



## Summary of Community Comments

### Success Academy Charter School

- **New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) Public Hearing**

16 people signed in, 10 speakers - 4 in favor of the application; 6 opposed.

Comments in favor:

- Likes the way the parents would work with staff in the charter school, supports the application
- Wants community to demand more options and thinks Success offers a great school option
- Success model is working well for other children
- There are many children on the waiting lists for other Success Academy schools; every parent should have this option
- Supports the charter school and did not support the Community Education Council 3 (CEC 3) vote against Success Academy

Concerns expressed:

- Public school buildings in CEC 3 are overcrowded, also those in Community School Districts 5 and 6
- NYCDOE has not yet identified a district school building to house this school, those parents should be able to comment [A separate public hearing is held for that purpose.]
- Co-location disrupts lunch time, gym time, and art rooms; attendees should fight for all schools not just a few
- The charter school should build its own school
- Our kids are hurting, there are overcrowding issues

### Bronx Success Academy Charter School 3

- **Public Hearing**

14 attendees, 4 speakers, 1 with a comment on Bronx Success 3

- In favor of the school, was grateful to have a Success school in the Bronx. He said his son has college aspirations and wants to go to Princeton. He hopes to enroll him in this school.

## Letter in Opposition to Both Schools

- **Letter from Community School District 3 President and one Co-President of the Citywide Council on Special Education**
  - The letter features a series of procedural complaints regarding: a term used in SUNY's resolution; the fact that an application with this same name (Success Academy Charter School) was withdrawn from SUNY's summer application cycle for which CEC members had submitted comments in opposition; and "regulations" related to public hearings.
  - The letter stated that the CEC concerns are well-known, "Some involve the way in which the Success Academy schools as well as other charters have crowded out public students in our district schools, increasing class size, making them lose critical cluster rooms, and forcing special needs students to receive their services in hallways."
  - The letter cited a projection from NYCDOE that District 3 will only have 232 available seats in 2012, not enough to accommodate the Success Academy's planned growth and that community's Kindergarten students are on waiting lists for their zoned school.
  - The CEC is concerned that Success schools serve only a "small number of our neediest students, including English Language Learners, students with disabilities, and homeless children." They cite alleged specific evidence of discrimination toward the child of one of the co-signers of the letter whose child required a 12:1:1 student teacher ratio.
  - Attached to the letter is an undated statement in opposition to any Success Academy Charter School reiterating the above concerns.
  - The CEC threatened legal action if these applications are approved.

## General Petition Against Any NYC Charter School Without a Facility

- Ms. Leonie Haimson posted a petition to the website change.org, home to petitions on a wide range of topics extending beyond education. This petition is in opposition to the approval of any new charter school in New York City unless the school has a plan to build or rent its own facility. Anytime anyone signs the petition the website automatically generates an email letter to the list of individuals Ms. Haimson designated.

As of the writing of this summary 187 people "signed" the petition. Notably, 71 signatories indicated that they reside outside of New York City, outside of New York State, even outside the U.S. It is unclear to what extent the remaining signers are directly impacted by New York City charter schools.