
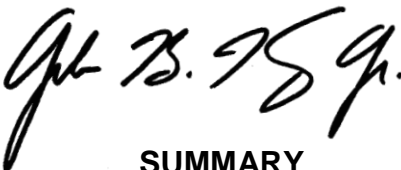




**TO:** P-12 Education Committee  
**FROM:** Ken Slentz   
**SUBJECT:** Revisions to a Charter Authorized by the Board of Regents: Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School  
**DATE:** February 3, 2014

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**   
**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision**

Should the Regents approve the proposed revisions to the charter for Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by state statute.

**Proposed Handling**

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

**Background Information**

Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School requests to change the material terms of its charter:

1. to increase its maximum enrollment from 696 students to 975
2. increase the length of the school year with 15 additional days in the beginning of the year (195 days total)
3. serve grades 5-7 at a new east campus located outside the Syracuse City School District in the town of Geddes

Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School

Name of Charter School	<b>Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School</b>
Applicant	Fehmi Damkaci, BoT President
Management Company	N/A
Other Partner(s)	N/A
District of Location	Syracuse City School District
Facility	Two separate private facilities (elementary & middle/high school)
School Opened For Instruction	September 2003
Current Charter Term	July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2017
Current Grade Levels/ Approved Maximum Enrollment	Kindergarten through grade 12; 696 students
<b>Proposed Revision</b>	<b>Increase maximum enrollment from 696 students to 975; increase the length of the school year from 180 to 195 days total; serve grades 5-7 at a new east campus located just outside the Syracuse City School District in the town of Geddes.</b>

The Board of Regents approved and chartered the Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School (“School”) located in the Syracuse City School District in January 2003. SASCS opened in September 2003 with 200 students in grades 7-9. SASCS added grades 10, 11, and 12 in the subsequent three years, ending its first charter term with 350 students in grades 7-12. In December of 2007, the Board of Regents granted a first renewal charter to SASCS for five years. In May of 2010, the Board of Regents granted a revision to the SASCS charter to add grades K-2 and 5-6 during this first renewal term. During 2011-2012, SASCS served 600 students in grades K-2 and 5-12. In March 2012, the Board of Regents granted the School a second renewal charter for five years from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017. In March 2013, the Regents approved a material revision to allow Syracuse Academy, to alter its mission statement to align with its sister school, Utica Academy of Science Charter School.

The School is now requesting an enrollment increase from 696 students to 975 students in grades K-12. The school believes the availability of open seats at SASCS will expand the educational opportunities to the target population of socio-economically needy students residing in the Syracuse City School District. Also, the School has requested to add an additional 15 school days to the beginning of the school year.

Syracuse Academy also requests a charter revision that would allow it to locate its middle school students (grades 5-7) in a former parochial school building site just beyond the Syracuse City School District limits in the town of Geddes. This additional school building site would allow the school to:

- place students at age-appropriate school campuses; Grades K-4 at the south elementary school campus in Syracuse, Grades 5-7 at the east middle school campus in the Town of Geddes, and Grades 8-12 at the central high school campus in Syracuse.

- have extra instructional space at the central high school campus, which will allow the School to offer seven more advanced and college courses and will provide extra laboratory project-based learning spaces.

This revision would not alter the official district of location of Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School, which would remain the Syracuse City School District. Students who are residents of the Syracuse City School District would continue to receive the enrollment preference for available seats in the middle school grades, just as they do for the elementary and high school grades that would continue to be located within the Syracuse City School District.

Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School is a school “In Good Standing”, and has never been identified for improvement under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

In 2013, the School outperformed the Syracuse City School District as the district of location on the 3-8 State English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments and in 2012, the School outperformed the district on the English Composition and Integrated Algebra Regents exams (see Tables 1 & 2 in the Attachment). Additionally, the School has provided interim data showing that its sister school, Utica Academy of Science, is performing as well on their interim exams as Syracuse Academy – a trajectory for positive outcomes on the School’s New York State exams.

The Department reviewed audited financial statements for the School for 2007-2008 through 2010-2011. The school has continued to demonstrate good overall financial health and stability. The review showed that the school maintained a positive change in net assets each year resulting in an overall increase in the net asset balance from \$795,733 in 2007-2008 to \$2,763,630 in 2010-2011. Cash flow ending balances fluctuated but the ending balance in 2010-2011 was a positive \$1,690,550. The working capital ratio increased steadily each year.

### **Recommendation**

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that the proposed revised charter: (1) meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) will operate in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) 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) 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 Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

The Regents actions for Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School will become effective immediately.

Attachment

Table 1: Syracuse Academy of Science 3-8 Proficiency Compared to the District

	Syracuse Academy of Science		Syracuse CSD		New York State		District Variance	State Variance
	Tested Students	Average Proficiency	Tested Students	Average Proficiency	Tested Students	Average Proficiency	+/-	+/-
<b>2010-11</b>								
Grade 6 ELA	43	41.9%	1,463	23.7%	213,676	56.4%	18.2	-14.5
Grade 6 Math	43	48.8%	1,484	21.8%	215,848	62.9%	27.1	-14.1
Grade 7 ELA	61	65.6%	1,378	17.5%	204,920	48.1%	48.1	17.5
Grade 7 Math	62	64.5%	1,399	28.0%	207,099	64.6%	36.5	-0.1
Grade 8 ELA	52	50.0%	1,375	19.6%	219,392	48.3%	30.4	1.7
Grade 8 Math	52	59.6%	1,399	15.4%	221,129	60.0%	44.2	-0.4
Grade 8 Science	47	72.3%	1,336	37.6%	175,068	69.0%	34.8	3.3
Aggregate ELA	156	52.5%	4,216	20.3%	637,988	50.9%	32.2	1.6
Aggregate Math	157	57.7%	4,282	21.7%	644,076	62.5%	35.9	-4.8
Aggregate Science	47	72.3%	1,336	37.6%	175,068	69.0%	34.8	3.3
<b>2011-12</b>								
Grade 5 ELA	24	37.5%	1,528	23.7%	202,521	57.6%	13.8	-20.1
Grade 5 Math	24	62.5%	1,557	28.3%	204,640	66.7%	34.2	-4.2
Grade 6 ELA	44	61.4%	1,478	25.0%	215,746	56.3%	36.3	5.1
Grade 6 Math	44	72.7%	1,502	23.1%	217,966	64.9%	49.6	7.8
Grade 7 ELA	69	53.6%	1,379	20.6%	203,916	52.5%	33	1.1
Grade 7 Math	69	60.9%	1,388	23.8%	205,799	65.1%	37.1	-4.2
Grade 8 ELA	66	59.1%	1,352	19.8%	216,102	51.0%	39.3	8.1
Grade 8 Math	66	59.1%	1,377	20.7%	217,628	61.3%	38.4	-2.2
Grade 8 Science	61	62.3%	1,343	34.1%	172,007	69.0%	28.2	-6.7
Aggregate ELA	203	52.9%	5,737	22.3%	838,285	54.4%	30.6	-1.5
Aggregate Math	203	63.8%	5,824	24.0%	846,033	64.5%	39.8	-0.7
Aggregate Science	61	62.3%	1,343	34.1%	172,007	69.0%	28.2	-6.7
<b>2012-13</b>								
Grade 3 ELA	46	52.2%	1,538	9.2%	202,709	31.3%	42.9	20.9
Grade 3 Math	46	47.8%	1,552	8.2%	204,173	34.1%	39.6	13.7
Grade 5 ELA	23	52.2%	1,468	7.9%	200,800	30.3%	44.3	21.9
Grade 5 Math	23	30.4%	1,496	6.2%	202,256	29.7%	24.2	0.7
Grade 6 ELA	52	28.8%	1,446	7.6%	211,011	30.0%	21.2	-1.2
Grade 6 Math	52	40.4%	1,478	7.2%	212,559	30.0%	33.2	10.4
Grade 7 ELA	61	37.7%	1,392	8.3%	205,441	31.5%	29.4	6.2
Grade 7 Math	61	24.6%	1,415	4.7%	206,887	27.7%	19.9	-3.1
Grade 8 ELA	61	32.8%	1,340	9.9%	213,729	34.3%	22.9	-1.5
Grade 8 Math	62	29.0%	1,345	3.2%	214,575	26.9%	25.8	2.1
Grade 8 Science	61	57.4%	1,280	31.0%			26.4	57.4
Aggregate ELA	243	40.7%	7,184	8.6%	1,033,690	31.5%	32.2	9.2
Aggregate Math	244	34.5%	7,286	5.9%	1,040,450	29.7%	28.6	4.8
Aggregate Science					Embargoed			

Table 2: Syracuse Academy of Science Regents Proficiency Compared to the District

	Syracuse Academy of Science		Syracuse CSD		New York State		District Variance	State Variance
	Tested Students	Average Proficiency	Tested Students	Average Proficiency	Tested Students	Average Proficiency	+/-	+/-
<b>2010-11</b>								
Algebra2/Trig	18	27.80%	624	32.40%	120,387	64.0%	-4.6	-36.2
English	63	85.70%	3,544	63.50%	238,357	84.0%	22.2	1.7
Geometry	44	54.50%	2,190	39.30%	162,505	75.0%	15.3	-20.5
Global History	93	54.80%	3,818	38.90%	252,363	69.0%	16	-14.2
Int Algebra	79	54.40%	5,608	44.40%	283,446	73.0%	10	-18.6
Lvng Envrnmnt	85	68.20%	3,582	62.40%	236,323	81.0%	5.9	-12.8
Chemistry	11	81.80%	692	51.70%	108,466	78.0%	30.1	3.8
Earth Sci	60	63.30%	1,090	40.60%	165,998	72.0%	22.8	-8.7
US History/Gov	62	69.40%	2,662	48.10%	221,732	80.0%	21.3	-10.6
<b>2011-12</b>								
Algebra2/Trig	26	30.80%	864	26.40%	115,327	64.0%	4.4	-33.2
English	70	87.10%	2,496	64.30%	235,462	82.0%	22.9	5.1
Geometry	36	50.00%	2,250	39.60%	166,557	74.0%	10.4	-24.0
Global History	100	68.00%	4,208	45.00%	251,051	71.0%	23	-3.0
Int Algebra	144	72.90%	5,386	46.50%	283,530	71.0%	26.4	1.9
Lvng Envrnmnt	98	71.40%	3,588	58.10%	233,369	79.0%	13.3	-7.6
Chemistry	12	66.70%	632	53.80%	102,578	78.0%	12.9	-11.3
Earth Sci	48	47.90%	1,346	56.20%	161,637	73.0%	-8.2	-25.1
US History/Gov	75	80.00%	3,134	60.70%	231,071	79.0%	19.3	1.0