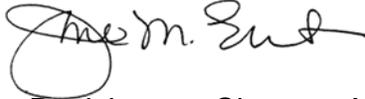




THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: Jhone M. Ebert 

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

DATE: April 11, 2016

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents approve the proposed revision to the charter of the following school authorized by the Chancellor of the NYCDOE:

1. Teaching Firms of America Professional Preparatory Charter School

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by New York State law.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at the April 2016 Regents meeting.

Background Information

I forward the revision recommendation for the following charter school, as proposed by the Chancellor of the NYCDOE in her capacity as a charter school authorizer under Article 56 of the Education Law. The Chancellor asks that the charter be revised as indicated. The NYCDOE has provided a summary for the school as set forth below.

TEACHING FIRMS OF AMERICA PROFESSIONAL PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL
(TFOA)

Board Chair(s)	Latoya Massey, Shahidah Kalam Id-Din
Charter Management Organization (if applicable)	N/A
Other Partner(s)	N/A
District(s) of Location	NYC Community School District 16
Physical Address(es)	616 Quincy Street, Brooklyn, NY 11221
Facility Owner(s)	DOE
Enrollment ¹	373
Grades Served ²	K-5
School Opened For Instruction	2011-2012
Current Charter Term	January 12, 2015 to June 30, 2017
Current Authorized Grade Span	K-5
Current Authorized Enrollment	392
Revision Requested	To have a short-term, one-year expansion to serve 6th grade scholars, with a corresponding increase in the authorized enrollment from 392 students to 480 students.
Timetable for Revision Implementation	The Regents action for TFOA would take into effect July 1, 2016.

Teaching Firms of America Professional Preparatory Charter School (TFOA) was first authorized by the Chancellor of the NYCDOE as a charter school for the 2010-11 school year. TFOA is a K-5 school in NY Community School District 16 in Brooklyn. The school is sited in DOE space and is co-located with PS 308 Clara Cardwell.³ The School is in the second charter term and was issued a short-term renewal in March 2015.⁴ The School is currently serving 373 students in Grades K-5 in the 2015-16 school year. The School is operating below authorized scale, which is 392 students.

¹ According to ATS data as of October 14, 2015.

² Grades served during the 2015-16 school year.

³ According to NYC DOE Location Code Generation and Managements System.

⁴ The school's charter agreement was executed on February 26, 2015.

The School has submitted a charter revision request to the Chancellor of the NYCDOE to take the following actions: to have a short-term, one-year expansion to serve 6th grade scholars increasing the authorized enrollment from 392 students to 480 students.

TFOA received a short term renewal in March 2015. At the time of renewal, the School demonstrated academic achievement and progress.

Over the course of the charter term, the school performed above the average of the CSD of location in ELA, but below the CSD of location in math Common Core aligned NYS assessments.

The revision sought would impact student enrollment.

TFOA submitted the following rationale in support of their charter revision request:

This expansion responds to the current and very strong demand from parent and community for growth and evolution of TFOA’s innovative and successful model and approach. It will provide programmatic space to broaden how we further a broader set of objectives under the Charter Act. The expansion will create programmatic context through which to provide Gifted and Talented-like programs and resources to GenEd students, Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners (ELLs) who have historically not been given such opportunities.

Overall Proficiency

	ELA					Math				
All Students	TFOA	CSD #16	Variance to CSD #16	NYC	Variance to NYC	TFOA	CSD #16	Variance to CSD #16	NYC	Variance to NYC
2014-2015	39%	21%	+18	31%	+8	23%	23%	+0	39%	-16
2013-2014	19%	22%	-3	30%	-11	28%	20%	+8	39%	-11

**Teaching Firms of America Professional Preparatory Charter School
Approved Enrollment**

	Year 1 (2015- 2016)	Year 2 (2016- 2017)
Grade Configuration	K-5	K-5
Total Approved Enrollment	392	392

**Teaching Firms of America Professional Preparatory Charter School
Proposed Enrollment**

	Year 1 (2015- 2016)	Year 2 (2016- 2017)
Grade Configuration	K-5	K-6
Total Proposed Enrollment	392	480

Enrollment of Special Populations

	2013-2014			2014 -2015		
	TFOA	CSD #16	Variance to CSD #16	TFOA	CSD #16	Variance to CSD #16
Economically Disadvantaged	92%	90%	+2	88%	85%	+3
English Language Learners ⁵	7%	4%	+3	10%	5%	+5
Students with Disabilities ⁶	14%	23%	-9	14%	22%	-8

Strategy for Enrolling Special Populations

TFOA Professional Preparatory Charter School 2015-2016 Student Recruitment Plan

Overview

Over the coming months, Teaching Firms of America Professional Preparatory Charter School staff aim to fulfill student recruitment by the period ending March 31, 2015. The TFOA Professional Prep team will deliver student applications and mission statements to 75 organizations which serve rising kindergartners, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders within New York City School Districts 16 and 32. Our past recruitment success has been identified by the 75 organizations which we have previously engaged. TFOA staff/leadership will speak at previously scheduled parent meetings and meetings with site directors, and offer invitations to our scheduled open houses. TFOA is mindful that much of our enrollment success was based upon the first impressions that were made during our previous recruitment events. With that said, we will continue to build upon the relationships with our community stakeholders to ensure successful enrollment for the coming school year and moving forward.

Recruitment

TFOA Professional Prep's Active recruitment has begun by making the applications readily available for families to pick up at their welcome center and can be found on the school's website. TFOA staff/leadership will also host school tours and breakfasts for community stakeholders. They will speak before groups of early childhood educators, daycare centers, women's shelters, after school programs, libraries, and other community-based

⁵ Includes ELL students exited from a program within the last three years of the reporting period.

⁶ Includes SWD students exited from a program within the last three years of the reporting period.

organizations, attend standing meetings, including selected program registrations, tenant association meetings as well as precinct council meetings. They will also widen their net by distributing applications and marketing materials to churches (including announcements in church bulletins and Sunday schools), laundromats, barber and beauty shops, coffee shops, local city council offices, ESL programs, and little league, as well as canvass the community in a broader manner –e.g. canvassing subway stations.

TFOA staff/leadership's aim is to fulfill recruitment of ELL children as well as children with disabilities. They plan to reach out to disability coordinators via calls and visits to each site at least once, as well make contact with site leadership and staff and request that the site directors disseminate information to families.

Recruitment of Spanish-Speaking Families

TFOA Professional Prep Spanish speaking staff plan to engage a number of Spanish-speaking parents by translating and facilitating meetings with bilingual families and providing applications and all marketing materials in Spanish. They also scheduled Outreach at daycare centers that are located in predominately Latino communities and have Spanish families with children enrolled in their program.

Relationship-building

TFOA is confident that they have contributed to laying a solid foundation to develop relationships with organizations serving students and will continue to cultivate the relationships with organization staff on an ongoing basis. Perpetual engagement will allow them to more easily identify potential students, provide information for parents, receive reliable information about parent and organization meetings, and retain community validators for the school.

Summary

TFOA Professional Preparatory Charter School will execute an effective recruitment process in which thousands of applications will be disseminated to parents, early childhood educational institutions, churches, shelters, ESL centers and other community-based organizations. As TFOA continues to develop its recruitment efforts, it will deepen and broaden its ties to the community and subsequently deepen and broaden its applicant pool.

Summary of Public Comment

A hearing for Teaching Firms of America Professional Preparatory Charter School was held on March 30, 2016. There were 5 people in attendance at the hearing. Two people spoke in support of the revision. There were no speakers in opposition.

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 revise 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 revise the charter would 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 **Teaching Firms of America Professional Preparatory Charter School**, as proposed by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for Teaching Firms of America Professional Preparatory Charter School will become effective July 1, 2016.