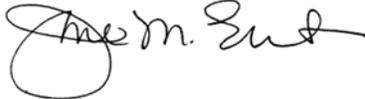




**TO:** P-12 Education Committee

**FROM:** Jhone M. Ebert 

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

**DATE:** January 11, 2018

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

## SUMMARY

### **Issue for Decision**

Should the Regents approve the proposed revision to the Charter School of Educational Excellence authorized by the Board of Regents?

### **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 January 2018 Regents meeting.

### **Procedural History**

The New York State Education Department (the Department) is making a recommendation to the Board of Regents for approval and issuance of a charter revision as required by Article 56 of the Education Law.

### **Background Information**

The Department recommends that the Board of Regents amend the charter of the Charter School of Educational Excellence. Information about the revision request is provided below.

## Charter School of Educational Excellence

**Table 1: School Summary**

<b>Name of Charter School</b>	Charter School of Educational Excellence
<b>Board Chair</b>	Eduardo LaGuerre
<b>District of Location</b>	Yonkers City School District
<b>Opening Month/Year</b>	September 2005
<b>Current Charter Term</b>	07/01/2013 to 06/30/2018
<b>Management Company:</b>	NA
<b>Partner(s):</b>	NA
<b>Maximum Approved Grade Levels/ Number of Students</b>	Grades K-8/690 students
<b>Mission</b>	<i>"The Charter School of Educational Excellence's mission is to develop students who are critical thinkers, motivated leaders, and lifelong learners. We are committed to a strong partnership with our teachers, parents, and community."</i>
<b>Proposed Revision</b>	<b>The school seeks to increase their maximum enrollment for the grades currently served, K-8, from 669 students to 729 students to go into effect immediately.</b>

In January 2004, the Board of Regents approved and chartered the Charter School of Educational Excellence ("CSEE or the "School") in the Yonkers City School District. The School's educational program focuses on developing students who are critical thinkers, motivated leaders, and lifelong learners.

The School's Trustees request that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to the school's charter to allow the school to increase their maximum approved enrollment from 669 students to 729 students in grades K-8. This revision would enable the school to increase class cohort sizes allowing the school to serve students from their chosen lottery in the elementary grades. It will also help to meet the community's need for additional high-quality seats as well as allow the school to serve additional English language learners and students with disabilities. This proposal, if approved, would become effective immediately upon approval by the Board of Regents.

**Table 2: Charter School of Educational Excellence: Approved Enrollment For the Current Charter Term**

	<b>Year 1 2013-2014</b>	<b>Year 2 2014-2015</b>	<b>Year 3 2015-2016</b>	<b>Year 4 2016-2017</b>	<b>Year 5 2017-2018</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	Grades K-8				
<b>Total Approved Enrollment</b>	669	669	669	669	669

**Table 3: Charter School of Educational Excellence Proposed Enrollment  
For the Current Charter Term**

	<b>Year 1 2013-2014</b>	<b>Year 2 2014-2015</b>	<b>Year 3 2015-2016</b>	<b>Year 4 2016-2017</b>	<b>Year 5 2017-2018</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	Grades K-8				
<b>Total Approved Enrollment</b>	669	669	669	669	729*

\* Proposed to go into effect immediately upon approval by the Board of Regents

**Table 4: Charter School of Educational Excellence Academic Achievement**

	ELA					Math				
	Charter School of Educational Excellence	Yonkers School District	Variance to Yonkers School District	NYS	Variance to NYS	Charter School of Educational Excellence	Yonkers School District	Variance to Yonkers School District	NYS	Variance to NYS
All Students										
2014-2015	42%	20%	+22	31%	+11	62%	24%	+38	38%	+24
2015-2016	55%	26%	+29	38%	+17	70%	25%	+45	39%	+31
2016-2017	53%	30%	+23	40%	+13	67%	28%	+39	40%	+27

**Table 5—Regents Common Core Algebra I Proficiency**

Number of students tested	Student Subgroup	Percentage of students proficient	NYS Proficiency	Variance
53	All students	94%	74%	+20
6	Students with disabilities	100%	45%	+55
41	Economically disadvantaged	95%	67%	+28

Note: Some sub-group data may not be reported due to FERPA data suppression requirements.

**Table 6—Regents Living Environment**

Number of students tested	Student Subgroup	Percentage of students proficient	NYS Proficiency	Variance
19	All students	100%	74%	+26
15	Economically disadvantaged	100%	64%	+36

Note: Some sub-group data may not be reported due to FERPA data suppression requirements.

**Table 7: Charter School of Educational Excellence Demographics Compared to District of Location**

	2015-2016 Percent of Enrollment			2016-2017 Percent of Enrollment			2017-2018 Percent of Enrollment
	School	District	Variance	School	District	Variance	School
Economically Disadvantaged	84%	76%	+8	83%	75%	+8	84%
English Language Learners	13%	15%	-2	12%	14%	-2	13%
Students with Disabilities	8%	17%	-9	8%	17%	-9	7%

**Summary of Public Comment**

As required by the Charter School Act, the Yonkers City School District held a public hearing about the proposed revision to the charters of Charter School of Educational Excellence on September 13, 2007.

The required public hearing for the proposed CSEE charter renewal was held by the Yonkers City School District on September 13, 2017. Over three-hundred people attended. Eleven people spoke in favor and 29 speakers spoke against the school. Numerous emailed/hand-written comments were also received by the department. Most comments in opposition were not against this proposed revision but, rather, were against a grade level expansion request that has subsequently been withdrawn.

## **Related Regents Items**

### **Charter School of Educational Excellence**

Initial Charter  
(not available on NYSED website)

2009 First renewal Initial Charter

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2009Meetings/January2009/0109emsca1.doc>

2013 Second renewal

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/213p12a1%5B1%5D.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 the **Charter School of Educational Excellence** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

The Regents action for the Charter School of Educational Excellence will become effective immediately.