





**TO:** P-12 Education Committee

**FROM:** 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):** 

## SUMMARY

### Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed charter revision for Harlem Children's Zone Promise 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

Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School (or "the School") was first authorized by the Chancellor of the NYCDOE as a charter school to open for the 2004-2005 school year. The School is in its third charter term and was issued a full renewal in May 2014. The School is authorized to serve Grades K-12 and 1,100 students at scale. The School is currently serving 1,035 students in Grades K-11 during the 2014-2015 school year and is not yet operating at authorized scale.

The School has submitted a charter revision request to the Chancellor of the NYC DOE to take the following actions:

- Increase the school's authorized enrollment for grades K-12 from 1,100 students by the end of the current charter term to 1,250 students by the end of the current charter term.

***The chart below outlines the material terms of the Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School's charter and the proposed revision.***

Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School	
Board Chair(s)	Geoffrey Canada
School Leader(s)	Tonya White (Lower ES), Joseph Cordero (Upper ES), Shakira Petit (MS), Marquitta Speller (HS), Anne Williams-Isom (Executive Director)
Charter Management Organization (if applicable)	N/A
Other Partner(s)	Community Based Organization: Harlem Children's Zone
District(s) of Location	NYC Community School District 5
Physical Address(es)	245 West 129th Street, Manhattan 10027
Facility Owner(s)	DOE (the school site is a Charter Partnership building)
School Opened For Instruction	2004-2005
Current Charter Term Expiration Date	June 30, 2019
Current Authorized Grade Span	K-12
Current Authorized Enrollment	1,100
Proposed Changes with Material Charter Revision	Increase the school's authorized enrollment for grades K-12 from 1,100 students by the end of the current charter term to 1,250 students by the end of the current charter term

## **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 Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School is amended accordingly.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

The Regents action for the School would take effect in school year 2015-2016.

School: Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School (84M284)

CSD: 5

Enrollment/ Grades Served in 2014-2015:1 1,035/ K-11

### Revision Background

- Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School received a full-term renewal in May 2014. At the time of renewal, the School demonstrated academic achievement and progress.
- Over the past two years of Common Core aligned NYS assessments, the School performed above the average of the CSD of location in ELA and math. The School's ELA and math proficiency levels on the NYS assessments placed them at the 78th percentile compared to CSD 5. Further, the School performed at or above its peer group in ELA (47th percentile) and math (57th percentile).
- The school showed notable improvement in the percent of students' proficient in math from the 2012-2013 school year to the 2013-2014 school year. In math, the percent of students proficient increased from 28% to 37% in one year.
- The increase in students proficient in math resulted in a math median adjusted growth percentile of 67%, placing the School in the 60th percentile of its peer schools.
- However, the small increase in students proficient in ELA resulted in an ELA median adjusted growth percentile of 58%, placing them in only the 27th percentile of peer schools.
- The School's four-year high school graduation rate in the 2012-2013 school year was above 98%, a difference of more than 30 percentage points above the NYC average four-year graduation rate. NOTE: This data is from the prior charter term as the School, due to a planned change in enrollment growth, did not have a graduation cohort in 2013-2014.
- In 2013-2014, the School had the following Regents pass rates: Integrated Algebra – 92.4%, Comprehensive English – 95.7%, U.S. History – 100% and Living Environment – 98.3%.
- According to the 2013-2014 NYC School Survey Report, 97% of parents who responded to the survey strongly agree or agree "that the school had high expectations for [their] child."<sup>2</sup>
- The revision sought would impact student enrollment.
  - The revision proposes a 13.6% total increase in authorized enrollment over the course of the charter term, representing a total of 150 students.
  - The enrollment increase as a percentage of previously authorized enrollment is gradual with each year of the charter term as follows:
    - School Year 2015-2016: 7.7% increase
    - School Year 2016-2017: 10.8% increase
    - School Year 2017-2018: 11.8% increase
    - School Year 2018-2019: 13.0% increase
- The school is located in a DOE-owned but privately-operated building at 245 West 129th Street, New York, NY 10027. The school reports, and DOE building

<sup>1</sup> Enrollment reflects ATS data as of October 31, 2014

<sup>2</sup> According to the 2013-2014 NYC School Survey, 58% of parent respondents strongly agree that Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School has teachers who have high expectations for their child; another 39% agree with the statement.

records confirm, that this space can accommodate up to 1,300 students in grades K-12.

- The school is seeking this enrollment expansion for two main reasons:
  - As all of the school's grades are now located at one site and the School can allocate space resources accordingly, it would like to offer its educational program to more students.
  - The school has increased its rate of enrollment in grades beyond Kindergarten, which was formerly its primary entry grade.

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

<b>% Proficient in English Language Arts</b>	
	<b>2013-2014</b>
<b>Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School</b>	21.8%
CSD 5	15.4%
Difference from CSD 5 *	6.4
NYC	28.4%
Difference from NYC *	-6.6
New York State **	30.6%
Difference from New York State	-8.8

<b>% Proficient in Mathematics</b>	
	<b>2013-2014</b>
<b>Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School</b>	37.4%
CSD 5	14.8%
Difference from CSD 5 *	22.6
NYC	34.2%
Difference from NYC *	3.2
New York State **	36.2%
Difference from New York State	1.2

\* 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.

The NYC DOE Progress Report was discontinued beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. As a result, Progress Report data is not available for Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School during the current charter term.

**Enrollment of Special Populations Over the Current Charter Term<sup>3</sup>**

Special Population		2013-2014
Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL)	<b>Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School</b>	<b>84.3%</b>
	CSD 5	86.5%
	NYC	81.3%
Students with Disabilities (SWD)	<b>Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School</b>	<b>17.0%</b>
	CSD 5	22.4%
	NYC	19.8%
English Language Learners (ELL)	<b>Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
	CSD 5	11.8%
	NYC	14.4%

Additional Enrollment Information	
	<b>2013-2014</b>
Grades Served	K-10
CSD(s)	5

<sup>3</sup> 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 1st 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.