

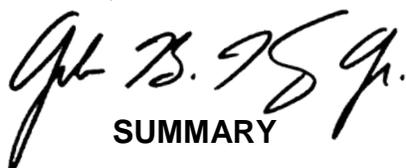


TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: Ken Slentz 

SUBJECT: Charter Schools: Renewal of Seven Charters Authorized by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE)

DATE: March 4, 2013

AUTHORIZATION(S): 
SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed renewal charters for seven charter schools 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 be before the Regents P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at the March 2013 Regents meeting.

Procedural History

The Chancellor of the NYCDOE approved these seven renewal charters and submitted them to the Regents for approval and issuance of the renewal charters as required by Article 56 of the Education Law, The New York State Charter School Statute. The Chancellor has approved full five-year renewals for six of the schools and a five-year renewal with conditions for one school.

Background Information

I recommend that the Board of Regents approve the proposed renewal charters for the following charter schools as proposed by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) in his capacity as a charter school authorizer under Article 56 of the Education Law, and that the charters be extended for the terms indicated. The Executive Summary from the NYCDOE's Renewal Report for each school is attached to this item (Attachment A). The Full Renewal Reports are available on the NYC DOE's Charter School Office web site at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/charters/Schools/default.htm>

Full Five-Year Renewals

Name of Charter School	Brooklyn Ascend Charter School
District of Location	NYC, CSD #18
Facilities	The school is in a private facility located at 205 Rockaway Parkway, Brooklyn, NY.
Terms and Date of Charter	Initial Term: January 13, 2008 – January 14, 2013 1 st Renewal: January 15, 2013 – June 30, 2013
Current Grade(s) and Approved Enrollment	2012 – 2013 Grades: K-6; approximately 725 students
Current Year of Operation	2012-2013: 5th Year of Operation
Management Company	Ascend Learning, Inc.
Other Partner(s)	N/A
New Material Term	Second Renewal Charter: July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018

Name of Charter School	DREAM Charter School
District of Location	NYC, CSD#4
Facilities	DREAM is co-located at 232 East 103rd St., Manhattan with P.S. 38.
Terms and Date of Charter	Initial Term: January 13, 2008 to January 14, 2013 1 st Renewal: January 15, 2013 – June 30, 2013
Current Grade(s) and Approved Enrollment	2012-2013: Grades K-5; approximately 300 students
Current Year of Operation	2012-2013: 5 th year of operation
Management Company	N/A
Other Partner(s)	Harlem RBI
New Material Term	Second Renewal Charter: July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018

Name of Charter School	PAVE Academy Charter School
District of Location	NYC, CSD #15
Facilities	The school is located in a private facility at 732 Henry Street, Brooklyn, NY.
Terms and Date of Charter	Initial Term: January 13, 2008 – January 14, 2013 1 st Renewal: January 15, 2013 – June 30, 2013
Current Grade(s) and Approved Enrollment	2012 – 2013 Grades: K-5; approximately 298 students
Current Year of Operation	2012-2013: 5 th Year of Operation
Management Company	N/A
Other Partner(s)	N/A
New Material Term	Second Renewal Charter: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2018

Name of Charter School	St. HOPE Leadership Academy Charter School
District of Location	NYC, CSD #5
Facilities	The school is currently co-located at 222 W. 134 th St. in Manhattan with Mary McLeod Bethune School (P.S. 092) and Democracy Prep Charter School.
Terms and Date of Charter	Initial Term: January 13, 2008 - January 14, 2013 1 st Renewal: January 15, 2013 – June 30, 2013
Current Grade(s) and Approved Enrollment	2012-13: Grades 5-8; approximately 300 students
Current Year of Operation	2012-2013: 5 th Year of Operation
Management Company	N/A
Other Partner(s)	N/A
New Material Term	Second Renewal Charter: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2018

Name of Charter School	The Equity Project Charter School
District of Location	NYC, CSD # 6
Facilities	The school is currently sited in D OE trailers at 540 Audobon Ave in Manhattan.
Terms and Date of Charter	Initial Charter: January 13, 2008 - January 14, 2013 1 st Renewal: January 15, 2013 – June 30, 2013
Current Grade(s) and Approved Enrollment	2012-13: Grades 5-8; approximately 480 students
Current Year of Operation	2012-2013: 4 th Year of Operation, 5 th Year of Charter (School took a planning year)
Management Company	N/A
Other Partner(s)	N/A
New Material Term	Second Renewal Charter: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2018

Name of Charter School	VOICE Charter School of New York
District of Location	NYC, CSD #30
Facilities	VOICE is split-sited: Grades K-2 are co-located with P.S. 111 and Grades 3-5 are located in private space 36-14 12th St., Long Island City, NY
Terms and Date of Charter	Initial Term: January 13, 2008 to January 14, 2013 1 st Renewal: January 15, 2013 – June 30, 2013
Current Grade(s) and Approved Enrollment	2012-2013: Grade K-5: approximately 440 students
Current Year of Operation	2012-2013: 5 th year of operation
Management Company	N/A
Other Partner(s)	N/A
New Material Term	Second Renewal Charter: July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018

Five-Year Renewal with Conditions

Name of Charter School	Bronx Academy of Promise Charter School
District of Location	NYC, CSD #9
Facilities	The school is currently split-sited in two private spaces: 1166 River Ave., Bronx, NY and 416 Willis Ave., Bronx, NY.
Terms and Date of Charter	Initial Term: February 10, 2008--February 11, 2013 1 st Renewal: February 12, 2013 – June 30, 2013
Current Grade(s) and Approved Enrollment	2012-2013: Grade K-6; approximately 440 students
Current Year of Operation	2012-2013: 5 th year of operation
Management Company	N/A
Other Partner(s)	N/A
New Material Term	Second Renewal Charter: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2018

Conditions:

- Board of Trustees must activate its committees and throughout the new charter term demonstrate capacity, through recommendations made by its committees and actions taken by the Board, to provide strategic planning and support for sustainable school leadership

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that the proposed charter school: (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 and issues the renewal charter of the **Brooklyn Ascend Charter School** as proposed by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including June 30, 2018.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that the proposed charter school: (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 and issues the renewal charter of the **DREAM Charter School** as proposed by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including June 30, 2018.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that the proposed charter school: (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 and issues the renewal charter of the **PAVE Academy Charter School** as proposed by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including June 30, 2018.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that the proposed charter school: (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 and issues the renewal charter of the **St. HOPE Leadership Academy Charter School** as proposed by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including June 30, 2018.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that the proposed charter school: (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 and issues the renewal charter of **The Equity Project Charter School** as proposed by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including June 30, 2018.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that the proposed charter school: (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 and issues the renewal charter of the **VOICE Charter School of New York** as proposed by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including June 30, 2018.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that the proposed charter school: (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 and issues the renewal charter of the **Bronx Academy of Promise Charter School** as proposed by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including June 30, 2018.

Timetable for Implementation

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

Attachment

Part 1: Executive Summary

School Overview and History:

Brooklyn Ascend Charter School is an elementary/middle school serving approximately 725 students from kindergarten through sixth grade in the 2012-2013 school year.¹ The school includes the Lower School, which serves grades K-4, and the Middle School, which serves grades 5-6. The school opened in 2008 with grades K-2. The school is under the terms of its first charter and is has expanded to grades K-6 during its current term, which expires January 14, 2013. If approved for renewal, the school is projected to reach its full grade span, K-12, during the 2018-2019 school year.² The school is currently housed in a private facility in District 18.³ The school enrolls new students in grades K-7. There were 3,800 students on the waitlist after the Spring 2012 lottery.⁴ Below are the school's 2012 Progress Report grade and overall assessment results and demographic data for the school and CSD.

The average attendance rate for the 2011-2012 school year to date was 96.7%.⁵ The school scored Average on the Academic Expectations, Communication, Engagement, and Safety & Respect sections of the NYC DOE School Survey in 2011-2012; 66% of the school's parents responded to the survey, and 80% of the school's teachers.⁶ The school is in good standing with state and federal accountability.⁷

Brooklyn Ascend Charter School is part of the Ascend Learning network, a charter management organization (CMO). The CMO provides back office support, curriculum assessment; student assessment data gathering, and technology support, among other services.

	2011-12 PR overall grade	2012 ELA, 3+%	2012 Math, 3+%	FRL %	SWD %	ELL %
School ⁸	A	68.2	82.7	79	8.7	0.4
CSD 18 ⁹		48	55	71.6	14.7	5

Renewal Recommendation:

In order for a charter school to be renewed it must demonstrate that it has earned renewal and is worthy of continuing the privilege of educating New York City students. While the academic performance of students is the foremost determining factor of a school's success, a school's ability to demonstrate an effective educational program, a financially and operationally viable

¹ Self-reported by school on Renewal Application Renewal Visit Data Collection Form dated 8/31/2012

² NYC DOE ATS system and charter agreement

³ NYC DOE Location Code Generating System database

⁴ Self-reported by school on Renewal Application Renewal Visit Data Collection Form dated 8/31/2012

⁵ Self-reported by school on Renewal Application Renewal Visit Data Collection Form dated 8/31/2012

⁶ NYC DOE School Survey – <http://schools.nyc.gov/survey>

⁷ New York State Education Department - www.nysed.gov

⁸ Proficiency rates from 2011-12 Progress Report. Demographics from ATS 11/20/12.

⁹ CSD ELA and Math data from NYC DOE website and measures average performance of common grades only. Demographics from ATS 11/26/12 data pull.

organization, and a strong learning community with support from stakeholders are important factors that inform a renewal decision.

Based on the evaluation of the renewal application, renewal visit, historical annual reports and visits, performance on Progress Reports, comparisons to the CSD, and other factors, the New York City Department of Education Charter Schools Accountability & Support team (NYC DOE CSAS) recommends a **Full-Term Renewal** of the charter for Brooklyn Ascend.

Part 1: Executive Summary

School Overview and History:

DREAM Charter School is an elementary school serving approximately 300 students from kindergarten through fifth grade in the 2012-2013 school year.¹ The school opened in 2008 with grades K-1. The school is under the terms of its first charter and is projected to expand to grades K-5 during its current term, which will expire January of 2013. If approved for renewal, the school is projected to reach its full grade span, K-8, during the 2015-2016 school year.² The school is currently housed in a Department of Education (DOE) facility in District 4, and is co-located with P.S. 38 Roberto Clemente.³

The student body is comprised of 82% Free and Reduced Lunch students, compared to 73 % in the district; 17% students with I.E.P.'s, compared to 20% in the district; and 11.6% English language learners (ELL), compared to 11.4% in the district.⁴ The average attendance rate for the school year 2011-2012 to date was 95%.⁵ The school scored Above Average on the Academic Expectations, Communication, Engagement and Safety & Respect sections of the NYC DOE School Survey in 2011-2012; 91% of the school's parents responded to the survey, and 100% of the school's teachers.⁶

The school earned an A on its NYC DOE Progress Report in 2011-12.⁷ The school underperformed its Community School District and the city averages in ELA and Math in 2010-2011.⁸ The school is in good standing with state and federal accountability.⁹

	2011-12 PR overall grade	2012 ELA, 3+%	2012 Math, 3+%	FRL %	SWD %	ELL %
School ¹⁰	A	54.5	58	82	17	11.6
CSD 4 ¹¹		47.2	59.6	73	20	11.4

¹ NYC DOE Progress Report – <http://schools.nyc.gov/progressreport>

² NYC DOE ATS system and charter agreement

³ NYC DOE Location Code Generating System database

⁴ School Demographics from ATS data pull on 11/20/12. CSD data from 11/26/12 ATS data pull.

⁵ Self-reported in School Renewal Application

⁶ NYC DOE School Survey – <http://schools.nyc.gov/survey>

⁷ NYC DOE Progress Report – <http://schools.nyc.gov/progressreport>

⁸ NYC DOE website – <http://schools.nyc.gov/> (search: test results); District and city averages are for the grade levels corresponding to the school's testing grades in specified years

⁹ New York State Education Department - www.nysed.gov

¹⁰ Proficiency rates from 2011-12 Progress Report. Demographics from ATS 11/20/12.

¹¹ CSD ELA and Math data from NYC DOE website and measures average performance of common grades only. Demographics from ATS 11/26/12 data pull.

Renewal Recommendation:

In order for a charter school to be renewed it must demonstrate that it has earned renewal and is worthy of continuing the privilege of educating New York City students. While the academic performance of students is the foremost determining factor of a school's success, a school's ability to demonstrate an effective educational program, a financially and operationally viable organization, and a strong learning community with support from stakeholders are important factors that inform a renewal decision.

Based on the evaluation of the renewal application, renewal visit, historical annual reports and visits, performance on Progress Reports, comparisons to the CSD, and other factors, the New York City Department of Education Charter Schools Accountability & Support team (NYC DOE CSAS) recommends a **Full-Term Renewal** of the charter for DREAM Charter School.

Part 1: Executive Summary

School Overview and History:

PAVE Academy Charter School is an elementary school in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn, in a Department of Education facility at 71 Sullivan Street, Brooklyn, NY in District 15, and is co-located with P.S.15.¹ PAVE Academy is under the terms of its first charter and has expanded to K-5 during its current term, which expires on January 14, 2013² and serves approximately 298 students from kindergarten through grade five.³ The school is projected to reach its full grade span, K-8 in 2015-2016. The school enrolls new students in grades K-2 and there were 464 students on the waitlist after the Spring 2012 lottery.⁴

The average attendance rate at PAVE Academy for the 2011-2012 school year to date was 94%.⁵ The school scored Above Average on the Academic Expectations, Communication, and Safety & Respect sections of the NYC DOE School Survey in 2011-2012, and Average on the Engagement section; 81% of the school's parents responded to the survey, and 95% of the school's teachers.⁶ The school is in good standing with state and federal accountability.⁷

	2011-12 PR overall grade	2012 ELA, 3+%	2012 Math, 3+%	FRL %	SWD %	ELL %
School ⁸	A	57.7	94.4	88 ⁹	15	4.7
CSD 15 ¹⁰		60	73.6	54	17	17

Renewal Recommendation:

In order for a charter school to be renewed it must demonstrate that it has earned renewal and is worthy of continuing the privilege of educating New York City students. While the academic performance of students is the foremost determining factor of a school's success, a school's ability to demonstrate an effective educational program, a financially and operationally viable organization, and a strong learning community with support from stakeholders are important factors that inform a renewal decision.

Based on the evaluation of the renewal application, renewal visit, historical annual reports and visits, performance on Progress Reports, comparisons to the CSD, and other factors, the New York

¹ NYC DOE Location Code Generating System database

² PAVE Academy Charter Agreement

³ NYC DOE ATS system data taken on 11/20/12

⁴ Self-reported by school on 3/8/2012

⁵ NYC DOE Progress Report – <http://schools.nyc.gov/progressreport>

⁶ NYC DOE School Survey – <http://schools.nyc.gov/survey>

⁷ New York State Education Department - www.nysed.gov

⁸ Proficiency rates from 2011-12 Progress Report. Demographics from ATS 11/20/12.

⁹ School FRL% self-reported from Renewal Application.

¹⁰ CSD ELA and Math data from NYC DOE website and measures average performance of common grades only. Demographics from ATS 11/26/12 data pull.

City Department of Education Charter Schools Accountability & Support team (NYC DOE CSAS) recommends a **Full-Term Renewal** of the charter for PAVE Academy Charter School.

Part 1: Executive Summary

School Overview and History:

St. HOPE began operation in 2008 and is in its first charter term, which expires on January 14, 2013. The school is located in the Harlem section of New York City, within CSD 5, in a DOE facility at 222 West 134th Street, New York, NY 10030. It currently serves a population of roughly 300 students in grades 5-8¹. The school's primary intake grade is grade 5 but it accepts applications and fills available seats at all grades. It received a little over 200 applications, grades 5-8, for its spring lottery. Below are the school's 2012 Progress Report grade and overall assessment results and demographic data for the school and CSD.

During the 2011-12 school year, the average attendance at St. HOPE Leadership Academy was 92%². The school scored well above average on all four satisfaction categories (Academic Expectations, Communication, Engagement, and Safety & Respect) on its 2011-12 NYC DOE School Survey with 97% of Parents, 100% of Teachers, and 98% of Students responding to the survey³.

St. HOPE Leadership Academy Charter School is an independent charter school that is no longer associated with the St. HOPE Public Schools charter management organization (CMO); however, the school has retained "St. HOPE" as part of its name.

	2011-12 PR overall grade	2012 ELA, 3+%	2012 Math, 3+%	FRL %	SWD %	ELL %
School ⁴	B	29.1	53.1	91	16	9
CSD 5 ⁵		29	39.5	80	16.5	10.6

Renewal Recommendation:

In order for a charter school to be renewed it must demonstrate that it has earned renewal and is worthy of continuing the privilege of educating New York City students. While the academic performance of students is the foremost determining factor of a school's success, a school's ability to demonstrate an effective educational program, a financially and operationally viable

¹ Self reported in Renewal Application, Renewal Visit Data Collection form (8/31/12)

² Self-reported in Progress Towards Charter Goals submission with Renewal Application (8/31/2012)

³ NYC DOE School Survey – <http://schools.nyc.gov/survey>

⁴ Proficiency rates from 2011-12 Progress Report. Demographics from ATS 11/20/12.

⁵ CSD ELA and Math data from NYC DOE website and measures average performance of common grades only. Demographics from ATS 11/26/12 data pull.

organization, and a strong learning community with support from stakeholders are important factors that inform a renewal decision.

Based on the evaluation of the renewal application, renewal visit, historical annual reports and visits, performance on Progress Reports, comparisons to the CSD, and other factors, the New York City Department of Education Charter Schools Accountability & Support team (NYC DOE CSAS) recommends a **Full-Term Renewal** of the charter for St. HOPE Leadership Academy.

Part 1: Executive Summary

School Overview and History:

TEP Charter School is a middle school that began operation, following a planning year, in 2009¹, and is in its first charter term, which expires on January 14, 2013. The school is located in the Washington Heights section of New York City, within CSD 6, currently housed in DOE annex trailers located in District 6 at 549 Audubon Avenue, New York, NY 10040. The school intends to move into a private facility during its next charter term. The student population is roughly 480 in grades 5-8². The school's primary intake grade is grade 5 but fills available seats at grades 5-7; TEP received 318 5th grade applications for 124 available seats for its spring 2012 lottery³. Below are the school's 2012 Progress Report grade and overall assessment results and demographic data for the school and CSD.

During the 2011-12 school year, the average attendance at TEP was 96%⁴. The school received above average satisfaction scores in all four reported categories of the 2011-12 NYC DOE School Survey, with 95% of Parents, 100% of Teachers, and 97% of Students responding to the survey⁵.

The Equity Project Charter School is an independent charter school not associated with a charter management organization (CMO) or other parent organization. The school has had one leader, Zeke Vanderhoek, since its inception.

	2011-12 PR overall grade	2012 ELA, 3+%	2012 Math, 3+%	FRL %	SWD %	ELL %
School ⁶	A	33.2	56.1	85	21	21
CSD 6 ⁷		32.5	50.6	78	14	32

Renewal Recommendation:

In order for a charter school to be renewed it must demonstrate that it has earned renewal and is worthy of continuing the privilege of educating New York City students. While the academic

¹ School website.

² Self-reported in Renewal Application Renewal Visit Data Collection Form (8/31/12)

³ Self-reported in Renewal Application Renewal Visit Data Collection Form (8/31/12)

⁴ Self-reported in Renewal Application Renewal Visit Data Collection Form (8/31/12)

⁵ NYC DOE School Survey – <http://schools.nyc.gov/survey>

⁶ Proficiency rates from 2011-12 Progress Report. Demographics from ATS 11/20/12.

⁷ CSD ELA and Math data from NYC DOE website and measures average performance of common grades only. Demographics from ATS 11/26/12 data pull.

performance of students is the foremost determining factor of a school's success, a school's ability to demonstrate an effective educational program, a financially and operationally viable organization, and a strong learning community with support from stakeholders are important factors that inform a renewal decision.

Based on the evaluation of the renewal application, renewal visit, historical annual reports and visits, performance on Progress Reports, comparisons to the CSD, and other factors, The New York City Department of Education Charter Schools Accountability & Support team (NYC DOE CSAS) recommends a **Full-Term Renewal** of the charter for The Equity Project Charter School.

Part 1: Executive Summary

School Overview and History:

VOICE Charter School is an elementary school currently serving approximately 440 students in Kindergarten through grade 5.¹ The school is under the terms of its first charter and has expanded to K-5 during its current term, which expires in January of 2013. If approved for renewal, the school is projected to reach its full grade span, K-8, during the 2015-2016 school year. The school currently is split between two locations. Lower Academy, Grades K-2, is housed in a Department of Education (DOE) facility in District 30, co-located with P.S. 111 Jacob Blackwell. VOICE Upper Academy, Grades 3-5, is located at 36-14 12th Street, Long Island City, NY 11106.²

VOICE is an independent charter school not associated with a charter management organization (CMO). The school earned a B on the 2011- 2012 Progress Report, scoring in the 49th percentile of its peers.³ The school scored Average on the Academic Expectations, Communication, Engagement and Safety & Respect sections of the NYC DOE School Survey in 2011-2012, greater than citywide averages. Sixty-seven percent of the school's parents responded to the survey, and 58% of the school's teachers.⁴

The student body is comprised of 77.6 free-and-reduced lunch (FRL) students, compared to 63% in the district; 13.4% special education students (SPED), compared to 12.6% in the district; and 21% English language learners (ELL), compared to 20% in the district.⁵

	2011-12 PR overall grade	2012 ELA, 3+%	2012 Math, 3+%	FRL %	SWD %	ELL %
School ⁶	B	56.9	65.1	77.6	13.4	21
CSD 30 ⁷		54.2	67.6	63	12.6	20

Renewal Recommendation:

In order for a charter school to be renewed it must demonstrate that it has earned renewal and is worthy of continuing the privilege of educating New York City students. While the academic performance of students is the foremost determining factor of a school's success, a school's ability to demonstrate an effective educational program, a financially and operationally viable organization, and a strong learning community with support from stakeholders are important factors that inform a renewal decision.

¹ ATS data pull 11/20/12.

² NYC DOE Location Code Generating System database

³ NYC DOE Progress Report – www.schools.nyc.gov/progressreport

⁴ NYC DOE School Survey – www.schools.nyc.gov/survey

⁵ School ELL and SPED demographics from ATS 11/20/12. CSD ELL and SPED demographics from ATS 11/26/12.

⁶ Proficiency rates from 2011-12 Progress Report. Demographics from ATS 11/20/12.

⁷ CSD ELA and Math data from NYC DOE website and measures average performance of common grades only. Demographics from ATS 11/26/12 data pull.

Based on the evaluation of the renewal application, renewal visit, historical annual reports and visits, performance on Progress Reports, comparisons to the CSD, and other factors, the New York City Department of Education Charter Schools Accountability & Support team (NYC DOE CSAS) recommends a **Full-Term Renewal** of the charter for VOICE Charter School.

Part 1: Executive Summary

School Overview and History:

Bronx Academy of Promise Charter School opened in 2008 and is in its first charter term, which expires on February 11, 2013. The school is currently split-sited in private facilities at 1166 River Avenue in the Bronx, NY, 10452, in Community School District 9, and 416 Willis Avenue, but anticipates a move into a larger private facility in 2013. It currently serves approximately 440 students in grades K-6¹. The school's primary intake grade is Kindergarten but it accepts applications and fills available seats at all grades. It received over 900 applications, K-6, for its spring 2012 lottery². Below are the school's 2012 Progress Report grade and overall assessment results and demographic data for the school and CSD.

During the 2011-12 school year, the average attendance at Bronx Academy of Promise, depending on the grade, was between 95% and 97%³. The school scored above average on Academic Expectations and well-above average on Communication, Engagement and Safety & Respect on its 2011-2012 NYC DOE School Survey with 76% of Parents and 97% of Teachers responding to the survey⁴.

Bronx Academy of Promise Charter School is an independent charter school. When the school opened it was partnered with a charter management organization (CMO), Imagine Schools, but severed its relationship with Imagine after the 2008-09 school year. Prior to the current school leader, Catherine Jackvony, who began serving as principal in March 2011, the school had several leadership changes.

	2011-12 PR overall grade	2012 ELA, 3+%	2012 Math, 3+%	FRL %	SWD %	ELL %
School ⁵	A	48.4	66	85	12	23
CSD 9 ⁶		31.6	43	85	17	24

Renewal Recommendation:

In order for a charter school to be renewed it must demonstrate that it has earned renewal and is worthy of continuing the privilege of educating New York City students. While the academic performance of students is the foremost determining factor of a school's success, a school's

¹ Self reported in Renewal Application (8/31/12).

² Self-reported in Renewal Application (8/31/12) Renewal Visit Data Collection Form

³ Self-reported in Renewal Application (8/31/12) Renewal Visit Data Collection Form

⁴ NYC DOE School Survey – <http://schools.nyc.gov/survey>

⁵ Proficiency rates from 2011-12 Progress Report. Demographics from ATS 11/20/12

⁶ CSD ELA and Math data from NYC DOE website and measures average performance of common grades only. Demographics from ATS 11/26/12 data pull.

ability to demonstrate an effective educational program, a financially and operationally viable organization, and a strong learning community with support from stakeholders are important factors that inform a renewal decision.

Based on the evaluation of the renewal application, renewal visit, historical annual reports and visits, performance on Progress Reports, comparisons to the CSD, and other factors, the New York City Department of Education Charter Schools Accountability & Support team (NYC DOE CSAS) recommends a **Full-Term Renewal with Conditions** of the charter for Bronx Academy of Promise Charter School. The conditions are as follows:

- 1) Board of Trustees must activate its committees by January 2013 Board meeting and throughout the new charter term demonstrate capacity, through recommendations made by its committees and actions taken by the Board, to provide strategic planning and support for sustainable school leadership.