



October 14, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Trustees

**From: Kathryn Connell-Espinosa, Executive Director
SUNY Charter Schools Institute**

Subject: Charter Schools Institute Update

UPDATES

2025-2026 School Openings

Five SUNY-authorized charter schools opened for their first year of operation in August and September 2025. Pursuant to its practices, Institute staff conducted preopening review protocols to ensure each school’s compliance with facility, safety, and staffing requirements. Through this process, the Institute determined the new schools were prepared to serve students. The newly opened schools are:

Charter School Name	New York City Community School District (“CSD”)	2025-26 Grade(s)	2025-26 Chartered Enrollment
Haven Charter High School	CSD 11	9	100
Math, Engineering, and Science Academy (MESA) Charter High School – South Brooklyn	CSD 20	9	125
Zeta Charter School – Queens Elmhurst	CSD 24	K-1	180
Zeta Charter School – Queens 2	CSD 24	K-1	180
Zeta Charter School – Queens Jamaica	CSD 28	K-1	180

Preview of Charter Renewals for 2025-26

The Institute anticipates bringing 47 charter renewals for the Committee’s consideration during the 2025-26 school year. Among the 47 renewal votes for 2025-26 are (note that some of the 47 charters are counted in multiple of the bullet points below):

- 29 charters operated under the authority of multi-charter education corporations;
- 18 standalone charters; and,
- 3 charters coming to renewal for the first time.

The Institute will continue to align the expiration dates of charters within high-performing education corporations. In order to achieve this “true up” so that all charters overseen by one governing board are up for renewal in the same year, the Institute anticipates making renewal recommendations of fewer than five years that come with the confidence and evidence of success afforded to ‘full term renewals’ as identified in 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. This will result in all charters within one not-for-profit education corporation coming to renewal in the same calendar year. Note that all “true up” recommendations will be conducted on a standard renewal timeline, with no early renewal recommendations. In future years, the evaluation and renewal of these “trued up” charters will allow the Institute to maximize its resources while maintaining high standards for charter renewal while alleviating the administrative burden on schools to allow them to focus on serving their students and families effectively.

The Institute anticipates the New York State Education Department will release final performance data this fall from the spring 2025 3rd – 8th grade ELA and mathematics assessments. Following the public release of the data, the Institute will update the committee on the performance of SUNY-authorized charter schools. The Institute will also provide specific updates on any schools operating with academic conditions on their current charter.

REVISIONS

Success Academy Charter Schools - NYC, an education corporation with the authority to operate more than one school, requests the following revisions:

- **Success Academy Charter School – Bronx 5 Upper**, located at 604 East 139th Street, Bronx, 10454 in Community School District (“CSD”) 7, is chartered to serve 119 students in grades 3-5 growing to serve 206 students in grades K-4 for 2026-27 school year, the final year of the current charter term. The school requests an enrollment revision to serve 253 students in grades K-5 for the 2025-26 school year and 638 students in grades K-4 for the 2026-27 school year. Success Academy Charter School – Bronx 5 Upper is currently incubating in facility space with Success Academy Charter School – Bronx 5 Lower. This revision will allow the school to move into a new identified facility and allow the students to continue in the program.
- **Success Academy Charter School - Norwood**, located at 268 East 207th Street, Bronx, NY 10467 in CSD 10, is chartered to serve 533 students in grades K-3 for the 2025-26 school year and 633 students in grades K-4 for the 2026-27 school year, the final year of the current charter term. The school requests an enrollment revision to serve 593 students in grades K-4 for the 2025-26 school year to accommodate increased demand.

The Institute reviewed the revision materials and finds the enrollment revisions allow the schools to continue to operate in an educationally, fiscally, and legally sound manner. Therefore, the Institute approves the revisions to each school’s charter.