



TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: Angelique Johnson-Dingle *Angelique Johnson-Dingle*

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

DATE: April 6, 2023

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Bellamy*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

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

Pharos Academy Charter School (Enrollment increase from 678 to 745 students, *nunc pro tunc* to July 1, 2022).

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 its April 2023 meeting.

Procedural History

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

Background Information

The Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education is bound by Article 56 of the Education law regarding the criteria that can be considered in decision-making pertaining to charter school renewals and revisions.

Related Regents Items

May 2004 [Initial Charter](#)

(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/Summaries/0504Summary.htm>)

April 2009 [First Renewal](#)

(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/April2009/0409emsca6.htm>)

March 2014 [Second Renewal](#)

(https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/413bra2_1.pdf)

March 2016 [Third Renewal](#)

(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/316p12a5.pdf>)

March 2019 [Fourth Renewal](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/319p12a2.pdf>)

July 2020 [Revision to Terminate CMO Relationship and Change the School Name](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/720bra4.pdf>)

May 2022 [Fifth Renewal](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/522p12a1.pdf>)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action(s):

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that **Pharos Academy Charter School**: (1) meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations; (2) the applicant can demonstrate the ability to operate the school in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) granting the application 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 this article; and (4) granting the application 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 of **Pharos Academy Charter School** and amends the provisional charter accordingly, *nunc pro tunc* to July 1, 2022.

Timetable for Implementation

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

Pharos Academy Charter School

Table 1: Charter School Summary

Name of Charter School	Pharos Academy Charter School
Board Chair	Javier Lopez Molina
District of Location	NYC CSD 12 ¹
Initial Commencement of Instruction	Fall 2004
Charter Term(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Charter: May 18, 2004 – May 17, 2009 • First Renewal: April 21, 2009 – May 17, 2014 • Second Renewal: May 18, 2014 – June 30, 2016 • Third Renewal: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019 • Fourth Renewal: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022 • Fifth Renewal: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2026
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades K-8: 1001 Intervale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10459 – District Space • Grades 9-12: 1005 Intervale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10459 – Private Space
Innovative and Noteworthy Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Crew” based school culture • Strong development & coaching models for staff
Recommended Material Revisions	An enrollment increase from 678 to 745 <i>nunc pro tunc</i> to July 1, 2022.

Rationale for Revision Recommendation

The Board of Regents granted an initial charter to Bronx Lighthouse Charter School (BLCS) in May 2004. BLCS’s charter was subsequently renewed by the Board of Regents in 2009, 2014, 2016, and 2022. In July 2020, the Board of Regents approved the termination of the relationship with the Charter Management Organization Lighthouse Academies, Inc. and the name change to Pharos Academy Charter School.

The charter school’s Board of Trustees requests that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to the school’s charter to increase the authorized enrollment from 678 to 745 students effective as of July 1, 2022.

In accordance with Education Law, Article 56, Sections 2851(4) and 2852(2), the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) recommends that the Board of Regents grant the revision described above in the **Issue for Decision** section for the following reasons:

- The requested revision will have no bearing on the number of charters available for issuance in New York City or New York State.

¹ Twenty-one percent of all students residing in this district attend charter schools.

- Approving this revision request will result in a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school because the school has a strong record of outperforming schools in the district.
- The school has strong academic performance and is consistently above the district in ELA and math, both overall and for all subgroups. In the most recent year of testing, the school was 27 and 20 percentage points above NYCDOE CSD 12 in ELA and math, respectively, overall, and similarly exceeded the CSD by double digits in both subjects for ELL and ED students.
- The school has maintained and grown its enrollment through the pandemic and regularly exceeds the district in retention of students, both overall and of all subgroups. In 2021-2022, 88 percent of all students returned the following year, compared with 75 percent of students in CSD 12.
- This revision serves to formalize the 10 percent above authorized enrollment that the school was permitted to enroll under its prior charter agreement with the NYCDOE.

Table 2: Current Grade Levels and Authorized Enrollment

	Year 1 2022 to 2023	Year 2 2023 to 2024	Year 3 2024 to 2025	Year 4 2025 to 2026
Grade Configuration	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12
Total Authorized Enrollment	678	678	678	678

Table 3: Recommended Renewal Term Grade Levels and Recommended Enrollment

	Year 1 2022 to 2023	Year 2 2023 to 2024	Year 3 2024 to 2025	Year 4 2025 to 2026
Grade Configuration	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12
Total Recommended Enrollment	745	745	745	745

Figure 1: Elementary/Middle School Assessment Proficiency State and District Differentials Over Time Comparison to NYC CSD 12

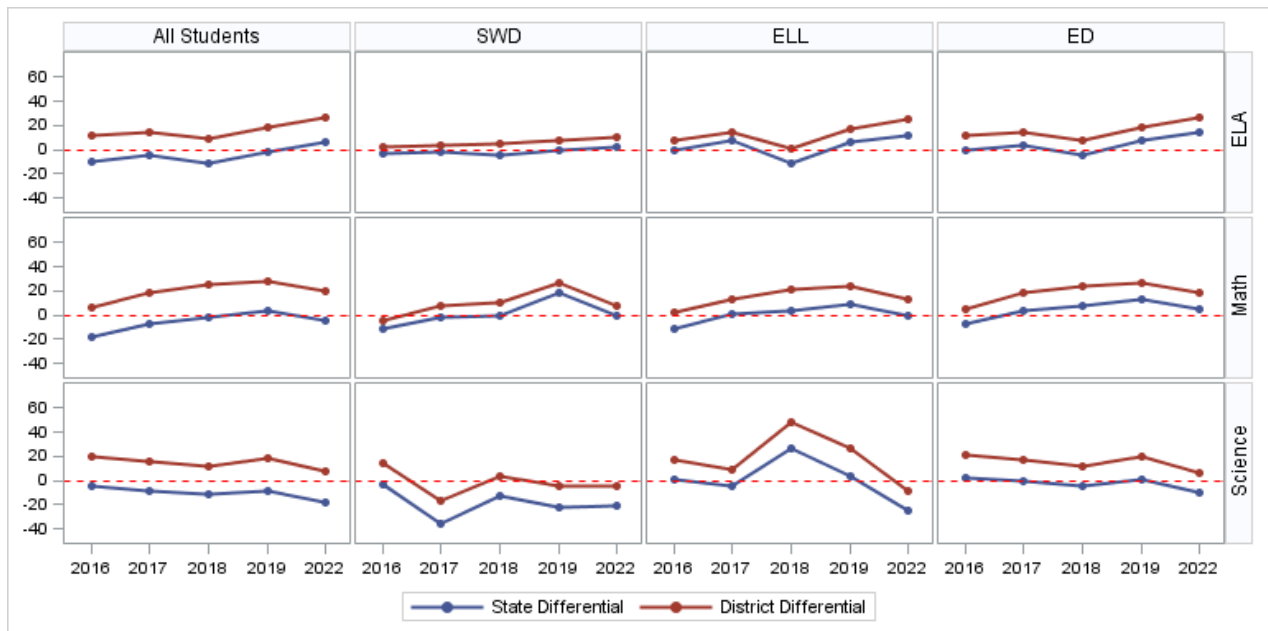


Table 4: Elementary/Middle School Assessment Proficiency Outcomes

		ELA					Math				
		Pharos Academy CS	NYC CSD 12	District Differential	NYS	NYS Differential	Pharos Academy CS	NYC CSD 12	District Differential	NYS	NYS Differential
All Students	2015-2016	28%	16%	+12	38%	-10	21%	15%	+6	39%	-18
	2016-2017	35%	20%	+15	40%	-5	33%	14%	+19	40%	-7
	2017-2018	33%	24%	+9	45%	-12	43%	18%	+25	45%	-2
	2018-2019	44%	26%	+18	46%	-2	51%	23%	+28	47%	+4
	2021-2022	53%	26%	+27	47%	+6	35%	15%	+20	39%	-4
SWD	2015-2016	6%	4%	2	9%	-3	2%	6%	-4	13%	-11
	2016-2017	9%	5%	+4	11%	-2	12%	4%	+8	14%	-2
	2017-2018	13%	8%	+5	17%	-4	18%	8%	10	18%	+0
	2018-2019	15%	8%	+7	15%	+0	36%	9%	+27	18%	+18
	2021-2022	18%	8%	+10	16%	+2	13%	5%	+8	14%	-1
ELL	2015-2016	13%	5%	+8	13%	+0	9%	7%	+2	20%	-11
	2016-2017	20%	5%	+15	12%	+8	20%	7%	+13	19%	+1
	2017-2018	13%	12%	+1	25%	-12	33%	12%	+21	29%	+4
	2018-2019	31%	14%	+17	25%	+6	40%	16%	+24	31%	+9
	2021-2022	41%	16%	+25	29%	+12	24%	11%	+13	25%	-1
ED	2015-2016	28%	16%	+12	28%	+0	20%	15%	+5	28%	-8
	2016-2017	33%	19%	+14	30%	+3	33%	14%	+19	29%	+4
	2017-2018	31%	23%	+8	36%	-5	42%	18%	+24	34%	+8
	2018-2019	44%	25%	+19	36%	+8	50%	23%	+27	37%	+13
	2021-2022	52%	26%	+26	37%	+15	33%	15%	+18	28%	+5

Table 5: Aggregate Enrollment: Reported vs Contracted

Pharos Academy CS	Contracted Enrollment	Reported Enrollment	Percent of Contracted Enrollment
2017-2018	678	650	96%
2018-2019	678	673	99%
2019-2020*	678	662	98%
2020-2021*	678	660	97%
2021-2022*	678	705	104%
2022-2023	678	728	107%

* indicates a year where the school was permitted to enroll 10% above authorized enrollment.

Table 6: Subgroup Enrollment: Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners, and Economically Disadvantaged

	SWD			ELL			ED		
	Pharos Academy CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District	Pharos Academy CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District	Pharos Academy CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District
2017-2018	19%	24%	-5	14%	26%	-12	91%	93%	-2
2018-2019	18%	25%	-7	18%	26%	-8	92%	92%	0
2019-2020	18%	25%	-7	16%	27%	-11	85%	93%	-8
2020-2021	18%	25%	-7	20%	27%	-7	90%	94%	-4
2021-2022	18%	25%	-7	19%	28%	-9	90%	94%	-4

Table 7: Student Retention – Aggregate and Subgroup

	All Students			SWD			ELL			ED		
	Pharos Academy CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District	Pharos Academy CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District	Pharos Academy CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District	Pharos Academy CS	NYC CSD 12	Differential to District
2017-2018	89%	78%	+11	86%	77%	+9	91%	79%	+12	90%	78%	+12
2018-2019	90%	76%	+14	87%	76%	+11	95%	78%	+17	91%	76%	+15
2019-2020	88%	76%	+12	80%	77%	+3	88%	77%	+11	88%	76%	+12
2020-2021	91%	81%	+10	86%	81%	+5	93%	81%	+12	91%	81%	+10
2021-2022	88%	75%	+13	85%	76%	+9	90%	76%	+14	88%	75%	+13

Summary of Public Comment

The required public hearing was held by the New York City Department of Education on March 7, 2023. Thirteen people attended, and three spoke. Three were in favor of the revision. No one was opposed. One person submitted written comment in favor of the revision.