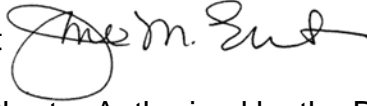





TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: Jhone M. Ebert 

SUBJECT: Revision to a Charter Authorized by the Board of Regents

DATE: November 2, 2017

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed revision to the charter of Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This issue will be before the Board of Regents P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at the November 2017 Regents meeting.

Procedural History

The New York State Education Department made the revision recommendation being presented to the Board of Regents for approval and issuance as required by Article 56 of the Education Law.

Background Information

The Commissioner recommends that the Board of Regents amend the charter of Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School. Information about the revision request is provided below.

Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School

Table 1: School Summary

Name of Charter School	Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School
Board Chair	Jonathan Harber
District of Location	New York City Geographic District #16
Opening Month/Year	August 2012
Current Charter Term	July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019
Management Company:	N/A
Partner(s):	New York City Outward Bound Expeditionary Learning Education (EL)
Maximum Approved Grade Levels/ Number of Students	Grades 6-8 / 271 Students
Mission	<i>“Launch students will develop the academic skills and strength of character necessary to thrive in college, contribute to their communities, and excel in their careers.”</i>
Proposed Revision	An increase in enrollment from 271 to 302, nunc pro tunc to July 1, 2016, for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years and an increase to 310 in the 2018-2019 academic year.

The Board of Regents granted an initial charter to Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School (hereinafter “LELCS”) in December 2010. LELCS requested and was approved to take the 2011-12 school year as a planning year. The school opened in Brooklyn, NY CSD 16 in August 2012. The Board of Regents approved a charter revision in February 2016 to decrease the maximum enrollment and grade levels from 461 students in grades 6-10 to 271 students in grades 6-8. In 2016, the school requested and was denied a revision to increase its enrollment as part of the 2016-17 renewal.

The school’s board of trustees has submitted another request for an increase in enrollment. Based on the most recent academic data, LELCS has made improvement academically, warranting the consideration of an increase in enrollment at this time.

Table 2: LELCS Approved Enrollment

	Year 1 2016-2017	Year 2 2017-2018	Year 3 2018-2019
Grade Configuration	Grades 6-8	Grades 6-8	Grades 6-8
Total Approved Enrollment	271	271	271

Table 3: LELCS Proposed Enrollment

	Year 1 2016-2017	Year 2 2017-2018	Year 3 2018-2019
Grade Configuration	Grades 6-8	Grades 6-8	Grades 6-8
Total Approved Enrollment	302	302	310

Table 4: LELCS Charter School Academic Achievement

	ELA					Math				
	LELCS	CSD 16	Variance to CSD 16	NYS	Variance to NYS	LELCS	CSD 16	Variance to CSD 16	NYS	Variance to NYS
All Students										
2015-16	16%	18%	-2	37%	-21	17%	14%	+3	34%	-17
2016-17	25%	20%	+5	40%	-15	16%	9%	+7	34%	-18

**Table 5: LELCS Charter School Demographics
Compared to District of Location**

	2016-2017			2017-2018		
	LELCS	CSD 16	Variance	LELCS	CSD 16	Variance
Economically Disadvantaged	88%	90%	-2	93%*	**	NA
English Language Learners	5%	9%	-4	5%*	**	NA
Students with Disabilities	28%	33%	-5	26%*	**	NA

* As reported by the charter school

** Data not yet available

Summary of Public Comment

As required by the Charter School Act, the New York City Department of Education held a public hearing about the proposed revision to the charter of Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School on October 25, 2017. There were two attendees present at the hearing. There was one comment in support and there were no public comments made in opposition to the proposed charter revision.

Related Regents Items

December 2010 Initial Charter

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2010Meetings/December2010/1210p12a2.pdf>

February 2016 Enrollment Revision

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/216p12a4.pdf>

December 2016 First Renewal

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/117p12a2.pdf>

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that: (1) the charter school meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) the charter school can demonstrate the ability to operate in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) granting the request to amend the charter is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in subdivision two of section twenty-eight hundred fifty of Article 56 of the Education Law; and (4) granting the request to amend the charter will have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the charter revision for Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School and amends the provisional charter accordingly, *nunc pro tunc* to July 1, 2016 as detailed in Table 1 of the item.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School will become effective immediately.