



News Release

SUNY Trustees Approve Eight Applications for Eleven New 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 8 resolutions to approve 11 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 93,000 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/2018-request-for-proposals-round-2-fall-cycle/>

Approved New Charters

- **Brilla Caritas Charter School and Brilla Pax Charter School** will open in August 2020 to serve 90 students in Kindergarten. The schools will each grow to serve 450 students in Kindergarten – 4th grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated location for the schools is in New York City Community School District ("CSD") 7. Key design elements include utilizing computer hardware and learning software to create a blended learning environment, implementing the Paideia approach, a daily double block of literacy instruction, and an emphasis on parent involvement, amongst others.
- **Brooklyn Prospect Charter School – CSD 15.2** will open in September 2019 to serve 110 students in 6th grade. The school will grow to serve 1,210 students in Kindergarten-3rd and 6th-12th grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated location for the school is in CSD 15. Key design elements include commitment to diversity, commitment to teacher quality, and commitment to academic preparation, utilizing project based learning, interdisciplinary collaboration, and community activism.

- **Capital Preparatory Bronx Charter School** will open in August 2019 to serve 160 students in 6th-7th grade. The school will grow to serve 600 students in 6th-11th grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated location for the school is in CSD 12. Key design elements include a student-centered and data-driven instructional approach, a focus on social justice, an advisory program, student led conferences, partnerships with local colleges, and the requirement for each student to participate in two sports annually, amongst others.
- **Central Brooklyn Ascend Charter Schools 4 & 5** will open in September 2019 to each serve 224 students in Kindergarten-1st grade. The schools will grow to each serve 672 students in Kindergarten-5th grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated locations for the schools are in central Brooklyn. Key design elements include Ascend's common core curriculum, strong student culture utilizing Responsive Classroom; and professional development that includes a Summer Institute, ongoing coaching, and weekly workshops.
- **DREAM Charter Schools Mott Haven & Hunts Point** will open in August 2019 and August 2021, respectively, each with 81 students in Kindergarten. The schools will each grow to serve 648 students in K-4th, and 6th-8th grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated locations for the schools is in CSD 7 and 8. Select key design elements include an innovative curriculum emphasizing critical thinking and questioning, a co-teaching model, a robust data cycle that informs teaching and learning, and a whole child approach that integrates health, wellness, music, and arts into the program.
- **Lewis Katz New Renaissance Basketball Academy Charter School** will open in August 2020 to serve 88 students in 9th grade. The school will grow to serve 352 students in 9th-12th grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated location for the school is in CSD 7. While $\frac{1}{4}$ of students will participate in competitive basketball, all students will be exposed to the business of basketball, such as print and broadcast journalism, analytics, coaching, nutrition, business management, architecture, finance and law. Other key design elements include student advisory teams, connections to adults who will serve as role models, and a longer school day and year.
- **University Prep Charter Middle School** will open in August 2019 to serve 184 students in 5th-6th grade. The school will grow to serve 496 students in 5th-8th grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated location for the school is in CSD 7. Key design elements include a shared commitment to academic excellence, powerful teaching and learning, inclusive school culture, student leadership and character development, and family and community involvement.
- **Wildflower New York Charter School** will open in August 2019 to serve 18 students in K-1st grade. The school will grow to serve 77 students in K-5th grade during an initial five-year term. The anticipated location for the school is in CSD 9. Key design elements include an authentic Montessori Method in an enriched environment, interconnection with the community beyond the classroom, and a commitment to innovation and teacher leadership.

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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