



TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: Cosimo Tangorra, Jr. *Cosimo Tangorra Jr.*

SUBJECT: Charter Schools: Revision to Charter Authorized by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE)

DATE: February 5, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Elizabeth R Berlin*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed charter revision for St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School, which is authorized by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE)?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State Statute.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at the February 2015 meeting of the Board of Regents.

Background Information

St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School (St. Hope or “the School”) was first authorized by the Chancellor of the NYCDOE as a charter school to open for the 2008-2009 school year. The School is in its second charter term and was issued a full renewal in March 2013. The School is authorized to serve 300 students in Grades 5-8 for the 2014-2015 school year and currently enrolls 277 students in Grades 5-8. The School is operating at authorized scale.

The Chancellor of the NYCDOE recommends the following actions:

- Truncate grades served to Grades 6-8 beginning in school year 2015-2016.

The chart below outlines the material terms of the St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School's charter and the proposed revision.

St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School	
Board Chair(s)	Lauren Mirsky
School Leader(s)	Constance Bond, Ph.D.
Charter Management Organization (if applicable)	N/A
Other Partner(s)	N/A
District(s) of Location	NYC Community School District 5
Physical Address(es)	222 West 134 Street, Manhattan 10030
Facility Owner(s)	DOE
School Opened For Instruction	2008-2009
Current Charter Term Expiration Date	June 30, 2018
Current Authorized Grade Span	5-8
Current Authorized Enrollment	300
Proposed Changes with Material Charter Revision	Truncate grades served to Grades 6-8 beginning in school year 2015-2016.

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 permit the charter school to 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 above listed charter revision as proposed by Chancellor of the NYCDOE and the provisional charter for the St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School is amended accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for the School would take effect on the first day of the 2015-2016 school year.

School: St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School (84M388)
CSD: 5
Enrollment/ Grades Served in 2014-2015:¹ 277/ 5-8

Revision Background

- St. Hope received a full-term renewal in March 2013. At the time of renewal, the School demonstrated academic achievement and progress.
- Over the past two years of Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) aligned NYS assessments, the school did not perform above the CSD of location in each ELA and math absolute proficiency. In 2013-2014, 6.5% of St. Hope's students were proficient in ELA on the NYS assessments; this placed the school at the 16th percentile citywide and the 23rd percentile of peer schools. Alternately, in 2013-2014, 11.6% of St. Hope's students were proficient in math on the NYS assessments; however, this placed the school at the 33rd percentile citywide and 68th percentile amongst peer schools.
- St. Hope's ELA proficiency ranged from 1.7% (grade 3) to 13.8% (grade 8) in 2013-2014; math proficiency ranged from 3.2% (grade 3) to 21.8% (grade 7) in the same year. In each ELA and math, St. Hope's fifth grade class had the lowest proficiency across all grades served.
- More than one-third of St. Hope's students are in the lowest third city-wide. In 2013-2014 students at the school demonstrated growth in math such that 42.9% of students in the lowest third were in the 75th growth percentile placing the school in the 48th percentile amongst its peers. In 2013-2014 students at the school demonstrated growth in ELA such that 42.3% of students in the lowest third were in the 75th growth percentile placing the school in the 23rd percentile amongst its peers.
- The revision sought would truncate the grades served by the school to eliminate the fifth grade; the school's authorized grade span would reflect traditional middle school grades 6-8 only after this revision.
- Previously, the school was able to attract incoming fifth graders as other charter schools in CSD 5 were not yet at scale. As these new schools phased-in to serve grades K-5, St. Hope faced increased challenges in recruiting incoming fifth grade students. The school has experienced year over year enrollment declines; in 2014-2015, the school serves only 40 fifth graders down from a high of 89 students in 2012-2013.
- The school does not plan to alter the total number of students served (300 authorized enrollment) or the number of instructional staff. Instead, the school will accept applications for students in all grades 6-8 eventually reaching 100 students per grade at scale, four sections per grade.
- The truncation of grade five will allow the school to recruit students for a traditional grade level shift (grade 6) offering choice to a greater number of families, focus fully on a middle school curriculum, and retain the school's co-teaching model.

¹ Enrollment reflects ATS data as of October 31, 2014

- The school will continue to recruit and retain students with disabilities and English Language Learners as well as continue to offer one Integrated Co-Teaching class per grade level.
- As the number of enrolled students and instructional staff will be unchanged, there is no anticipated impact on school budget. Teachers will continue to have appropriate certification in middle childhood or adolescent education.
- Facilities are not impacted by this charter revision as the school presently accommodates 12 sections (three sections across four grades) and will continue to accommodate 12 sections (four sections across three grades) after the charter revision.

ES/MS students scoring at or above Level 3 on NYS assessments, compared to CSD, NYC and State averages Over the Current Charter Term

% Proficient in English Language Arts		
	2012-2013	2013-2014
St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School	7.3%	6.5%
CSD 5	13.8%	15.7%
Difference from CSD 5 *	-6.5	-9.2
NYC	25.7%	27.4%
Difference from NYC *	-18.4	-20.9
New York State **	31.1%	30.6%
Difference from New York State	-23.8	-24.1

% Proficient in Mathematics		
	2012-2013	2013-2014
St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School	12.1%	11.6%
CSD 5	11.8%	13.2%
Difference from CSD 5 *	0.3	-1.6
NYC	27.3%	31.5%
Difference from NYC *	-15.2	-19.9
New York State **	31.1%	36.2%
Difference from New York State	-19.0	-24.6

* All comparisons to either the CSD or NYC take into account only grades the school itself served. CSD comparisons are particular to the CSD in which the school was sited each year.

** New York State proficiency rates were taken from data.nysed.gov.

Performance on the NYC Progress Report Over the Current Charter Term

Elementary/Middle School Progress Report Grades	2012-2013	2013-2014
Overall Grade	C	Progress Reports were discontinued beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.
Student Progress	D	
Student Performance	C	
School Environment	A	

Enrollment of Special Populations Over the Current Charter Term²

Special Population		2012-2013	2013-2014
Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL)	St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School	90.1%	93.6%
	CSD 5	88.1%	86.6%
	NYC	83.0%	82.3%
Students with Disabilities (SWD)	St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School	17.9%	19.5%
	CSD 5	23.4%	25.4%
	NYC	20.0%	21.0%
English Language Learners (ELL)	St. Hope Leadership Academy Charter School	9.3%	9.1%
	CSD 5	12.9%	11.8%
	NYC	12.5%	12.0%

Additional Enrollment Information		
	2012-2013	2013-2014
Grades Served	5-9	5-8
CSD(s)	5	5

² Comparisons of a charter school's special populations to the CSD and City are made relative only to the grades served by the school. For example, if a charter school serves grades kindergarten through five, comparisons of that school's special populations will only be made relative to grades kindergarten through five in the CSD and citywide. CSD comparisons are particular to the grades served in each CSD each year. Enrollment rates reflect demographic characteristics as of June 1 and enrollment as of October 31 for each given school year, with the exception of enrollment in the 2012-2013 school year, which is as of October 26, 2012.