



October 6, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**To: Members of the Board of Trustees**

**From: Susan Miller Carello, Executive Director, SUNY Charter Schools Institute**

**Subject: SUNY Charter Schools Institute Update**

**Revisions**

The SUNY Charter Schools Institute (the "Institute"), under the provisions of the State University of New York Board of Trustees' (the "SUNY Trustees'") delegation of duties to the Institute, has reviewed and will approve the following revision requests:

- **Ascend Charter Schools**, an education corporation with the authority to operate more than one school has requested the following:
    - **East Brooklyn Ascend Charter School**, located at 260 Shepherd Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11208 in New York City Community School District ("CSD") 19, authorized to serve 135 students in grades K-1 for the 2020-21 school year, and growing to 378 students in grades K-4 for the 2023-24 school year, the final year of the current charter term, has requested an enrollment decrease to serve 54 students in grades K-1 for the 2020-21 school year, to grow to 243 students in grades K-4 for the 2023-24 school year. The education corporation opened three elementary schools in the same school year some of which were located within existing schools, and has had lower enrollment than expected.
  - **Capital Prep Charter Schools NY**, an education corporation with the authority to operate more than one school, has requested the following revision:
    - **Capital Preparatory Harlem Charter School**, located at 1 East 104<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10029 in CSD 4, and chartered to serve 400 students in grades 6-11 for the 2020-21 school year, the last year of the current charter term, seeks an enrollment revision to serve the same number of students but in grades 6-12. A cohort of current students have met the requirements to advance to grade 12, and the school will admit a small number of 12<sup>th</sup> grade students from other high schools.
  - **Manhattan Charter Schools**, an education corporation with the authority to operate more than one school has requested the following:
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- **Manhattan Charter School II**, located at 220 Henry Street, New York, NY 10002 in CSD 1, and authorized to serve 277 students in grades K-5 for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school year, requests an enrollment decrease to serve 170 students in grades K-5 for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years, the latter being the final year of the current charter term. The area of Manhattan where the school is located has had a drop in school age children and some parents in the area are sending their students to non-public schools.
  - **Sisulu – Walker Charter School of Harlem**, located at 125 W 115<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10026 in CSD 3, and currently authorized to serve 270 students in grades K-5 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment decrease to serve 220 students in grades K-5 for the 2020-21 school year, the final year of the current charter term. The school’s request is based on its historical actual enrollment over several years, which has declined.
  - **Success Academy Charter Schools – NYC**, an education corporation with the authority to operate more than one school, has requested the following revisions to align school enrollments with previously secured facilities and approved grade progressions. The revisions do not represent an overall increase in approved education corporation enrollment.
1. **Success Academy Charter School – Harlem 1**, located at 34 West 118<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY, 10026, 215 West 114<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10026, both in CSD 3; and 111 East 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10016 in CSD 2.
    - **Success Academy Charter School – Bed Stuy 2**, located at 211 Throop Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11206 in CSD 14.
    - **Success Academy Charter School – Cobble Hill**, located at 284 Baltic Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201 in CSD 15.
    - **Success Academy Charter School – Williamsburg**, located at 183 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY 11211 in CSD 14.

**Success Academy Charter School – Bed Stuy 2**, currently authorized to serve 453 students in grades K-4 and 9 for the 2020-21 school year, **Success Academy Charter School – Cobble Hill**, currently authorized to serve 460 students in grades K-4 and 9 for the 2020-21 school year, and **Success Academy Charter School – Williamsburg**, currently authorized to serve 483 students in grades K-4 and 9 for the 2020-21 school year, all request an enrollment decrease due to facility constraints to serve only grades K-4 with enrollments of 416, 416, and 446, respectively. **Success Academy Charter School – Harlem 1**, currently authorized to serve 1,633 students in grades K-12 for the 2020-21 school year requests an enrollment increase to serve 1,751 students in grades K-12 for the 2020-21 school year, the final year of the current charter term, to accommodate the previously approved grade 9 students from the schools listed above.

2. **Success Academy Charter School – Bergen Beach**, located at 1420 East 68<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234 and 3109 Newkirk Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226, both in CSD 22.
  - **Success Academy Charter School – Union Square**, located at 40 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003 and 500 West 41<sup>st</sup> Street, New York, NY 10018, both in CSD 2.

**Success Academy Charter School – Union Square**, currently authorized to serve 1,534 students in grades K-8 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment decrease due to facility constraints to serve 1,184 students in grades K-8 for the 2020-21 school year. **Success Academy Charter School – Bergen Beach**, currently authorized to serve 666 students in grades K-7 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment increase to serve 1,016 students in grades K-7 to accommodate the previously approved students from Success Academy Charter School – Union Square.

3. **Success Academy Charter School – Bushwick**, located at 139 Menahan Street, Brooklyn, NY 11221 in CSD 32.
  - **Success Academy Charter School – Flatbush**, located at 15 Snyder Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226 in CSD 17.
  - **Success Academy Charter School – Rosedale**, located at 147-65 249<sup>th</sup> Street, Queens, NY 11422 and 88-15 182nd Street, Queens, NY 11423, both in CSD 29.

**Success Academy Charter School – Bushwick**, currently authorized to serve 675 students in grades K-5 for the 2020-21 school year, and **Success Academy Charter School – Flatbush**, currently authorized to serve 675 students in grades K-5 for the 2020-21 school year, both request enrollment decreases due to facility constraints to only serve 602 students in grades K-4. **Success Academy Charter School – Rosedale**, currently authorized to serve 445 students in grades K-4 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment increase to serve 664 students in grades K-5 for the 2020-21 school year to accommodate the previously approved students from the schools listed immediately above.

4. **Success Academy Charter School – Bensonhurst**, located at 99 Avenue P, Brooklyn, NY 11204 in CSD 21.
  - **Success Academy Charter School – South Jamaica**, located at 120-27 141<sup>st</sup> Street, Jamaica, New York 11436 in CSD 27.

**Success Academy Charter School – South Jamaica**, currently authorized to serve 675 students in grades K-5 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment decrease due to facility constraints to serve 452 students in grades K-4. **Success Academy Charter School – Bensonhurst**, currently authorized to serve 445 students in grades K-4 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment increase to serve 595 students in grades K-4 for the 2020-21 school year to accommodate certain students from Success Academy Charter School – South Jamaica. Previously approved grade 5 students from Success Academy Charter School – South Jamaica would be served at Success Academy Charter School – Rosedale (see above).

5. **Success Academy Charter School – Bed Stuy 1**, located at 70 Tompkins Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11206 in CSD 14.
  - **Success Academy Charter School – Bronx 1**, located at 339 Morris Avenue, Bronx, NY 10451 in CSD 7.
  - **Success Academy Charter School – Washington Heights**, located at 701 Fort Washington Avenue, New York, NY 10040 in CSD 6.

**Success Academy Charter School – Bed Stuy 1**, currently authorized to serve 1,631 students in grades K-8 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment decrease due to facility constraints to serve 1,131 students in grades K-8. **Success Academy Charter School – Bronx 1**, currently authorized to serve 446 students in grades K-4 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment increase to serve 596 students in grades K-4 to accommodate the previously approved students from Success Academy Charter School – Bed Stuy 1. **Success Academy Charter School – Washington Heights**, currently authorized to serve 445 students in grades K-4 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment increase to serve 645 students in grades K-4 accommodating previously approved students from Success Academy Charter School – Bed Stuy 1.

6. **Success Academy Charter School – Bronx 4**, located at 885 Bolton Avenue, Bronx, NY 10473 in CSD 8.
  - **Success Academy Charter School – Fort Greene**, located at 101 Park Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205 in CSD 13.

**Success Academy Charter School – Fort Greene**, currently authorized to serve 446 students in grades K-4 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment decrease due to facility constraints to serve 266 students in grades K-4. **Success Academy Charter School – Bronx 4**, currently authorized to serve 445 students in grades K-4 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment increase to serve 625 students in grades K-4 to accommodate the students from Success Academy Charter School – Fort Greene.

7. **Success Academy Charter School – Harlem 3**, located at 410 East 100<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10029 in CSD 4; 141 East 111<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10029 in CSD 4; and high school grades temporarily located at 111 East 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York NY 10016 in CSD 2 until a high school facility at 878 Brook Avenue, Bronx, NY in CSD 7 is complete.
  - **Success Academy Charter School – Harlem 5**, located at 301 West 140<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10030 and 175 West 134<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10030, both in CSD 5.
  - **Success Academy Charter School – Upper West**, located at 145 West 84<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10024 in CSD 3 and 439 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10019 in CSD 2.

**Success Academy Charter School – Harlem 3**, currently authorized to serve 2,128 students in grades K-12 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment decrease due to facility constraints to serve 1,778 students in grades K-12. **Success Academy Charter School – Harlem 5**, currently authorized to serve 705 students in grades K-8 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment increase to serve 955 students in grades K-8, and **Success Academy Charter School – Upper West**,

currently authorized to serve 753 students in grades K-8 for the 2020-21 school year, requests an enrollment increase to serve 853 students in grades K-8, both to accommodate previously approved students from Success Academy Charter School – Harlem 3.

**Updates**

**2020-21 New School Openings**

Nine new SUNY authorized schools began operation for the 2020-21 school year in August and September. Eight new schools are located in New York City (seven in the Bronx and one in Brooklyn), and one new school is located in Buffalo. The schools collectively serve approximately 800 students in elementary and middle school grades in their first year of operation.

Institute staff members conducted modified prior action protocols to ensure each school’s compliance with facility and staffing requirements, as well as health and safety requirements related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to these protocols, the Institute examined schools’ capacity to provide virtual and/or in-person instruction to students through the [2020-21 School Year August Information Requests](#), which examined schools’ academic and operational plans. Through this rigorous process, the Institute determined that the nine new schools were prepared to serve students.

Newly opened schools are:

School Name	District	2020-21 Grade(s) Served	2020-21 Chartered Enrollment
Brilla Caritas Charter School	NYC CSD 7	K	90
Brilla Pax Charter School	NYC CSD 7	K	90
Buffalo Creek Academy Charter School	Buffalo City School District	5-6	112
Capital Preparatory Bronx Charter School	NYC CSD 12	6-7	160
Girls Preparatory Charter School of the Bronx II	NYC CSD 7	K	104
Lamad Academy Charter School	NYC CSD 18	6	125
Wildflower New York Charter School	NYC CSD 9	K-1	18
Zeta Charter School – Bronx 2	NYC CSD 12	K	60
Zeta Charter School – Bronx 3	NYC CSD 12	K	60

**New Roots Charter School Probation Status**

On December 18, 2019, the SUNY Trustees voted to place New Roots Charter School on probationary status due to low enrollment, fiscal mismanagement, and admitting students

outside permissible grade range. The remedial action plan contained mandatory terms and conditions, which the school has met, and continues to provide the Institute with timely reporting as requested. The Institute will continue to monitor operations during the 2020-21 school year and audited financial statements are due to the Institute by November 1, 2020.

### **New York Charter Schools Stimulus Fund Grant Program Awarded**

On June 11, 2020, the Committee awarded \$1,357,024 in Charter School Stimulus Fund grant awards pursuant to a Request for Proposals (T003702) (the “RFP”) to enable eligible charter school education corporations to compete for funds for expenses associated with the acquisition, renovation, construction, or financing of certain charter school facilities not located in free public space or receiving rental assistance funding.

As an update, nine charter schools benefitted from the grant program and received eligible reimbursements under the RFP to cover facility projects, for a total of \$1,344,569.18 distributed as follows:

- \$49,363.00 Niagara Charter School
- \$154,952.95 Merrick Academy - Queens Charter School
- \$200,000.00 Evergreen Charter School
- \$200,000.00 Buffalo Collegiate Charter School
- \$200,000.00 Elmwood Village Charter School Hertel
- \$121,236.23 Truxton Academy Charter School
- \$200,000.00 Persistence Preparatory Academy Charter School
- \$188,562.00 The Academy Charter School – Hempstead
- \$30,455.00 The Academy Charter School - Uniondale