



MEMORANDUM

April 7, 2026

To: Members of the Charter Schools Committee

From: Joseph W. Belluck, Chair, Charter Schools Committee

Subject: Approval of the Application for Charter Renewal of Amber Charter Schools and its Authority to Operate:

- **Amber Charter School East Harlem;**
- **Amber Charter School Inwood; and,**
- **Amber Charter School Kingsbridge.**

Action Requested

The proposed resolution, pursuant to New York Education Law § 2851(4), authorizes: 1) renewal of the charter of Amber Charter Schools education corporation, a charter school education corporation, for a full term of five years without conditions; and 2) renewal of Amber Charter Schools' authority to operate Amber Charter School East Harlem and Amber Charter School Inwood for a full term of five years without conditions; and, 3) renewal of Amber Charter Schools' authority to operate Amber Charter School Kingsbridge for a full term of five years with conditions.

Resolution

I recommend the Charter Schools Committee adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the Board of Trustees has granted Amber Charter Schools (the "Education Corporation") the authority to operate more than one charter including Amber Charter School East Harlem, Amber Charter School Inwood, and Amber Charter Schools Kingsbridge (the "Schools"); and

Whereas the Education Corporation has requested full-term, five year renewals of its charter and its authority to operate the Schools; and

Whereas the Charter Schools Committee, acting on behalf of the Board of Trustees, as required by Subdivision 2851(4)(e), has considered, prior to approval of the application for charter

renewals, the means by which the Schools will meet or exceed the enrollment and retention targets of students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the federal Free and Reduced Price Lunch program as set forth in the applications, which targets were prescribed by the State University of New York Charter Schools Institute (the "Institute") on behalf of the Board of Trustees; now, therefore, be it

Resolved the Education Corporation's application for charter renewal be, and hereby is, approved for a full term of five years through and including July 31, 2031; and, be it further

Resolved the Education Corporation's application for authority to operate the Schools be and hereby is approved for a period of five years subject to the following condition as to Amber Charter School Kingsbridge:

- By July 1, 2026, the education corporation, on behalf of Amber Charter School Kingsbridge, must provide a Corrective Action Plan, to be approved by the Institute, to come into compliance with teacher certification requirements under the New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 (the "Act") inclusive of methods to assist uncertified teachers in obtaining certification, an identified system of monitoring certification status, and administrative or monetary supports offered to teachers. The education corporation must demonstrate significant improvement regarding compliance with teacher certification requirements at Amber Charter School Kingsbridge in accordance with the Act by the conclusion of the education corporation's next proposed renewal term;

and, be it further

Resolved that, upon a review of the Education Corporation's application for renewal of authority to operate the Schools, the Committee finds that the Education Corporation has sufficiently demonstrated that renewal should be granted, as limited and restricted, based on the criteria laid out in Education Law § 2852(2); and, be it further

Resolved the Institute, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, be, and hereby is, directed to: 1) enter into a proposed renewal charter with the Education Corporation in accordance with this

resolution, which shall include such assurances and terms as the Institute shall deem necessary and appropriate; and, 2) thereafter, submit the proposed renewal charter to the New York State Board of Regents for review, comment, and potential approval.

Background

The New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 permits the Board of Trustees to renew the charters of education corporations it has authorized and to renew such corporations' authority to operate charters. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2012-038, dated June 12, 2012, the Board of Trustees delegated authority to renew charters to the Charter Schools Committee.

Pursuant to the *Policies for the Renewal of Not-for-Profit Charter School Education Corporations and Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York* (the "SUNY Renewal Policies") (last amended September 4, 2013, and available at: <https://www.newyorkcharters.org/wp-content/uploads/SUNY-Renewal-Policies.pdf>), the Institute generally conducts a renewal site visit; reviews the information in the renewal application as well as other relevant information such as assessment data and site visit reports; interviews education corporation trustees and staff; and produces a draft renewal report containing its findings and preliminary recommendation. The draft renewal report also contains an evaluation of the performance of an education corporation's charter over the charter term based on the criteria provided in the renewal benchmarks described in the SUNY Renewal Policies. The education corporation receives a copy of the draft renewal report and is given an opportunity to comment on it before it is finalized. The Institute makes final renewal reports available in its Albany office and at: <http://www.suny.edu/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/meetings/meetingNotices.cfm>. Copies of applications for charter renewal are on file in the Albany office of the Institute.

As set forth in the Institute's Renewal Report, which was distributed to the Board of Trustees, for Amber Charter School East Harlem, Amber Charter School Inwood, and Amber Charter School Kingsbridge; which are operated by Amber Charter Schools, the Institute conducted a renewal review of the Schools pursuant to the SUNY Renewal Policies. As a result of this review, the Institute recommends the Education Corporation's application for charter renewal and to extend its authority to operate the Schools be granted for full terms of five years with conditions.

For the charters and education corporation listed above, the Institute properly notified the school district in which the Schools are located regarding the receipt of application for charter renewal and renewal of authority to operate the Schools. As of March 31, 2026, no comments were received.