



# News Release

## SUNY Trustees Renew Seven Charter Schools

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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 7 resolutions to renew 7 charter schools.

Brief summaries of each decision follow. Full renewal recommendation reports and related resources can be found on [our website](#).

### Renewals

- **Boys Preparatory Charter School of New York** opened its doors in the fall of 2014 initially serving 137 students in K-1<sup>st</sup> grade. The school is authorized to serve 450 students in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade for 2018-19 and plans to grow to serve 850 students in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade in next charter term. The school is located at 192 East 151<sup>st</sup> St, Bronx, in CSD 8. A strength of Boys Preparatory Charter School is its partnerships with the local community to bring in male role models to serve as inspirational figures for students. Annually, the school begins the instructional year with a Male Heroes Welcome Back event during which male community members including fire fighters, businessmen, and custodial staff greet entering students. Boys Preparatory Charter School received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **Democracy Prep Charter School - Harlem** received its initial charter in February, 2010 from the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE), and merged in July 2017 with two SUNY authorized charter schools. The school is authorized to serve 1,182 students in K-12<sup>th</sup> grade for 2018-19 and plans to continue to serve that grade range for 1,188 students in the next charter term. The school is located in two facilities in CSD 3 and 5. In alignment with the school's mission to engage students in active citizenship, students run a Get Out the Vote campaign each election day to encourage their neighborhood community members to vote. Notably, a 2018 study by Mathematica Policy Research concluded that "enrolling in Democracy Prep substantially increases the probability that students will vote when they reach adulthood." Democracy Prep Charter School - Harlem received a full-term renewal of five years.

- **Central Brooklyn Ascend Charter School** opened its doors in the fall of 2014 initially serving 159 students in K-1<sup>st</sup> grade. The school is authorized to serve 496 students in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade for 2018-19 and plans to grow to serve 747 students in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade in next charter term. The school is located in two facilities in CSD 22. In fall of 2018, Central Brooklyn Ascend Charter School's homeless students posted proficiency rates of 53% and 60% in ELA and mathematics, respectively. The school outperformed the statewide average and district performance in both subjects. Central Brooklyn Ascend Charter School received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **Explore Charter School** received its initial charter in June, 2001 from the NYCDOE, and merged with SUNY authorized Explore-affiliated schools in July, 2015. The school is authorized to serve 540 students in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade for 2018-19 and plans to continue to serve that number of students in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade. The school is located at 655 Parkside Ave, Brooklyn, in CSD 17. School staff at Explore Charter School work with students to develop a list of prospective high school programs that are rigorous, committed to college preparation, and meet students extracurricular and academic preferences. In 2017-18, 87% of Explore 8th graders received an offer from one of their top three high school choices. Explore Charter School received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **Explore Excel Charter School** opened its doors in the fall of 2011 initially serving 233 students in K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The school is authorized to serve 522 students in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade for 2018-19 and plans to grow to serve 564 students in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade in next charter term. The school is located in CSD 18. In 2017-18, Explore Excel Charter School's 3rd grade students demonstrated impressive performance in mathematics. Over 86% of the 59 tested students scored at or above proficiency on the state mathematics exam. Further, 49% scored at performance level 4, indicating achievement above grade level expectations. Explore Excel Charter School received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **Success Academy Charter School – Bed Stuy 1** opened its doors in the fall of 2011. The school is authorized to serve 901 students in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade for 2018-19 and plans to grow to serve 1,055 students in K-12<sup>th</sup> grade in next charter term. The school is located at 70 Thompkins Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors, Brooklyn, in CSD 14. In 2018, The U.S. Department of Education recognized Success Academy Charter School – Bed Stuy 1 as a National Blue Ribbon Award School, which is granted to schools across the United States based on a school's overall academic excellence and progress in closing the achievement gaps among student subgroups. Success Academy Charter School – Bed Stuy 1 received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **Success Academy Charter School – Upper West** opened its doors in the fall of 2011. The school is authorized to serve 762 students in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade for 2018-19 and plans to grow to serve 1,078 students in K-12<sup>th</sup> grade in next charter term. The school is located in two facilities in CSD 2 and 3. Success Academy Charter School - Upper West's 4th grade students participate in ballroom dancing and compete with schools across New York City with Dancing Classrooms, an organization that invites artists to teach dancing skills to students. Success Academy Charter School – Upper West received a full-term renewal of five years.

The schools that have been granted renewal, have innovative programming and post strong outcomes for students. "The SUNY Charter Schools Institute is proud of the hard work these schools put in every day to help students succeed," said Executive Director, Susie Miller Carello.

*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.*

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