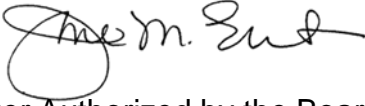


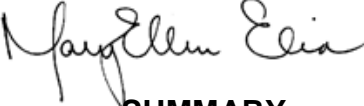


TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: Jhone M. Ebert 

SUBJECT: Revision to Charter Authorized by the Board of Regents

DATE: February 2, 2017

AUTHORIZATION(S): 
SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed revision to the charter of the following school authorized by the Board of Regents?

1. American Dream Charter School

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State Statute.

Proposed Handling

This issue will be before the Board of Regents P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at the February 2017 Regents meeting.

Procedural History

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

Background Information

The Commissioner recommends that the Board of Regents amend the charter of the above listed charter school. Information about the revision request is provided below.

American Dream Charter School

Table 1: School Summary

Name of Charter School	American Dream Charter School
Board Chair	
District of Location	NYC CSD 7
Opening Month/Year	September 2014
Current Charter Term	September 1, 2014 to June 30, 2019
Management Company:	N/A
Partner(s):	N/A
Approved Grade Levels/ Number of Students	Grades 6-8 300 Students
Mission	<i>“American Dream Charter School develops academic excellence in both Spanish and English, preparing students to excel in college and become leaders in their communities.”</i>
Proposed Revision	American Dream Charter School is requesting to increase the school’s current authorized enrollment from 300 students in grades 6-8 to serve 450 students in grades 6-10.

In December 2013, the Board of Regents approved and chartered the American Dream Charter School (“American Dream” or the “School”) in New York City School District 7. The School is designed to cultivate an environment that is welcoming and encouraging for English language learners (ELL) and immigrant students, and seeks to ensure that students’ learning and language development experience is supported. The model of instruction is designed to help students to achieve academic success in two languages and is based on existing models that support both home language and new language acquisition. The School intends to graduate students who are bilingual and biliterate in English and Spanish.

The school is requesting an expansion to serve high school English language learners and/or immigrant students. The school is currently serving middle school students, grades 6-8, and wishes to extend the learning opportunities for target students, through a dual-language approach in order to graduate scholars with a school created “Seal of Biliteracy” upon graduating high school. The School believes biliteracy

is as much an aim as full bilingualism, with literacy being acquired in both languages either simultaneously or with an initial emphasis on native language literacy.” It is the hope of American Dream to create an environment where English language learners are given an opportunity to be successful and promote academic achievement by way of retaining native language instruction for the target population. The School further believes that this can be accomplished after having English language learners years in the school for five to seven years, especially those who are new to the country. The American Dream School plans to provide learning experiences for new students that are experiential in nature, culturally relative, and supportive of native language development simultaneous with new language development.

The school also believes the revision will be beneficial because:

- 1) The dual language model will raise student achievement for all students;
- 2) The school is located in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx, targeting underserved students who are at risk for academic failure (English language learners and immigrants);
- 3) The School utilizes the innovative Dual-Language model which provides linguistic and cultural support. Students are taught to embrace their native culture and heritage as well as the culture and traditions of the community. The school’s approach to learning is inquiry based both throughout the regular school year as well as during the June “mini-mester”;
- 4) New professional opportunities for teachers and staff are a part of the culture at the school. Teachers are able to engage in a professional learning community during the Teacher Academy in August as well as throughout the school year;
- 5) The American Dream School provides parents and students with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities. By having a middle/high school with a dual-language program, parents in CSD 7 have an opportunity to choose to enroll their student with ELL designation into a high-quality charter school in middle school and not worry again about enrolling their students into school until college; and
- 6) The American Dream School seeks to provide the highest quality education for all students by being held accountable for high student achievement.

**Table 2: American Dream Charter School Approved Enrollment
For the Current Charter Term**

	Year 1 2014-2015	Year 2 2015-2016	Year 3 2016-2017	Year 4 2017-2018	Year 5 2018-2019
Grade Configuration	Grades 6	Grades 6-7	Grades 6-8	Grades 6-8	Grades 6-8
Total Approved Enrollment	100	200	300	300	300

**Table 3: American Dream Charter School Proposed Enrollment
For the Current Charter Term**

	Year 1 2014-2015	Year 2 2015-2016	Year 3 2016-2017	Year 4 2017-2018	Year 5 2018-2019
Grade Configuration	Grades 6	Grades 6-7	Grades 6-8	Grades 6-9	Grades 6-10
Total Approved Enrollment	100	200	300	375	450

Table 4: American Dream Charter School Academic Achievement

	ELA					Math				
	American Dream	CSD 7	Variance to CSD 7	NYS	Variance to NYS	American Dream	CSD 7	Variance to CSD 7	NYS	Variance to NYS
2014-2015	17%	11%	6%	31%	-14%	13%	13%	0%	39%	-26%
2015-2016	23%	15%	8%	35%	-12%	30%	16%	14%	38%	-8%

**Table 5: American Dream Charter School Demographics
Compared to District of Location**

	2014 -2015			2015 -2016		
	American Dream	CSD 7	Variance	American Dream	CSD 7	Variance
Economically Disadvantaged	93%	92%	1%	92%	92%	0%
English Language Learners (Current)	27%	18%	9%	27%	17%	10%
Students with Disabilities (Current)	23%	24%	-1%	22%	25%	-3%

Summary of Public Comment

As required by the Charter School Act, the New York City Department of Education held a public hearing about the proposed revision to the charter of **American Dream Charter School** on February 1, 2017. There were 200 attendees present at the hearing. There were 22 public comments made in support and no public comments in opposition to the proposed charter revision.

Related Regents Items

American Dream Charter School

Initial Charter

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1213p12a2%5B1%5D.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 **American Dream Charter School** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for American Dream Charter School will become effective immediately.