



News Release

SUNY Trustees Approve Three Applications for Four New Charter Schools

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, June 6, 2018

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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 3 resolutions to approve 4 new charter schools in and around New York City.

SUNY is the largest authorizer of charter schools in New York State and the largest higher education authorizer in the country. SUNY authorized charter schools currently serve over 86,000 New York students and their families.

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

Approved New Charters

- **Harlem Village Academy West 2 Charter School** will open in August 2019 to serve 100 students in Kindergarten – 1st grade. The school will grow to serve 300 students in Kindergarten – 5th grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated location for the school is in New York City Community School District ("CSD") 5. Key design elements include the use of authentic assessment, partnerships with various community organizations to provide academic tutors and enrichment specialists, strong school culture, and frequent communication between schools and families.
- **KIPP Freedom Charter Schools II & III** will open in August 2019. KIPP Freedom Charter School II will initially serve 190 students in Kindergarten – 1st grade and ultimately enroll 807 students in Kindergarten – 8th grade during an initial five-year term. KIPP Freedom Charter School III will initially serve 177 students in 5th – 6th grade and will ultimately enroll 863 students in Kindergarten – 3rd grade and 5th – 10th grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated location for the schools is in New York City Community School District ("CSD") 7, 10, or 11. Key design elements include excellent teaching through use of KIPP's instructional framework, commitment to serving all students, including students with disabilities, extended school day, week, and year, character education, supporting the journey to and through college, family involvement, and co-curricular opportunities.

- **Valence College Preparatory Charter School** will open in August 2019 to serve 112 students in 5th grade. The school will grow to serve 448 students in 5th-8th grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated location for the school is in New York City Community School District (“CSD”) 24. Key design elements include four weeks of pre-service training and weekly coaching for teachers, teacher and student accountability in adherence to RIGHT values (respect, integrity, gratitude, hard work, and teamwork), extended daily literacy instruction, daily independent reading blocks, and well-stocked classroom libraries, extended time each day for students to develop their numeracy and problem-solving skills, development of malleable intelligence in students, and family partnerships to support student outcomes.

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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