

Comments on Draft 2021 SUNY Request for Proposals (“RFP”) To Authorize New Charter Schools in New York State

Collected by the SUNY Charter Schools Institute on behalf of the State University of New York Board of Trustees

Issued: January 7, 2021

Defined Terms

Act: The New York Charter Schools Act of 1998, as amended

Institute: The SUNY Charter Schools Institute

Proposal: Document submitted in response to a RFP by an applicant seeking to establish a New York State charter school

RFP: Request for Proposals

SUNY Trustees: The State University of New York Board of Trustees (or its designee, as appropriate)

Comments/Discussion/Changes as Noted

Comment 1: A commenter suggested deleting language pertaining to the SUNY Trustees’ right to add an additional RFP round in the event additional charters become available for schools within New York City.

Discussion: The Institute determined that making the suggested deletion would minimize redundancies present in the existing language as the current language does not preclude the Institute from holding additional application rounds at its discretion for any reason including in the event that charters become available in New York City.

Changes to RFP: The Institute made the suggested deletion.

Comment 2: A commenter suggested removing language from the RFP indicating that the Institute is unable to accept applications for schools within New York City due to the cap on charters currently in place there.

Discussion: The existing cap on new charters within New York City prevents the SUNY Trustees from legally authorizing new schools there, thereby inhibiting the Institute’s ability to consider and recommend to the SUNY Trustees applications for proposed schools within New York City pursuant to the 2021 RFP.

Changes to RFP: The Institute amended the language for clarity such that the language indicates the Institute’s willingness to hold a third round for New York City applicants in the event that additional charters become available.

Comment 3: A commenter suggested removing language indicating that the SUNY Trustees reserve the right to grant no more than one charter to applicants seeking to open new schools within New York City should additional charters become available there.

Discussion: The SUNY Trustees may, under their authorizing authority, determine the number of charters it grants to any one applicant. As such, the draft language is not changed.

Changes to RFP: None.