



MEMORANDUM

April 10, 2025

To: Members of the Charter Schools Committee

From: Joseph W. Belluck, Chair, Charter Schools Committee

Subject: Approval of the Application for Charter Renewal of Amber Charter Schools and its Authority to Operate Amber East Harlem Charter School

Action Requested

The proposed resolution, pursuant to New York Education Law § 2851(4), authorizes: 1) renewal of the charter of Amber Charter Schools education corporation, a charter school education corporation, for one year without conditions to align the corporate charter with those of its charters; and 2) renewal of Amber Charter Schools' authority to operate Amber East Harlem Charter School for a one year without conditions to align the charter term with the other education corporation charters.

Resolution

I recommend the Charter Schools Committee adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the Board of Trustees has granted Amber Charter Schools (the "Education Corporation") the authority to operate more than one charter including Amber East Harlem Charter School (the "School"); and

Whereas the State University of New Charter Schools Institute (the "Institute") asked the Education Corporation to request renewal of its charter and its authority to operate the School through July 31, 2026 in order to align the expiration dates of the Education Corporation's charters; and

Whereas the Charter Schools Committee, acting on behalf of the Board of Trustees, as required by Subdivision 2851(4)(e), has considered, prior to approval of the application for charter renewals, the means by which the School will meet or exceed

the enrollment and retention targets of students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the federal Free and Reduced Price Lunch program as set forth in the applications, which targets were prescribed by the State University of New York Charter Schools Institute (the "Institute") on behalf of the Board of Trustees; now, therefore, be it

Resolved the Education Corporation's application for charter renewal be and hereby is approved through and including July 31, 2026; and, be it further

Resolved the Education Corporation's application for authority to operate the School be and hereby is approved through and including July 31, 2026; and, be it further

Resolved that: 1) the School, as described in the Education Corporation's application for renewal of authority to operate the School, meets the requirements of the New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 and applicable laws, rules, and regulations; 2) the Education Corporation can demonstrate the ability to operate the School in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; and, 3) approval of the application for charter renewal, and the application to renew the authority to operate the School, is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in Education Law § 2850(2); and, be it further

Resolved that the Institute, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, be, and hereby is, directed to: 1) enter into a proposed renewal charter with the Education Corporation in accordance with this resolution, which shall include such assurances and terms as the Institute shall deem necessary and appropriate; and, 2) thereafter, submit the proposed renewal charter to the New York State Board of Regents for review, comment, and potential approval.

Background

The New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 permits the Board of Trustees to renew the charters of education corporations it has authorized and to renew such corporations' authority to operate charters. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2012-038, dated June 12, 2012, the Board of Trustees delegated authority to renew charters to the Charter Schools Committee.

Pursuant to 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”) (last amended September 4, 2013, and available at: <https://www.newyorkcharters.org/wp-content/uploads/SUNY-Renewal-Policies.pdf>), the Institute generally conducts a renewal site visit; reviews the information in the renewal application as well as other relevant information such as assessment data and site visit reports; interviews education corporation trustees and staff; and produces a draft renewal report containing its findings and preliminary recommendation. The draft renewal report also contains an evaluation of the performance of an education corporation’s charter over the charter term based on the criteria provided in the renewal benchmarks described in the SUNY Renewal Policies. The education corporation receives a copy of the draft renewal report and is given an opportunity to comment on it before it is finalized. The Institute makes final renewal reports available in its Albany office and at: <http://www.suny.edu/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/meetings/meetingNotices.cfm>. Copies of applications for charter renewal are on file in the Albany office of the Institute.

As set forth in the Institute’s Renewal Report, which was distributed to the Board of Trustees, for Amber East Harlem Charter School; which are operated by Amber Charter Schools, the Institute conducted a renewal review of the School pursuant to the SUNY Renewal Policies. As a result of this review, the Institute recommends the Education Corporation’s application for charter renewal and to extend its authority to operate the School be granted through July 31, 2026 without conditions.

For the charter and education corporation listed above, the Institute properly notified the school district in which the School is located regarding the receipt of applications for charter renewal and renewal of authority to operate the School. As of April 2, 2025, no comments were received.