



News Release

SUNY Trustees Approve Seven Applications for Seven New Charter Schools and Renew Seven Schools

For Immediate Release: Monday, March 4, 2019

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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 applications for 7 new charter schools, and approved 7 resolutions to renew 7 SUNY authorized charter schools.

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

Renewals

- **The Academy Charter School** opened its doors in the fall of 2009 initially serving 167 students in K-2nd grade. The school is authorized to serve 1,296 students in K-11th grade for 2018-19 and plans to grow to serve 1,775 students in K-12th grade in next charter term. The school is located in three facilities within the Hempstead Union Free School District. A strength of The Academy Charter School is its partnerships with the New York Institute of Technology ("NYIT") and the Cordell Hull Foundation for International Education to support teacher recruitment, specifically in hard to fill positions such as secondary mathematics, science, and ELL teachers. The Academy Charter School received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **Bronx Charter School for Excellence** opened its doors in the fall of 2004, initially serving 100 students in K-1st grade. The school is authorized to serve 756 students in K-8th grade for 2018-19 and plans to continue to serve that grade range for 810 students in the next charter term. The school is located in two facilities in CSD 11. In keeping with Bronx Excellence's commitment to develop students' critical thinking skills and global perspective taking, the school is committed to providing students opportunities to engage in STEM programs in and out of school. Students in 8th grade have the opportunity to attend STEM summer programming at Colgate University. In addition, students have the opportunity to visit and learn from leaders at innovative companies like Google and Amazon. Bronx Charter School for Excellence received a full-term renewal of five years.

- **Brooklyn Prospect Charter School – CSD 15** opened its doors in the fall of 2009 initially serving 101 students in 6th grade. The school is authorized to serve 700 students in 6th-12th grade for 2018-19 and plans to reconfigure grades within its other 2 SUNY authorized charter schools in the next charter term. The end result will be Brooklyn Prospect Charter School – CSD 15 serving 275 students in K-4th grade. The school is located at 3002 Fort Hamilton Parkway, Brooklyn, in CSD 15. Brooklyn Prospect 15 offers students an opportunity to participate in the IB diploma program, which is a rigorous curriculum sequence that focuses on completing independent research and undertaking projects that involve community service. Brooklyn Prospect Charter School – CSD 15 received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **Brownsville Collegiate Charter School** opened its doors in the fall of 2009 for 101 students in 5th-6th grade. The school is authorized to serve 345 students in 5th-8th grade for 2018-19 and plans to grow to serve 780 students in K-8th grade in the next charter term. The school is located at 364 Sackman St 4th floor, Brooklyn, in CSD 23. Brownsville Collegiate builds student engagement through electives such as performing arts, visual arts, and fitness. Brownsville Collegiate Charter School received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **Excellence Boys Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant** opened its doors in the fall of 2004 initially serving 90 students in K-1st grade. The school is authorized to serve 780 students in K-8th grade for 2018-19 and plans to continue to serve the same grade span for 780 students in the next charter term. The school is located at 225 Patchen Ave, Brooklyn, in CSD 16. In 2017-18, students with disabilities at Excellence Boys scored at or above proficiency on the ELA state assessment at a rate more than double the school's comparison district's students with disabilities. Excellence Boys Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **Excellence Girls Charter School** opened its doors in the fall of 2009 for 145 students in K-1st grade. The school is authorized to serve 1,497 students in K-12th grade for 2018-19 and plans to grow to serve the same grade span for 1,585 students in next charter term. The school is located in 3 facilities in CSD 16 and CSD 17. In 2016-17, Excellence Girls was the first charter school in Brooklyn awarded a National Blue Ribbon Award by the US Department of Education. Excellence Girls Charter School received a full-term renewal of five years.
- **Manhattan Charter School** received its initial charter in July 2004 from the NYCDOE, and merged into SUNY authorized Manhattan Charter School II in February 2016. The school is authorized to serve 290 students in K-5th grade for 2018-19 and plans to continue to serve that grade span for 290 students. The school is located at 100 Attorney St, New York, in CSD 1. As part of the school's mission and key design elements, Manhattan has a dedicated music program that hosts community concerts twice a year for the school and local community. The school also hosts an annual musical. Manhattan Charter School received a full-term renewal of five years.

New Charter Schools

- **Amber Charter School III** will open in September 2020 to serve 400 students in K-1st grade. The school will grow to serve 923 students in K-8th grade during an initial five year charter term. The anticipated location for the school is in CSD 6 in Manhattan. Select key design elements include a rigorous and comprehensive core academic experience, supports for students via long-term relationships with peers and staff with small class sizes and low teacher-to-student ratios, and ample opportunities for students to explore college and career pathways.
- **Family Life Academy Charter School IV** will open in September 2020 with 156 students in K-1st grade. The school will grow to serve 702 students in K-8th grade during the initial five year charter term. The anticipated location for the school is in CSD 9 in the Bronx. Select key design elements include the utilization of sheltered English immersion to support English language learners, community resources provided by its community sponsor (Latino Pastoral Action Center), and regular child study meetings to identify specific needs of individual students.
- **Zeta Charter School 3 and Zeta Charter School 4** will each open in August 2020 with 180 students in K-1st grade. The schools will grow to serve 529 students in K-5th grade during their initial five year charter terms. The anticipated locations for the schools is in CSDs 9 and 12 in the Bronx. Select key design elements include rigorous, hands-on academics, an emphasis on mindfulness and wellness through activities such as Taekwondo and mindfulness meditation, and opportunities for experiential learning.
- **KIPP Beyond Charter School** will open in August 2020 with 95 students in 5th grade. The school will grow to serve 451 in 5th-9th grade during the initial five year charter term. The anticipated location for the school is in CSD 3 in Manhattan. Select key design elements include a dual focus on academics and character, a differentiated model with a culturally responsive and relevant curriculum, and the utilization of KIPP Through College and Career.
- **Brooklyn Ascend Charter School 6** will open in September 2020 with 224 students in K-1st grade. The school will grow to serve 672 students in K-5th grade during the initial five year charter term. The anticipated location for the school is in CSD 13 in Brooklyn. Select key design elements include Ascend's Common Core-aligned college preparatory curriculum, ongoing weekly workshops for teacher professional development, and training on best practices through a partnership with the Lavina group.
- **Girls Preparatory Charter School of the Bronx II** will open in August 2020 with 104 students in K-1st grade. The school will grow to serve 520 students in K-5th grade during the initial five year charter term. The anticipated location for the school is in CSD 7 or 8 in the Bronx. Select key design elements include a strong academic program to develop well-rounded, educated, and culturally literate citizens, an emphasis on character development, and support in navigating the path to and through college.

An additional six schools were approved by the SUNY Trustees Charter Schools Committee, but due to the limitations of the charter cap in New York City, those schools are currently on hold until more charters become available.

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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