



**TO:** P-12 Education Committee

**FROM:** Elizabeth Berlin *Elizabeth Berlin*

**SUBJECT:** Revision Recommendation for a Charter School  
Authorized by the New York City Department of Education

**DATE:** April 25, 2019

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *MaryEllen Eina*

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Decision**

Should the Board of Regents approve the proposed revision to the charter for the following charter school authorized by the New York City Department of Education Chancellor pursuant to Article 56 of the Education Law:

- **Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School** (revision to expand grade levels served to K through Grade 8 from their existing K through Grade 5 and expand enrollment from 300 to 450 students)

#### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute.

#### **Proposed Handling**

This issue will be before the P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at the May 2019 Regents meeting.

#### **Procedural History**

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

## **Background Information**

The New York City Department of Education Chancellor recommends that the Board of Regents amend the charter of the Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School. Information about the revision request is provided below.

## **Related Regents Items**

### **Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School**

#### **[December 2009 Initial Charter](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/December2009/1209emsca7.htm)**

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/December2009/1209emsca7.htm>

#### **[September 2014 Revision \(add CEO\)](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/914p12a2.pdf)**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/914p12a2.pdf>

#### **[December 2014 First Renewal](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1214p12a3Revised.pdf)**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1214p12a3Revised.pdf>

#### **[March 2017 Second Renewal](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/317p12a8revised.pdf)**

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/317p12a8revised.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 **Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

The Regents action for the above-named charter school will become effective immediately.

## Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

### Charter School Summary

<b>Name of Charter School</b>	Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School
<b>Board Chair</b>	Dr. Lillian Hamer
<b>District of location</b>	NYC CSD 28 (Queens)
<b>Opening Date</b>	Fall 2009
<b>Charter Terms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial Charter: December 15, 2009 – December 14, 2014</li> <li>• First Renewal: December 15, 2014 – June 30, 2017</li> <li>• Second Renewal: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2022</li> </ul>
<b>Current Term Authorized Grades/ Approved Enrollment</b>	K – Grade 5/ 300 students
<b>Comprehensive Management Service Provider</b>	None
<b>Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 122-05 Smith Street, Jamaica (Private Space)</li> <li>• 110-51 Guy R Brewer Blvd, Queens (Private Space)</li> </ul>
<b>Mission Statement</b>	<i>The School's mission is “to provide an early college preparatory program serving students from kindergarten through grade five. REACS is committed to a balanced multi-literacy approach, educating each student to stand out from the crowd intellectually, historical-culturally, digitally, economically, physically, artistically, and civically, in an increasingly diverse and fast changing global society. Driven by the principles of purpose, passion and proficiency, Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School will offer each student a challenging, college-bound education that develops character and critical thinking ability infused with family and social values to support lifelong learning, leadership and productive citizenship.”</i>
<b>Key Design Elements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum</li> <li>• Assessments and use of data</li> <li>• Enrichment opportunities</li> <li>• Special populations</li> <li>• Staffing</li> <li>• Professional development</li> <li>• Supportive Environment</li> <li>• School culture</li> </ul>
<b>Requested Revisions</b>	<b>Expand grade levels served to K through Grade 8 from their existing K through Grade 5 and expand enrollment from 300 to 450 students.</b>

The Board of Regents granted an initial charter to Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School in December 2009. The school opened for instruction in September 2010 initially serving 68 students in K through Grade 1. Rochdale’s charter was subsequently renewed by the Board of Regents in 2014 and 2017. A material revision to add a CEO was approved by the Board of Regents in 2014.

Due to strong academic outcomes and high demand from the community, the school’s Board of Trustees request that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to the school’s charter to expand to serve Grades 6 through 8 with total authorized enrollment of 450.

**Current Grade Levels and Approved Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2017 to 2018</b>	<b>Year 2 2018 to 2019</b>	<b>Year 3 2019 to 2020</b>	<b>Year 4 2020 to 2021</b>	<b>Year 5 2021 to 2022</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5
<b>Total Approved Enrollment</b>	238	300	300	300	300

**Proposed Renewal Term Grade Levels and Approved Enrollment**

	<b>2019 to 2020</b>	<b>2020 to 2021</b>	<b>2021 to 2022</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	K – Grade 6	K – Grade 7	K – Grade 8
<b>Total Approved Enrollment</b>	350	400	450

**Table 1: Elementary/Middle School Assessment Proficiency Outcomes for All Students: School, District & State Level Aggregates**

	<b>ELA</b>					<b>Math</b>				
	<b>Rochdale CS</b>	<b>CSD 28</b>	<b>Variance to CSD 28</b>	<b>NYS</b>	<b>Variance to NYS</b>	<b>Rochdale CS</b>	<b>CSD 28</b>	<b>Variance to CSD 28</b>	<b>NYS</b>	<b>Variance to NYS</b>
<b>All Students</b>										
<b>2016-2017</b>	52%	43%	+9	40%	+12	51%	46%	+5	45%	+6
<b>2017-2018</b>	61%	51%	+10	45%	+16	54%	53%	+1	49%	+5

**Note:** Data in Table 1 represents tested students in grades 3-5 at Rochdale CS, CSD 28, and at the state who scored proficiently (level 3 or above) on each state assessment. This table was created using grade level data to generate the comparative values, the percent difference between the school’s performance and the district or state averages. All values were calculated to the nearest whole number; therefore, the percent differences may show a rounded value.

The school's performance with special populations has consistently exceeded that of the host CSD.

**Table 2: Elementary/Middle School Assessment Proficiency Outcomes for Special Populations**

Subject	School Year	Students with Disabilities (Variance to the district of location)	English Language Learners (Variance to the district of location)	Economically Disadvantaged (Variance to the district of location)
ELA	2016-2017	17% (+7)	*	46% (+10)
	2017-2018	24% (+6)	*	54% (+10)
Mathematics	2016-2017	17% (+1)	*	44% (+6)
	2017-2018	19% (-4)	*	49% (+4)

\*Suppressed data.

According to the 2017-2018 school year ESEA accountability designations, Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School is *In Good Standing*.

**Table 3a: Student Demographics – Rochdale Charter School Compared to District of Location**

Student Population	2016-2017			2017-2018		
	Rochdale CS	CSD 28	Variance	Rochdale CS	CSD 28	Variance
Students with Disabilities	16%	18%	-2	14%	19%	-5
English Language Learners	0%	17%	-17	1%	18%	-17
Economically Disadvantaged	75%	64%	+11	71%	69%	+2

**Table 3b: Student Demographics – Rochdale Charter School,  
Compared to District of Location within Set Radii\***

	2017-2018						
Student Population	Rochdale CS	CSD 28, <0.5 Mile Radius	Variance	CSD 28, 1 Mile Radius	Variance	CSD 28, 2 Mile Radius	Variance
English Language Learners	1%	3%	-2	4%	-3	7%	-6

*\*Values taken from the NYC DOE Demographics snapshot and may differ from values presented elsewhere due to different sourcing and definitions. Comparative values are averaged at the school level and taken from K-5 schools in CSD 28. The furthest district K-5 school away from Rochdale within the boundaries of CSD 28 is over 5.5 miles away.*

**Summary of Public Comment**

The required public hearing was held by the New York City Department of Education on April 4, 2019. Thirty-two people attended, and thirteen spoke. Thirteen were in favor of the revision and none were opposed.