school’s retention efforts, the performance of students in the three populations, and the means by which such personnel will record and/or preserve their retention activities.

## EDUCATION CORPORATION BY-LAWS

Include the education corporation’s by-laws as a Renewal Charter Exhibit.

## CODE OF ETHICS/CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Include the education corporation Code of Ethics and Conflicts of Interest policies for the next charter term. The education corporation may have one policy that fulfills the statutory requirements of both a code of ethics and conflicts of interest policy. For more information please refer to the Institute’s Guide to Board Governance at [www.newyorkcharters.org/guide-to-board-governance/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/guide-to-board-governance/). If there are no changes to the Code of Ethics and Conflicts of Interest policies, please state that fact.

The Code of Ethics must conform to the applicable provisions of the New York General Municipal Law that have applied to charter schools since 2010, and the recent changes to the New York Not-For-Profit Corporation Law, which require certain conflicts of interest provisions. Applicants may not incorporate by reference a Code of Ethics that does not fully reflect the applicable General Municipal and Not-For-Profit Corporation Law provisions; rather, they must submit a full, up to date Code of Ethics.

The Code of Ethics must include a comprehensive and formal conflict of interest policy with specific procedures for implementing the policy and assuring compliance therewith in accordance with the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law. The Code of Ethics and Conflicts of Interest policies must be written to apply not only to trustees, but also to officers and employees of the school in conformity with the General Municipal Law, and may be submitted as one document.

## NEGOTIATED (BUT NOT EXECUTED) ESP/CMO CONTRACT

If an education corporation plans to contract with ESP or CMO at any time during the next charter term, include a copy of the management contract. The contract needs to include the fee rate and scope of services that the ESP/CMO will provide. If the education corporation has not yet negotiated the contract, provide an explanation in the narrative portion of the school's response along with a timetable for when the education corporation will complete that process. Such timetable must, in all instances, allow sufficient time for the Institute to review the completed contract prior to the time that the Institute must make its recommendation on the renewal application. If the education corporation has the authority to operate multiple schools, the management contract covers all such schools, and the Institute has already approved the management contract, then the education corporation need only provide the amended terms to cover the term of the proposed charter term for the school seeking renewal at this time.

If the education corporation plans to or currently engages in a shared services agreement with another not-for-profit corporation or not-for-profit education corporation, please include a copy of the agreement. The agreement needs to include all shared costs and an outline of services.

If the education corporation has the authority to operate multiple schools, the management contract covers all such schools, and the Institute has already approved the management contract, then the education corporation need only provide the amended terms to cover the term of the proposed charter term for the school seeking renewal at this time.

## BUDGET PROJECTION

Submit a proposed budget for the proposed next charter term supporting the fiscal plan in the required format. Be sure to start with the tabs for enrollment and staffing which will pre-populate the budget projections. The template includes columns for supporting assumptions and should be utilized to clarify details of line items for reviewers. The fiscal plan narrative can be used to further detail assumptions made in preparing the five-year projections.

The Renewal Five Year Budget Projection template is available on the Institute's website at: [www.newyorkcharters.org/charter-renewal-application/](http://www.newyorkcharters.org/charter-renewal-application/).

## WHAT TO SUBMIT:

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Mission Statement as a MS Word® or Adobe Acrobat® file named:

**A\_Mission\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Key Design Elements as a MS Word® file named:

**B\_KDE\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Proposed Enrollment as a MS Word® or MS Excel® file named:

**C\_Enrollment\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the school Calendar and Schedule as a MS Word® file named:

**D\_Calendar and Schedule\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Staffing Plan as a MS Word® or MS Excel® file named:

**E\_Staffing Plan\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Accountability Plan as a MS Word® file named:

**F\_Accountability Plan\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Plan for Meeting Enrollment and Retention Targets as a MS Word® file named:

**G\_Enrollment and Retention Plan\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Education Corporation By-Laws as a MS Word® file named:

**H\_By-Laws\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Code of Ethics as a MS Word® file named:

**I\_Code of Ethics\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the ESP/CMO Contract as a MS Word® or Adobe Acrobat® file named:

**J\_Management Contract\_School Name**

Submit the completed electronic copy of the Budget Projection as a MS Excel® file named:

**K\_Budget Projection\_School Name** (and separate education corporation projection, as applicable)

## SCHOOLS REQUESTING GRADE EXPANSION

If the education corporation is requesting an expansion of grades through this charter renewal, then the following sections of the Application for Charter Renewal should include the following information:

- **Transmittal Form:** the grades listed in the form should reflect the proposed grades for the next charter term;
- **Executive Summary:** in addition to the narrative about the current charter term, the executive summary should clearly explain the education corporation's request for expansion and reasons why the SUNY Trustees should grant the expansion;
- **Educational Program:** in this submission, please include narrative that reflects how the educational program will adapt with expanded grades including the curricular programs the school will use, and a scope and sequence for any expanded grades;
- **Enrollment Chart, Staffing Plan, Budget Projection:** each submission should reflect the proposed increase in grades and enrollment numbers for the next charter term; and,
- **Supplemental Information:** though not required, any additional evidence that demonstrates the school is prepared to expand grades is a helpful submission to consider as part of the Application for Charter Renewal. This might include documents like an action plan.
- **Double Submissions:** The Institute requests that the school submit a second version of each of the above documents that does not include the request for grade expansion. This allows the Institute to conduct a thorough review. In the case that the Institute does not recommend the approval of the expansion, then the Institute will have all necessary documents to understand the school's Application for Renewal without expansion.

## FINAL TIPS FOR REVIEW

- Ensure that the Transmittal Form, Enrollment Chart, and the Budget Projection submissions align with the appropriate grades and enrollment details;
- Make sure to review the school's Enrollment and Retention Targets submission to include an explanation for why the school is not meeting any target, if applicable; and,
- Confirm that the Governance Structure submission includes the Institute approved voting board members and a brief biography for each individual, and the information submitted aligns to the current board member list in Epicenter.



**Charter Schools Institute**  
The State University of New York

[www.newyorkcharters.org](http://www.newyorkcharters.org)

State University Plaza  
353 Broadway  
Albany, New York 12246  
518-445-4250