



**TO:** P-12 Education Committee

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

**SUBJECT:** Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools  
Authorized by the Board of Regents

**DATE:** April 30, 2025

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *[Signature]*

**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Decision**

Should the Board of Regents approve the proposed renewal charters for the following charter schools authorized by the Board of Regents pursuant to Article 56 of the Education Law (the New York Charter Schools Act):

**Brooklyn (3):**

- **Brooklyn Laboratory Charter School** (Four-year renewal);
- **La Cima Charter School** (Four-year renewal and a revision to amend the school's Key Design Elements);
- **New American Academy Charter School (The)** (Five-year renewal);

**Buffalo City School District (3):**

- **Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School** (Five-year renewal);
- **West Buffalo Charter School** (Five-year renewal);
- **Western New York Maritime Charter School** (Two-year renewal);

**Hempstead Union Free School District (1):**

**Evergreen Charter School** (Five-year renewal and a revision to increase the school's authorized enrollment from the currently approved 1,175 students to 1,225 students to be fully implemented by year one of the renewal charter term);

**Queens (1):**

**United Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science IV** (Five-year renewal); and

**Staten Island (1):**

**New Ventures Charter School** (Four-year renewal)

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute.

**Proposed Handling**

This issue will come before the P-12 Education Committee for recommendation to the Full Board for action at the May 2025 meeting.

**Procedural History**

The New York State Education Department (NYSED or “the Department”) made the renewal recommendations being presented to the Board of Regents for approval and issuance as required by Article 56 of the Education Law and 8 NYCRR §119.7.

**Background Information**

The Board of Regents and the Department are bound by law, regulation, and Regents-endorsed policies regarding the criteria that can be considered in decision-making pertaining to the authorization of new charter schools, charter school renewals, and charter school revisions. Detailed information on these laws, regulations, and Regents-endorsed policies can be found in the Appendix. For each school, a link to the school’s *Renewal Visit Report*, which provides detailed information on the school’s assessment results and status in relation to each Performance Benchmark can be found in each school’s Table 1.

**Related Regents Items****[November 2012: Board of Regents Charter School Renewal Policy](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/November2012/1112p12a1.pdf)**

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/November2012/1112p12a1.pdf>)

**[Charter School Performance Framework](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/918p12a7.pdf)**

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/918p12a7.pdf>)

**Brooklyn (3):****Brooklyn Laboratory Charter School****Initial Charter:**

**[December 2013: Charter Schools: Initial Applications Authorized by the Board of Regents](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1213p12a2%5B1%5D.pdf)**

(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1213p12a2%5B1%5D.pdf>)

**Merger, Enrollment and Grade-Level Expansion Revisions:**

[March 2017: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/317p12a6.pdf)

(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/317p12a6.pdf>)

**Enrollment Reduction Revision:**

[March 2018: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/318p12a4.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/318p12a4.pdf>)

**First Renewal with Enrollment and Grade-Level Expansion Revision:**

[April 2019: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/419p12a1.pdf)

(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/419p12a1.pdf>)

**Enrollment Reduction Revision:**

[May 2020: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/520bra5.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/520bra5.pdf>)

**Second Renewal with Key Design Elements and Organizational Structure Revisions:**

[June 2022: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/622p12a1revised.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/622p12a1revised.pdf>)

**Reduction in Grade Span Revision:**

[June 2023: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/623p12a7.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/623p12a7.pdf>)  
pdf)

**La Cima Charter School**

**Initial Charter:**

[January 2008: Charter Schools: Initial Applications Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008Meetings/January2008/0108emsc a21.htm)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008Meetings/January2008/0108emsc a21.htm>)

**First Renewal:**

[December 2012: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/113p12a2%5B1%5D.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/113p12a2%5B1%5D.pdf>)

**Second Renewal:**

[February 2013: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/213p12a1%5B1%5D.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/213p12a1%5B1%5D.pdf>)

**Third Renewal with Spanish Language Arts Program and Enrollment Reduction Revisions:**

[May 2016: Renewal and Revision Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/516p12a3.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/516p12a3.pdf>)

**Fourth Renewal with Key Design Element and Enrollment Reduction Revisions:**

[March 2021: Renewal and Revision Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/321p12a6revised.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/321p12a6revised.pdf>)

## **New American Academy Charter School (The)**

**Initial Charter:**

[November 2012: Charter Schools: Initial Applications Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/November2012/1112p12a3.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/November2012/1112p12a3.pdf>)

**First Renewal with a Corrective Action Plan for Academics and Governance:**

[February 2018: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/218p12a1revised.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/218p12a1revised.pdf>)

**Second Renewal:**

[March 2020: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/320p12a1.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/320p12a1.pdf>)

**Third Renewal with Mission Revision:**

[May 2023: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/523p12a3.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/523p12a3.pdf>)

## **Buffalo City School District (3):**

### **Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School**

**Initial Charter:**

[January 2004: Charter Schools: Initial Applications Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2004Meetings/January2004/0104emscvesidca2.htm)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2004Meetings/January2004/0104emscvesidca2.htm>)

**Relocation Revision:**

[September 2006: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2006Meetings/September2006/0906emscvesidca1.htm)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2006Meetings/September2006/0906emscvesidca1.htm>)

**Program Revision:**

[December 2007: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2007Meetings/December2007/1207emscvesida1.htm)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2007Meetings/December2007/1207emscvesida1.htm>)

**First Renewal:**

[December 2008: Renewal Recommendations for Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008Meetings/December2008/1208em sca1.htm)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008Meetings/December2008/1208em sca1.htm>)

**Second Renewal:**

[March 2012: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/March2012/312p12a1.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/March2012/312p12a1.pdf>)

**Third Renewal:**

[February 2015: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/215p12a3.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/215p12a3.pdf>)

**Enrollment and Grade-Level Expansion Revision:**

[February 2016: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/216p12a4.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/216p12a4.pdf>)

**Enrollment and Grade-Level Expansion Revision:**

[June 2017: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/617p12a4.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/617p12a4.pdf>)

**Charter Renewal Discussion:**

[May 2020: Renewal Recommendations for Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/520bra7-REVISED.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/520bra7-REVISED.pdf>)

**Fourth Renewal with Enrollment and Grade-Level Expansion Revision:**

[June 2020: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/620bra8.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/620bra8.pdf>)

**West Buffalo Charter School****Initial Charter:**

[February 2010: Charter Schools: Initial Applications Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2010Meetings/February2010/0210em sca7.htm)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2010Meetings/February2010/0210em sca7.htm>)

**First Renewal:**

[February 2015: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/215p12a3.pdf>)

**Second Renewal with Enrollment and Grade-Level Expansion Revision:**

[February 2016: Renewal and Revision Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/216p12a4.pdf>)

**Third Renewal:**

[February 2020: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/220p12a3.pdf>)

**Western New York Maritime Charter School****Initial Charter:**

[January 2004: Charter Schools: Initial Applications Authorized by the Board of Regents](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/documents/meetings/2004Meetings/January2004/0104emscvesidca2.htm>)

**Student Discipline Review Board and Enrollment Reduction Revisions:**

[December 2006: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/documents/meetings/2006Meetings/December2006/1206emscvesidca1.htm>)

**First Renewal:**

[December 2008: Renewal Recommendations for Charter schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008Meetings/December2008/1208emscsca12.htm>)

**Second Renewal:**

[March 2012: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/April2012/412bra2.pdf>)

**Third Renewal:**

[February 2015: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/215p12a3.pdf>)

## **Enrollment Expansion Revision:**

[February 2016: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/216p12a4.pdf)  
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/216p12a4.pdf>)

**Fourth Renewal with Enrollment and Grade-Level Expansion Revision:**  
[March 2020 Renewal and Revision Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/320p12a1.pdf)  
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/320p12a1.pdf>)

## **Hempstead Union Free School District (1):**

### **Evergreen Charter School**

**Initial Charter:**  
[January 2009: Charter Schools: Initial Applications Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/January2009/0109emsc a8.ht)  
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2009Meetings/January2009/0109emsc a8.ht>)

**First Renewal:**  
[December 2013: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1213p12a1Revised%5B1%5D.pdf)  
(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1213p12a1Revised%5B1%5D.pdf>)

**Second Renewal:**  
[March 2014: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/413bra2_1.pdf)  
([http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/413bra2\\_1.pdf](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/413bra2_1.pdf))

**Enrollment and Grade-Level Expansion Revision:**  
[March 2016: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/316p12a2REVISED.pdf)  
(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/316p12a2REVISED.pdf>)

**Third Renewal and Enrollment Expansion Revision:**  
[March 2017: Renewal and Revision Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/317p12a4.pdf)  
(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/317p12a4.pdf>)

**Enrollment Expansion Revision:**  
[April 2019: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/419p12a3.pdf)  
(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/419p12a3.pdf>)

**Enrollment and Grade-Level Expansion Revision:**  
[April 2020: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/420bra4revised.pdf)  
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/420bra4revised.pdf>)

**Organizational Structure Revision:**

[May 2021: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/521p12a4.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/521p12a4.pdf>)

**Fourth Renewal:**

[June 2022: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/622p12a1revised.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/622p12a1revised.pdf>)

**Queens (1):****United Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science IV****Initial Charter:**

[November 2012: Charter Schools: Initial Applications Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/December2012/1212bra2.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/December2012/1212bra2.pdf>)

**Relocation Revision:**

[April 2015: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/meetings/Apr%202015/415p12a5.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/meetings/Apr%202015/415p12a5.pdf>)

**Enrollment Reduction Revision:**

[April 2019: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/419p12a3.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/419p12a3.pdf>)

**First Renewal:**

[March 2020: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/320p12a1.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/320p12a1.pdf>)

**Key Design Element Revision:**

[May 2021: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/521p12a4.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/521p12a4.pdf>)

**Staten Island (1):****New Ventures Charter School****Initial Charter:**

[November 2014: Charter Schools: Initial Applications Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1114p12a3.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1114p12a3.pdf>)

**Merger Revision:**

[April 2017: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/417p12a4.pdf)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/417p12a4.pdf>)



**Enrollment Reduction Revision:**

[May 2019: Revisions to Charters Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/519p12a1.pdf)  
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/519p12a1.pdf>)

**First Renewal:**

[March 2020: Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/320p12a1.pdf)  
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/320p12a1.pdf>)

**Recommendation**

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that **Brooklyn Laboratory 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 renewal application of **Brooklyn Laboratory Charter School** and that a renewal charter be issued, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including **June 30, 2029**.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that **La Cima 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 renewal application of **La Cima Charter School** and that a renewal charter be issued, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including **June 30, 2029**.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that **New American Academy Charter School (The)**: (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 renewal application of **New American Academy Charter School (The)** and that a renewal charter be issued, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including **June 30, 2030**.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that **Buffalo Academy of Science 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 renewal application of **Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School** and that a renewal charter be issued, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including **June 30, 2030**.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that **West Buffalo 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 renewal application of **West Buffalo Charter School** and that a renewal charter be issued, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including **June 30, 2030**.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that **Western New York Maritime 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 renewal application of **Western New York Maritime Charter School** and that a renewal charter be issued, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including **June 30, 2027**.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that **Evergreen 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 renewal application of **Evergreen Charter School** and that a renewal charter be issued, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including **June 30, 2030**.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that **United Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science IV**: (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 renewal application of **United Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science IV** and that a renewal charter be issued, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including **June 30, 2030**.

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that **New Ventures 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 renewal application of **New Ventures Charter School** and that a renewal charter be issued, and that its provisional charter be extended for a term up through and including **June 30, 2029**.

### **Timetable for Implementation**

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

## Brooklyn Laboratory Charter School

### Table 1: Charter School Summary

<b>Name of Charter School</b>	Brooklyn Laboratory Charter School (BLCS)
<b>Board Chair</b>	Martha Revenaugh
<b>District of Location</b>	New York City (NYC) Community School District (CSD) 13 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Initial Commencement of Instruction</b>	Fall 2014
<b>Charter Terms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Term: August 18, 2014 – June 30, 2019</li> <li>First Renewal Term: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022</li> <li>Second Renewal Term: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025</li> </ul>
<b>Comprehensive Management Service Provider</b>	None
<b>Facilities</b>	77 Sands Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 – Private Space
<b>Innovative and Noteworthy Programs (as reported by the school)</b>	BLCS leadership defines the school as a college preparatory program that offers ten advanced placement courses and a variety of trips and incentives to promote post-secondary education for its students.
<b>Link to Charter School Renewal Report</b>	<a href="https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/brooklyn-laboratory-cs">https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/brooklyn-laboratory-cs</a>

### Table 2: Current Grade Levels and Approved Enrollment

	<b>Year 1 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Year 2 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>Year 3 2024 to 2025</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	Grade 6-12 <sup>2</sup>	Grade 9-12	Grade 9-12
<b>Total Approved Enrollment</b>	770	770	770

### Table 3: Recommended Grade Levels and Recommended Enrollment

	<b>Year 1 2025 to 2026</b>	<b>Year 2 2026 to 2027</b>	<b>Year 3 2027 to 2028</b>	<b>Year 4 2028 to 2029</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	Grade 9-12	Grade 9-12	Grade 9-12	Grade 9-12
<b>Total Proposed Enrollment</b>	655	655	655	655

<sup>1</sup> Twenty-five percent of all students residing in this district attend charter schools.

<sup>2</sup> In the 2023-2024 school year, BLCS obtained Regents' approval to change the grades offered from Grades 6 – 12 to Grades 9 – 12.

## **Rationale for Renewal Recommendation**

Based on the Board of Regents Renewal Policy, NYSED recommends that the Board of Regents grant the renewal term described above in the **Issue for Decision** section.

As the total enrollment of resident students attending charter schools in the district is greater than five percent of the total public-school enrollment, pursuant to Education Law Section 2852(2)(d), NYSED notes that granting this renewal application provides a significant educational benefit to the students attending and expected to attend this charter school.

### **Performance Framework Ratings:**

At the time of renewal, the charter school was rated on each of the 10 NYSED Charter School Performance Framework Benchmarks as follows. These ratings reflect performance over the entire charter term and are considered when making a renewal recommendation, pursuant to the Board of Regents Renewal Policy.

- The school received a “Meets” rating on seven of the ten benchmarks.
- The school received an “Approaches” rating on three of the ten benchmarks.

**2019 Charter School Performance Framework Benchmark Rating<sup>3</sup>**  
**Brooklyn Laboratory Charter School**

2019 Performance Benchmark		Level
Educational Success	<b>Benchmark 1: Student Performance:</b> The school has met or exceeded achievement indicators for academic proficiency, trends toward proficiency, similar schools, college and career readiness, and high school graduation, if applicable. Proficiency at the elementary/middle school level shall be defined as achieving a performance level of 3 or higher on Grade 3-8 state assessments in ELA, math, and science. At the high school level, passing shall be defined as obtaining a Regents exam score of 65 or higher.	<b>Approaches</b>
	<b>Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning:</b> School leaders have systems in place designed to cultivate shared accountability and high expectations and that lead to students' well-being, improved academic outcomes, and educational success. The school implements research-based practices and has rigorous and coherent curriculum and assessments that are aligned to New York State Learning Standards for all students. Teachers engage in strategic practices and decision-making in order to address the gap between what students know and need to learn so that all students experience consistent high levels of engagement, thinking and achievement.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 3: Culture, Climate, and Student and Family Engagement:</b> The school has systems in place to support students' social and emotional health and to provide for a positive, safe, and respectful learning environment that prepares all students for college and career. Families, community members and school staff work together to share in the responsibility for student academic progress and social-emotional growth and well-being. Families and students are satisfied with the school's academics and the overall leadership and management of the school.	<b>Meets</b>
Organizational Soundness	<b>Benchmark 4: Financial Condition:</b> The school is in sound and stable financial condition as evidenced by performance on key financial indicators.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 5: Financial Management:</b> The school operates in a fiscally sound manner with realistic budgets pursuant to a long-range financial plan, appropriate internal controls and procedures, and in accordance with state law and generally accepted accounting practices.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 6: Board Oversight and Governance:</b> The board of trustees provides competent stewardship and oversight of the school while maintaining policies, establishing performance goals, and implementing systems to ensure academic success, organizational viability, board effectiveness and faithfulness to the terms of its charter.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity:</b> The school has established a well-functioning organizational structure, clearly delineated roles for staff, management, and board members. The school has systems and protocols that allow for the successful implementation, evaluation, and improvement of its academic program and operations.	<b>Meets</b>
Faithfulness to Charter & Law	<b>Benchmark 8: Mission and Key Design Elements:</b> The school is faithful to its mission and has implemented the key design elements included in its charter.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention:</b> The school is meeting or making annual progress toward meeting the enrollment plan outlined in its charter and its enrollment and retention targets for students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the free and reduced priced lunch program; or has demonstrated that it has made extensive good faith efforts to attract, recruit, and retain such students. High schools are meeting persistence rates commensurate with the NYSED target.	<b>Approaches</b>
	<b>Benchmark 10: Legal Compliance:</b> The school complies with applicable laws, regulations, and the provisions of its charter.	<b>Approaches</b>

<sup>3</sup> Charter schools authorized or renewed beginning in the 2019-2020 school year and thereafter use the [2019 Charter School Performance Framework](#), and all other charter schools use the [2015 Charter School Performance Framework](#) until renewal. Refer to the appropriate framework for the applicable benchmark standards.

Highlights	
Strengths	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BLCS aligns programming to support the school's main goal of college preparation and offers ten advanced placement courses, rigorous Regents preparation, annual career day programming, and college tours beginning in grade 9.</li> <li>• BLCS has increased overall enrollment consecutively for the past three years. In 2023 – 2024, the enrollment of students with disabilities (SWD) and economically disadvantaged (ED) student subgroups was respectively +14 percentage points and +9 percentage points higher than the district of location (DOL), and the enrollment of English language learner (ELL) students was on par with the DOL.</li> <li>• During the course of this charter term, the school reduced the number of uncertified teachers from 35 to 24 by offering programs for teachers to work toward their certification at low or no cost, and by creating a system to oversee teacher certification compliance.</li> <li>• The school requested and obtained approval for a non-material revision request to reduce the total enrollment by 15 percent as this may allow the school to meet its overall enrollment target.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Benchmark 1 “Approaches”:</b> The 2020 4-year Cohort High School Graduation Rate for All Students is 79 percent, which is -7 percentage points lower than the State graduation rate. ED students are also graduating from BLCS at a lower rate than the State with a -6 percentage point differential. However, SWD and ELL subgroups are both graduating at higher rates than their peers across the State, with +2 percentage point and +19 percentage point differences, respectively.</li> <li>• <b>Benchmark 9 “Approaches”:</b> Total enrollment at BLCS remained low at 74 percent of contracted enrollment in the 2023-2024 school year.</li> <li>• <b>Benchmark 10 “Approaches”:</b> The school has 24 uncertified teachers, nine more than permitted by law.</li> </ul>

#### Notices of Concern and/or Deficiency in the Current Charter Term:

- Year 1: n/a
- Year 2: n/a
- Year 3: Two corrective action plans (CAPs) to address Notices of Deficiency (NODs) issued in February 2019 and February 2020 for (1) New York State Testing Program (NYSTP) 3-8 academic performance in English language arts (ELA) and math and (2) under-enrollment of ELL students, respectively, were terminated in 2024-2025. BLCS has satisfied the ELL enrollment deficiency and no longer serves middle school grades, making the academic deficiency irrelevant. The school presently has no open CAPs.

### Summary of Public Comment

The required public hearing was held by the New York City Department of Education on November 12, 2024. Forty-eight people attended, and twenty-four spoke. All those who spoke were in favor of the renewal. No one was opposed.

The school provided evidence of community support for this renewal by submitting to the NYSED Charter School Office (CSO) letters of support from three community organizations and partners, including the prevention coordinator at the Crime Victims Treatment Center (CVTC), the administrative officer of the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) Mobile CPR Unit, and iHeart Media, as well as five letters of support from school community members and parents.

**La Cima Charter School**  
**Table 1: Charter School Summary**

<b>Name of Charter School</b>	La Cima Charter School (La Cima)
<b>Board Chair</b>	Natalie Bledman
<b>District of Location</b>	New York City (NYC) Community School District (CSD) 16 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Initial Commencement of Instruction</b>	Fall 2008
<b>Charter Term(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial Term: January 15, 2008 – January 14, 2013</li> <li>• First Renewal: January 15, 2013 – June 30, 2013</li> <li>• Second Renewal: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016</li> <li>• Third Renewal: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2021</li> <li>• Fourth Renewal: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025</li> </ul>
<b>Comprehensive Management Service Provider</b>	None
<b>Facilities</b>	800 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11221 - Public Space
<b>Innovative and Noteworthy Programs (as reported by the school)</b>	La Cima fosters a strong culture of social justice and inclusivity, empowering student voices within underserved communities. This is demonstrated through opportunities for students to participate in student-led conferences, student council, and by giving each student the chance to deliver a speech at their fifth grade graduation.
<b>Link to Charter School Renewal Report</b>	<a href="https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/la-cima-cs">https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/la-cima-cs</a>

**Table 2: Current Grade Levels and Approved Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2021 to 2022</b>	<b>Year 2 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Year 3 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>Year 4 2024 to 2025</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5
<b>Total Approved Enrollment</b>	330	330	330	240

**Table 3: Recommended Renewal Term Grade Levels and Recommended Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2025 to 2026</b>	<b>Year 2 2026 to 2027</b>	<b>Year 3 2027 to 2028</b>	<b>Year 4 2028 to 2029</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5
<b>Total Recommended Enrollment</b>	240	240	240	240

<sup>4</sup> Thirty-two percent of all students residing in this district attend charter schools.



## **Rationale for Renewal and Revision Recommendation**

Based on the Board of Regents Renewal Policy, NYSED recommends that the Board of Regents grant the renewal term and revision described above in the **Issue for Decision** section.

As the total enrollment of resident students attending charter schools in the district is greater than five percent of the total public-school enrollment, pursuant to Education Law Section 2852(2)(d), NYSED notes that granting this renewal application provides a significant educational benefit to the students attending and expected to attend this charter school.

### **Performance Framework Ratings:**

At the time of renewal, the charter school was rated on each of the 10 NYSED Charter School Performance Framework Benchmarks as follows. These ratings reflect performance over the entire charter term and are considered when making a renewal recommendation, pursuant to the Board of Regents Renewal Policy.

- The school received a “Meets” rating on seven of the ten benchmarks.
- The school received an “Approaches” rating on three of the ten benchmarks.

**2019 Charter School Performance Framework Benchmark Ratings<sup>5</sup>**  
**La Cima Charter School**

2019 Performance Benchmark		Level
Educational Success	<b>Benchmark 1: Student Performance:</b> The school has met or exceeded achievement indicators for academic proficiency, trends toward proficiency, similar schools, college and career readiness, and high school graduation, if applicable. Proficiency at the elementary/middle school level shall be defined as achieving a performance level of 3 or higher on Grade 3-8 state assessments in ELA, math, and science. At the high school level, passing shall be defined as obtaining a Regents exam score of 65 or higher.	<b>Approaches</b>
	<b>Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning:</b> School leaders have systems in place designed to cultivate shared accountability and high expectations and that lead to students' well-being, improved academic outcomes, and educational success. The school implements research-based practices and has rigorous and coherent curriculum and assessments that are aligned to New York State Learning Standards for all students. Teachers engage in strategic practices and decision-making in order to address the gap between what students know and need to learn so that all students experience consistent high levels of engagement, thinking and achievement.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 3: Culture, Climate, and Student and Family Engagement:</b> The school has systems in place to support students' social and emotional health and to provide for a positive, safe, and respectful learning environment that prepares all students for college and career. Families, community members and school staff work together to share in the responsibility for student academic progress and social-emotional growth and well-being. Families and students are satisfied with the school's academics and the overall leadership and management of the school.	<b>Meets</b>
Organizational Soundness	<b>Benchmark 4: Financial Condition:</b> The school is in sound and stable financial condition as evidenced by performance on key financial indicators.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 5: Financial Management:</b> The school operates in a fiscally sound manner with realistic budgets pursuant to a long-range financial plan, appropriate internal controls and procedures, and in accordance with state law and generally accepted accounting practices.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 6: Board Oversight and Governance:</b> The board of trustees provides competent stewardship and oversight of the school while maintaining policies, establishing performance goals, and implementing systems to ensure academic success, organizational viability, board effectiveness and faithfulness to the terms of its charter.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity:</b> The school has established a well-functioning organizational structure, clearly delineated roles for staff, management, and board members. The school has systems and protocols that allow for the successful implementation, evaluation, and improvement of its academic program and operations.	<b>Meets</b>
Faithfulness to Charter & Law	<b>Benchmark 8: Mission and Key Design Elements:</b> The school is faithful to its mission and has implemented the key design elements included in its charter.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention:</b> The school is meeting or making annual progress toward meeting the enrollment plan outlined in its charter and its enrollment and retention targets for students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the free and reduced priced lunch program; or has demonstrated that it has made extensive good faith efforts to attract, recruit, and retain such students. High schools are meeting persistence rates commensurate with the NYSED target.	<b>Approaches</b>
	<b>Benchmark 10: Legal Compliance:</b> The school complies with applicable laws, regulations, and the provisions of its charter.	<b>Approaches</b>

<sup>5</sup> Charter schools authorized or renewed beginning in the 2019-2020 school year and thereafter use the [2019 Charter School Performance Framework](#), and all other charter schools use the [2015 Charter School Performance Framework](#) until renewal. Refer to the appropriate framework for the applicable benchmark standards.

Highlights	
Strengths	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>La Cima performed above the district of location (DOL) in math every year of the charter term. Notably, the school performed +19 percentage points above the DOL in math proficiency during the 2021-2022 school year. In 2024, the school performed above the State proficiency rate in math for All Students and all subgroups.</li> <li>La Cima enrolls +21 percentage points more ELL students than the DOL.</li> <li>The school offers a 12:1:1 special education setting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Benchmark 1 “Approaches”:</b> La Cima’s proficiency rate was below the DOL on the 2024 New York State Testing Program (NYSTP) 3-8 assessments for All Students and all subgroups in English language arts (ELA).</li> <li><b>Benchmark 9 “Approaches”:</b> Over the course of the charter term, the school has consistently enrolled fewer than 85 percent of its contracted enrollment with total enrollment at 56 percent in 2023-2024.</li> <li><b>Benchmark 10 “Approaches”:</b> The school has unresolved fingerprint clearance issues and, at the time of the renewal site visit, had failed to post required documents on the school website. Following the site visit, the website was re-organized and all documents are now posted.</li> </ul>

**Notices of Concern and/or Deficiency in the Current Charter Term:**

- Year 1: n/a
- Year 2: n/a
- Year 3: n/a
- Year 4: n/a

**Material Revision:**

The school is seeking approval of the following material revision to the charter.

- Amend its Key Design Element **from** “Constructivist Approach to Math and Balanced Literacy” **to** “Constructivist Approach to Math and the Science of Reading” beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.

The requested revision will have no bearing on the number of students being served by this charter school, which will not change, nor will it impact the number of charters available for issuance in New York City or the State.

Approving this revision request is likely to improve student learning and achievement because the science of reading uses research-backed methods that explicitly teach phonics, fluency, and comprehension.

Approving this revision request will result in a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school because all students, especially struggling readers, will develop the skills and literacy foundation needed for lifelong academic success.

**Summary of Public Comment**

The required public hearing was held by the New York City Department of Education on November 7, 2024. The hearing was a joint hearing for La Cima Charter School and New American Academy Charter School. Fifty-three people attended; however, it is not clear whether participants attended for one or

both schools. Five people spoke about La Cima. All five were in favor of the renewal and revision. No one was opposed.

The school provided evidence of community support for this renewal and revision request by submitting to the NYSED CSO nineteen (19) letters of support from school community members.

## New American Academy Charter School (The)

**Table 1: Charter School Summary**

<b>Name of Charter School</b>	New American Academy Charter School (The) (TNAACS)
<b>Board Chair</b>	Varleton McDonald
<b>District of Location</b>	New York City (NYC) Community School District (CSD) 18 <sup>6</sup>
<b>Initial Commencement of Instruction</b>	Fall 2013
<b>Charter Term(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Term: September 3, 2013 – June 30, 2018</li> <li>First Renewal Term: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020</li> <li>Second Renewal Term: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023</li> <li>Third Renewal Term: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025</li> </ul>
<b>Comprehensive Management Service Provider</b>	None
<b>Facilities</b>	9301 Ave. B, Brooklyn, NY 11236 – Public Space
<b>Innovative and Noteworthy Programs (as reported by the school)</b>	TNAACS key design elements (KDEs) set it apart from traditional elementary schools. The school is also characterized by its HEARTS (humility, empowerment, aspiration, responsibility, teamwork, scholarship) values, which are embedded into the fabric of the school.
<b>Link to Charter School Renewal Report</b>	<a href="https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/new-american-academy-cs">https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/new-american-academy-cs</a>

**Table 2: Current Grade Levels and Approved Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>Year 2 2024 to 2025</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5
<b>Total Approved Enrollment</b>	370	330

**Table 3: Recommended Renewal Term Grade Levels and Recommended Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2025 to 2026</b>	<b>Year 2 2026 to 2027</b>	<b>Year 3 2027 to 2028</b>	<b>Year 4 2028 to 2029</b>	<b>Year 5 2029 to 2030</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5	K – Grade 5
<b>Total Recommended Enrollment</b>	330	330	330	330	330

<sup>6</sup> Thirty-two percent of all students residing in this district attend charter schools.

## **Rationale for Renewal Recommendation**

Based on the Board of Regents Renewal Policy, NYSED recommends that the Board of Regents grant the renewal term described above in the **Issue for Decision** section.

As the total enrollment of resident students attending charter schools in the district is greater than five percent of the total public-school enrollment, pursuant to Education Law Section 2852(2)(d), NYSED notes that granting this renewal application provides a significant educational benefit to the students attending and expected to attend this charter school.

### **Performance Framework Ratings:**

At the time of renewal, the charter school was rated on each of the 10 NYSED Charter School Performance Framework Benchmarks as follows. These ratings reflect performance over the entire charter term and are considered when making a renewal recommendation, pursuant to the Board of Regents Renewal Policy.

- The school received a “Meets” rating on eight of the ten benchmarks.
- The school received an “Approaches” rating on two of the ten benchmarks.

**2019 Charter School Performance Framework Benchmark Ratings<sup>7</sup>**  
**New American Academy Charter School (The)**

2019 Performance Benchmark		Level
Educational Success	<b>Benchmark 1: Student Performance:</b> The school has met or exceeded achievement indicators for academic proficiency, trends toward proficiency, similar schools, college and career readiness, and high school graduation, if applicable. Proficiency at the elementary/middle school level shall be defined as achieving a performance level of 3 or higher on Grade 3-8 state assessments in ELA, math, and science. At the high school level, passing shall be defined as obtaining a Regents exam score of 65 or higher.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning:</b> School leaders have systems in place designed to cultivate shared accountability and high expectations and that lead to students' well-being, improved academic outcomes, and educational success. The school implements research-based practices and has rigorous and coherent curriculum and assessments that are aligned to New York State Learning Standards for all students. Teachers engage in strategic practices and decision-making in order to address the gap between what students know and need to learn so that all students experience consistent high levels of engagement, thinking and achievement.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 3: Culture, Climate, and Student and Family Engagement:</b> The school has systems in place to support students' social and emotional health and to provide for a positive, safe, and respectful learning environment that prepares all students for college and career. Families, community members and school staff work together to share in the responsibility for student academic progress and social-emotional growth and well-being. Families and students are satisfied with the school's academics and the overall leadership and management of the school.	Meets
Organizational Soundness	<b>Benchmark 4: Financial Condition:</b> The school is in sound and stable financial condition as evidenced by performance on key financial indicators.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 5: Financial Management:</b> The school operates in a fiscally sound manner with realistic budgets pursuant to a long-range financial plan, appropriate internal controls and procedures, and in accordance with state law and generally accepted accounting practices.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 6: Board Oversight and Governance:</b> The board of trustees provides competent stewardship and oversight of the school while maintaining policies, establishing performance goals, and implementing systems to ensure academic success, organizational viability, board effectiveness and faithfulness to the terms of its charter.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity:</b> The school has established a well-functioning organizational structure, clearly delineated roles for staff, management, and board members. The school has systems and protocols that allow for the successful implementation, evaluation, and improvement of its academic program and operations.	Meets
Faithfulness to Charter & Law	<b>Benchmark 8: Mission and Key Design Elements:</b> The school is faithful to its mission and has implemented the key design elements included in its charter.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention:</b> The school is meeting or making annual progress toward meeting the enrollment plan outlined in its charter and its enrollment and retention targets for students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the free and reduced priced lunch program; or has demonstrated that it has made extensive good faith efforts to attract, recruit, and retain such students. High schools are meeting persistence rates commensurate with the NYSED target.	Approaches
	<b>Benchmark 10: Legal Compliance:</b> The school complies with applicable laws, regulations, and the provisions of its charter.	Approaches

<sup>7</sup> Charter schools authorized or renewed beginning in the 2019-2020 school year and thereafter use the [2019 Charter School Performance Framework](#), and all other charter schools use the [2015 Charter School Performance Framework](#) until renewal. Refer to the appropriate framework for the applicable benchmark standards.

Highlights	
Strengths	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TNAACS outperformed both the district of location (DOL) and the State on the 2024 New York Testing Program (NYSTP) 3-8 assessments for English language arts (ELA), math, and science for All Students, students with disabilities (SWD), and economically disadvantaged (ED) students. Notably, SWD outperformed, in terms of percent of students proficient, the DOL and State by double digits in math, and English language learner (ELL) students outperformed the DOL and State by double digits in ELA.</li> <li>The school has invested in high quality instructional coaching and protocols for using student data to improve academic achievement, resulting in an improvement from “Approaches” to “Meets” for Benchmark 1.</li> <li>TNAACS supports the social-emotional health of students and families through schoolwide implementation of its unique, school-created HEARTS (humility, empowerment, aspiration, responsibility, teamwork, scholarship) curriculum.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Benchmark 9 “Approaches”:</b> The school was under-enrolled at 73 percent of the contracted enrollment in 2023-2024. The school is not yet meeting its target for enrollment of ELL or ED students and is currently -6 and -10 percentage points below the DOL, respectively.</li> <li><b>Benchmark 10 “Approaches”:</b> The school has continued fingerprint clearance issues.</li> </ul>

**Notices of Concern and/or Deficiency in the Current Charter Term:**

- Year 1: n/a
- Year 2: n/a

### **Summary of Public Comment**

The required public hearing was held by the New York City Department of Education on November 7, 2024. The hearing was a joint hearing for New American Academy Charter School and La Cima Charter School. Fifty-three people attended; however, it is not clear whether participants attended for one or both schools. Four people spoke about TNAACS. All four were in favor of the renewal and revision. No spoke in opposition.

The school provided evidence of community support for this renewal by submitting to the NYSED CSO five (5) letters of support from school community members and a petition of support with 64 signatures provided primarily by families of current students.



**Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School**

**Table 1: Charter School Summary**

<b>Name of Charter School</b>	Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School (BASCS)
<b>Board Chair</b>	Ismet Mamnoon
<b>District of Location</b>	Buffalo Public Schools <sup>8</sup>
<b>Initial Commencement of Instruction</b>	Fall 2004
<b>Charter Term(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial Term: January 12, 2004 – January 11, 2009</li> <li>• First Renewal: January 12, 2009 – June 30, 2012</li> <li>• Second Renewal: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015</li> <li>• Third Renewal: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2020</li> <li>• Fourth Renewal: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025</li> </ul>
<b>Comprehensive Management Service Provider</b>	None
<b>Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 Agassiz Circle, Buffalo NY 14202 – Private Space (High School)</li> <li>• 89 Clare Street, Buffalo NY 14206 – Private Space (Elementary School)</li> <li>• 100 Poplar Avenue, Buffalo NY 14211 – Private Space (Middle School)</li> </ul>
<b>Innovative and Noteworthy Programs (as reported by the school)</b>	BASCS stands out as an innovative educational institution within its district of location, setting itself apart through a combination of unique academic and operational components that align with its mission, vision, and key design elements. Instruction is tailored to meet the individual needs of students, involving parents as partners in their children's education. These innovative aspects of the school's academic and operational programs not only significantly differentiate it from other schools in its district of location, but also enable it to fulfill its vision of eliminating historical urban academic and income disparities.
<b>Link to Charter School Renewal Report</b>	<a href="https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/buffalo-academy-science-cs">https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/buffalo-academy-science-cs</a>

**Table 2: Current Grade Levels and Approved Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2020 to 2021</b>	<b>Year 2 2021 to 2022</b>	<b>Year 3 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Year 4 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>Year 5 2024 to 2025</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	K – Grade 3, Grades 5 – 12	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12
<b>Total Approved Enrollment</b>	856	928	928	928	928

<sup>8</sup> Twenty-seven percent of all students residing in this district attend charter schools.

**Table 3: Recommended Renewal Term Grade Levels and Recommended Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2025 to 2026</b>	<b>Year 2 2026 to 2027</b>	<b>Year 3 2027 to 2028</b>	<b>Year 4 2028 to 2029</b>	<b>Year 5 2029 to 2030</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12
<b>Total Recommended Enrollment</b>	928	928	928	928	928

### **Rationale for Renewal Recommendation**

Based on the Board of Regents Renewal Policy, NYSED recommends that the Board of Regents grant the renewal term described above in the **Issue for Decision** section.

As the total enrollment of resident students attending charter schools in the district is greater than five percent of the total public-school enrollment, pursuant to Education Law Section 2852(2)(d), NYSED notes that granting this renewal application provides a significant educational benefit to the students attending and expected to attend this charter school.

#### **Performance Framework Ratings:**

At the time of renewal, the charter school was rated on each of the 10 NYSED Charter School Performance Framework Benchmarks as follows. These ratings reflect performance over the entire charter term and are considered when making a renewal recommendation, pursuant to the Board of Regents Renewal Policy.

- The school received a “Meets” rating on nine of the ten benchmarks.
- The school received an “Approaches” rating on one of the ten benchmarks.

**2019 Charter School Performance Framework Benchmark Ratings<sup>9</sup>**  
**Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School**

2019 Performance Benchmark		Level
Educational Success	<b>Benchmark 1: Student Performance:</b> The school has met or exceeded achievement indicators for academic proficiency, trends toward proficiency, similar schools, college and career readiness, and high school graduation, if applicable. Proficiency at the elementary/middle school level shall be defined as achieving a performance level of 3 or higher on Grade 3-8 state assessments in ELA, math, and science. At the high school level, passing shall be defined as obtaining a Regents exam score of 65 or higher.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning:</b> School leaders have systems in place designed to cultivate shared accountability and high expectations and that lead to students' well-being, improved academic outcomes, and educational success. The school implements research-based practices and has rigorous and coherent curriculum and assessments that are aligned to New York State Learning Standards for all students. Teachers engage in strategic practices and decision-making in order to address the gap between what students know and need to learn so that all students experience consistent high levels of engagement, thinking and achievement.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 3: Culture, Climate, and Student and Family Engagement:</b> The school has systems in place to support students' social and emotional health and to provide for a positive, safe, and respectful learning environment that prepares all students for college and career. Families, community members and school staff work together to share in the responsibility for student academic progress and social-emotional growth and well-being. Families and students are satisfied with the school's academics and the overall leadership and management of the school.	Meets
Organizational Soundness	<b>Benchmark 4: Financial Condition:</b> The school is in sound and stable financial condition as evidenced by performance on key financial indicators.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 5: Financial Management:</b> The school operates in a fiscally sound manner with realistic budgets pursuant to a long-range financial plan, appropriate internal controls and procedures, and in accordance with state law and generally accepted accounting practices.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 6: Board Oversight and Governance:</b> The board of trustees provides competent stewardship and oversight of the school while maintaining policies, establishing performance goals, and implementing systems to ensure academic success, organizational viability, board effectiveness and faithfulness to the terms of its charter.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity:</b> The school has established a well-functioning organizational structure, clearly delineated roles for staff, management, and board members. The school has systems and protocols that allow for the successful implementation, evaluation, and improvement of its academic program and operations.	Meets
Faithfulness to Charter & Law	<b>Benchmark 8: Mission and Key Design Elements:</b> The school is faithful to its mission and has implemented the key design elements included in its charter.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention:</b> The school is meeting or making annual progress toward meeting the enrollment plan outlined in its charter and its enrollment and retention targets for students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the free and reduced priced lunch program; or has demonstrated that it has made extensive good faith efforts to attract, recruit, and retain such students. High schools are meeting persistence rates commensurate with the NYSED target.	Approaches
	<b>Benchmark 10: Legal Compliance:</b> The school complies with applicable laws, regulations, and the provisions of its charter.	Meets

<sup>9</sup> Charter schools authorized or renewed beginning in the 2019-2020 school year and thereafter use the [2019 Charter School Performance Framework](#), and all other charter schools use the [2015 Charter School Performance Framework](#) until renewal. Refer to the appropriate framework for the applicable benchmark standards.

Highlights	
Strengths	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school consistently outperforms, in terms of proficiency rates, the district of location (DOL) by double digits on the New York State Testing Program (NYSTP) 3 – 8 English language arts (ELA) and math assessments for All Students and all subgroups. Regents passing rates exceed or match the DOL for ELA, math, science, and U.S. History.</li> <li>With one exception, due to a reporting error in 2022, the four-year graduation rate has consistently exceeded the New York State (NYS) average.</li> <li>The school recently transformed the former Medaille College campus into a state-of-the-art facility for its high school grades.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Benchmark 9 “Approaches”:</b> The school under-enrolls students with disabilities (SWD) and English language learners (ELL) as compared with its DOL.</li> </ul>

**Notices of Concern and/or Deficiency in the Current Charter Term:**

- Year 1: In February 2019, the CSO issued a Notice of Deficiency (NOD) based on insufficient enrollment of SWD. In January 2020, a NOD based on insufficient enrollment of ELL students was issued. Corrective actions plans (CAPs) were submitted for both issues; however, the issues remain areas of concern, and the CAPs have not yet been satisfied.
- Years 2 - 5: Issues remain under active monitoring; CAPs not yet resolved.

**Summary of Public Comment**

The required public hearing was held by the Buffalo Public Schools on October 29, 2024. Seven people attended, and two spoke. Two were in favor of the renewal. No one was opposed.

The school provided evidence of community support for this renewal through submission of letters of support (11) from:

- Academy Road/St. Marys Road Block Club
- Buffalo Museum of Science
- Common Council, City of Buffalo (3)
- Cullen Foundation
- Horizon Health Alliance
- Kids Escaping Drugs
- Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, Majority Leader, New York State Assembly
- Mental Health Advocates
- NOCO Development

**West Buffalo Charter School**  
**Table 1: Charter School Summary**

<b>Name of Charter School</b>	West Buffalo Charter School (WBCS)
<b>Board Chair</b>	Robert Schreck
<b>District of Location</b>	Buffalo Public Schools <sup>10</sup>
<b>Initial Commencement of Instruction</b>	Fall 2012
<b>Charter Term(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial Term: March 9, 2010 – March 8, 2015</li> <li>• First Renewal: March 9, 2015 – June 30, 2015</li> <li>• Second Renewal: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2020</li> <li>• Third Renewal: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025</li> </ul>
<b>Comprehensive Management Service Provider</b>	None
<b>Facilities</b>	113 Lafayette Avenue, Buffalo NY 14213
<b>Innovative and Noteworthy Programs (as reported by the school)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students engage with the community through class field trips, small group outings, and numerous community collaborations, linking classroom learning to real-world applications and experiences.</li> <li>• WBCS incorporates social and emotional learning into the daily schedule to help students develop self-awareness, social skills, and emotional resilience.</li> <li>• Individualized strategies for learning allow students to progress at their own pace through differentiation of content, process and/or products.</li> <li>• The STEAM program as well as increased rigor within content areas allows the school to focus on developing critical thinking skills through problem solving, discussions, and hands-on engagement.</li> <li>• Through integration of arts education into the curriculum, the school nurtures creativity and self-expression with the support of local artists and arts organizations.</li> <li>• Continuous professional development, training, and resources support teachers in keeping up with educational trends, new technologies, and best practices, provided by both in-house and external experts.</li> </ul>
<b>Link to Charter School Renewal Report</b>	<a href="https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/west-buffalo-cs">https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/west-buffalo-cs</a>

**Table 2: Current Grade Levels and Approved Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2020 to 2021</b>	<b>Year 2 2021 to 2022</b>	<b>Year 3 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Year 4 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>Year 5 2024 to 2025</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	K – Grade 8	K – Grade 8	K – Grade 8	K – Grade 8	K – Grade 8
<b>Total Approved Enrollment</b>	500	500	500	500	500

<sup>10</sup> Twenty-seven percent of all students residing in this district attend charter schools.

**Table 3: Recommended Renewal Term Grade Levels and Recommended Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2025 to 2026</b>	<b>Year 2 2026 to 2027</b>	<b>Year 3 2027 to 2028</b>	<b>Year 4 2028 to 2029</b>	<b>Year 5 2029 to 2030</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	K – Grade 8	K – Grade 8	K – Grade 8	K – Grade 8	K – Grade 8
<b>Total Recommended Enrollment</b>	500	500	500	500	500

### **Rationale for Renewal Recommendation**

Based on the Board of Regents Renewal Policy, NYSED recommends that the Board of Regents grant the renewal term described above in the **Issue for Decision** section.

As the total enrollment of resident students attending charter schools in the district is greater than five percent of the total public-school enrollment, pursuant to Education Law Section 2852(2)(d), NYSED notes that granting this renewal application provides a significant educational benefit to the students attending and expected to attend this charter school.

#### **Performance Framework Ratings:**

At the time of renewal, the charter school was rated on each of the 10 NYSED Charter School Performance Framework Benchmarks as follows. These ratings reflect performance over the entire charter term and are considered when making a renewal recommendation, pursuant to the Board of Regents Renewal Policy.

- The school received a “Meets” rating on nine of the ten benchmarks.
- The school received an “Approaches” rating on one of the ten benchmarks.

**2019 Charter School Performance Framework Benchmark Ratings<sup>11</sup>**  
**West Buffalo Charter School**

2019 Performance Benchmark		Level
Educational Success	<b>Benchmark 1: Student Performance:</b> The school has met or exceeded achievement indicators for academic proficiency, trends toward proficiency, similar schools, college and career readiness, and high school graduation, if applicable. Proficiency at the elementary/middle school level shall be defined as achieving a performance level of 3 or higher on Grade 3-8 state assessments in ELA, math, and science. At the high school level, passing shall be defined as obtaining a Regents exam score of 65 or higher.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning:</b> School leaders have systems in place designed to cultivate shared accountability and high expectations and that lead to students' well-being, improved academic outcomes, and educational success. The school implements research-based practices and has rigorous and coherent curriculum and assessments that are aligned to New York State Learning Standards for all students. Teachers engage in strategic practices and decision-making in order to address the gap between what students know and need to learn so that all students experience consistent high levels of engagement, thinking and achievement.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 3: Culture, Climate, and Student and Family Engagement:</b> The school has systems in place to support students' social and emotional health and to provide for a positive, safe, and respectful learning environment that prepares all students for college and career. Families, community members and school staff work together to share in the responsibility for student academic progress and social-emotional growth and well-being. Families and students are satisfied with the school's academics and the overall leadership and management of the school.	Meets
Organizational Soundness	<b>Benchmark 4: Financial Condition:</b> The school is in sound and stable financial condition as evidenced by performance on key financial indicators.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 5: Financial Management:</b> The school operates in a fiscally sound manner with realistic budgets pursuant to a long-range financial plan, appropriate internal controls and procedures, and in accordance with state law and generally accepted accounting practices.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 6: Board Oversight and Governance:</b> The board of trustees provides competent stewardship and oversight of the school while maintaining policies, establishing performance goals, and implementing systems to ensure academic success, organizational viability, board effectiveness and faithfulness to the terms of its charter.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity:</b> The school has established a well-functioning organizational structure, clearly delineated roles for staff, management, and board members. The school has systems and protocols that allow for the successful implementation, evaluation, and improvement of its academic program and operations.	Meets
Faithfulness to Charter & Law	<b>Benchmark 8: Mission and Key Design Elements:</b> The school is faithful to its mission and has implemented the key design elements included in its charter.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention:</b> The school is meeting or making annual progress toward meeting the enrollment plan outlined in its charter and its enrollment and retention targets for students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the free and reduced priced lunch program; or has demonstrated that it has made extensive good faith efforts to attract, recruit, and retain such students. High schools are meeting persistence rates commensurate with the NYSED target.	Approaches
	<b>Benchmark 10: Legal Compliance:</b> The school complies with applicable laws, regulations, and the provisions of its charter.	Meets

<sup>11</sup> Charter schools authorized or renewed beginning in the 2019-2020 school year and thereafter use the [2019 Charter School Performance Framework](#), and all other charter schools use the [2015 Charter School Performance Framework](#) until renewal. Refer to the appropriate framework for the applicable benchmark standards.

Highlights	
Strengths	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school outperforms the district for All Students and all subgroups for both ELA and math proficiency rates, with results for All Students, English language learners (ELL), and economically disadvantaged (ED) students at double digits above the district.</li> <li>• Classroom observations showed attention to individual student needs, addressing the “whole child” with specific instructional strategies.</li> <li>• Support systems for students and their families are strong and collaborative.</li> <li>• The board is involved in all aspects of school operations and well-equipped to oversee school functions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Benchmark 9 “Approaches”:</b> The school has not yet enrolled the same percentage of SWD and ELL as the Buffalo Public Schools.</li> </ul>

**Notices of Concern and/or Deficiency in the Current Charter Term:**

- Year 1: In February 2019, the NYSED CSO issued a Notice of Deficiency based on the school’s inability to enroll an adequate number of students with disabilities. The school submitted a corrective action plan (CAP) in March 2019; however, the issue remains an area of concern, and the CAP has not yet been satisfied.
- Years 2 – 5: Issue remains under active monitoring; CAP not yet resolved.

**Summary of Public Comment**

The required public hearing was held by the Buffalo Public Schools on October 29, 2024. Forty-six people attended. Ten spoke in person and 13 spoke virtually. All 23 spoke in favor of the renewal. No one spoke in opposition.

The school provided evidence of community support for this renewal by submitting to the CSO twenty (20) letters of support, two of which were from community organizations that serve the same population as the school. Letters of support also came from one local city council member, two professional development experts who had worked with the school, and fifteen parents.



## Western New York Maritime Charter School

### Table 1: Charter School Summary

<b>Name of Charter School</b>	Western New York Maritime Charter School (WNYMCS)
<b>Board Chair</b>	Barbara Tompkins
<b>District of Location</b>	Buffalo Public Schools <sup>12</sup>
<b>Initial Commencement of Instruction</b>	January 2004
<b>Charter Term(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Term: January 12, 2004 – January 11, 2009</li> <li>First Renewal: January 12, 2009 – June 30, 2012</li> <li>Second Renewal: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015</li> <li>Third Renewal: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2020</li> <li>Fourth Renewal: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025</li> </ul>
<b>Comprehensive Management Service Provider</b>	None
<b>Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2219 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14220 (High School) – Private Space</li> <li>102 Buffum Street, Buffalo, New York 14210 (Middle School) – Private Space</li> </ul>
<b>Innovative and Noteworthy Programs (as reported by the school)</b>	WNYMCS adopts military practices and principles to create an educational program that aims to support students' development of self-discipline, self-control, loyalty, and community service. Participation in the National Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) supplements the academic program with character and life skills lessons to build future leaders and responsible citizens.
<b>Link to Charter School Renewal Report</b>	<a href="https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/western-new-york-maritime-cs">https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/western-new-york-maritime-cs</a>

### Table 2: Current Grade Levels and Approved Enrollment

	<b>Year 1 2020 to 2021</b>	<b>Year 2 2021 to 2022</b>	<b>Year 3 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Year 4 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>Year 5 2024 to 2025</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	Grades 5 – 12	Grades 5 – 12	Grades 5 – 12	Grades 5 – 12	Grades 5 – 12
<b>Total Approved Enrollment</b>	510	510	510	510	510

### Table 3: Recommended Renewal Term Grade Levels and Recommended Enrollment

	<b>Year 1 2025 to 2026</b>	<b>Year 2 2026 to 2027</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	Grades 5 – 12	Grades 5 – 12
<b>Total Recommended Enrollment</b>	510	510

<sup>12</sup> Twenty-seven percent of all students residing in this district attend charter schools.

## **Rationale for Renewal Recommendation**

Based on the Board of Regents Renewal Policy, NYSED recommends that the Board of Regents grant the renewal term described above in the **Issue for Decision** section.

As the total enrollment of resident students attending charter schools in the district is greater than five percent of the total public-school enrollment, pursuant to Education Law Section 2852(2)(d), NYSED notes that granting this renewal application provides a significant educational benefit to the students attending and expected to attend this charter school.

### **Performance Framework Ratings:**

At the time of renewal, the charter school was rated on each of the 10 NYSED Charter School Performance Framework Benchmarks as follows. These ratings reflect performance over the entire charter term and are considered when making a renewal recommendation, pursuant to the Board of Regents Renewal Policy.

- The school received a “Meets” rating on five of the ten benchmarks.
- The school received an “Approaches” rating on three of the ten benchmarks.
- The school received a “Falls Far Below” rating on two of the ten benchmarks.

**2019 Charter School Performance Framework Benchmark Ratings<sup>13</sup>**  
**Western New York Maritime Charter School**

2019 Performance Benchmark		Level
Educational Success	<b>Benchmark 1: Student Performance:</b> The school has met or exceeded achievement indicators for academic proficiency, trends toward proficiency, similar schools, college and career readiness, and high school graduation, if applicable. Proficiency at the elementary/middle school level shall be defined as achieving a performance level of 3 or higher on Grade 3-8 state assessments in ELA, math, and science. At the high school level, passing shall be defined as obtaining a Regents exam score of 65 or higher.	<b>Falls Far Below</b>
	<b>Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning:</b> School leaders have systems in place designed to cultivate shared accountability and high expectations and that lead to students' well-being, improved academic outcomes, and educational success. The school implements research-based practices and has rigorous and coherent curriculum and assessments that are aligned to New York State Learning Standards for all students. Teachers engage in strategic practices and decision-making in order to address the gap between what students know and need to learn so that all students experience consistent high levels of engagement, thinking and achievement.	<b>Approaches</b>
	<b>Benchmark 3: Culture, Climate, and Student and Family Engagement:</b> The school has systems in place to support students' social and emotional health and to provide for a positive, safe, and respectful learning environment that prepares all students for college and career. Families, community members and school staff work together to share in the responsibility for student academic progress and social-emotional growth and well-being. Families and students are satisfied with the school's academics and the overall leadership and management of the school.	<b>Meets</b>
Organizational Soundness	<b>Benchmark 4: Financial Condition:</b> The school is in sound and stable financial condition as evidenced by performance on key financial indicators.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 5: Financial Management:</b> The school operates in a fiscally sound manner with realistic budgets pursuant to a long-range financial plan, appropriate internal controls and procedures, and in accordance with state law and generally accepted accounting practices.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 6: Board Oversight and Governance:</b> The board of trustees provides competent stewardship and oversight of the school while maintaining policies, establishing performance goals, and implementing systems to ensure academic success, organizational viability, board effectiveness and faithfulness to the terms of its charter.	<b>Approaches</b>
	<b>Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity:</b> The school has established a well-functioning organizational structure, clearly delineated roles for staff, management, and board members. The school has systems and protocols that allow for the successful implementation, evaluation, and improvement of its academic program and operations.	<b>Meets</b>
Faithfulness to Charter & Law	<b>Benchmark 8: Mission and Key Design Elements:</b> The school is faithful to its mission and has implemented the key design elements included in its charter.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention:</b> The school is meeting or making annual progress toward meeting the enrollment plan outlined in its charter and its enrollment and retention targets for students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the free and reduced priced lunch program; or has demonstrated that it has made extensive good faith efforts to attract, recruit, and retain such students. High schools are meeting persistence rates commensurate with the NYSED target.	<b>Falls Far Below</b>
	<b>Benchmark 10: Legal Compliance:</b> The school complies with applicable laws, regulations, and the provisions of its charter.	<b>Approaches</b>

<sup>13</sup> Charter schools authorized or renewed beginning in the 2019-2020 school year and thereafter use the [2019 Charter School Performance Framework](#), and all other charter schools use the [2015 Charter School Performance Framework](#) until renewal. Refer to the appropriate framework for the applicable benchmark standards.

Highlights	
Strengths	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School leaders and staff demonstrate concern for individual students by adjusting and adapting programs and practices to meet the students “where they are” to help them develop the character and life skills needed for future success.</li> <li>School leaders and staff take on multiple roles and responsibilities to ensure students and families are provided with needed supports, which include implementation of restorative practices, performance counseling, and quarterly family workshops, among others.</li> <li>The school demonstrates a growing level of consistency in classroom management practices that contribute to safe and orderly learning environments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Benchmark 1 “Falls Far Below”:</b> The school performed well below the district of location (DOL), Buffalo Public Schools, and New York State (NYS) on the 2024 New York State Testing Program (NYSTP) 3 – 8 English language arts (ELA) and math assessments and is trending downward for academics and graduation rate. The 4-year graduation rate in 2024 was 80 percent.</li> <li><b>Benchmark 2 “Approaches”:</b> Recently planned changes in curriculum and newly designed teacher planning time have yet to be fully implemented and their effectiveness in improving student performance remains to be seen.</li> <li><b>Benchmark 6 “Approaches”:</b> The board has not provided knowledgeable oversight or careful stewardship of the school’s operations and has not established and monitored performance goals that ensure the academic success of all students.</li> <li><b>Benchmark 9 “Falls Far Below”:</b> WNYMCS enrolled 78 percent of its chartered maximum in the 2023-2024 school year and has not met targets for the enrollment of students with disabilities (SWD), English language learners (ELL), or economically disadvantaged (ED) students. The school’s retention rate is below that of the DOL, and high school persistency rates are consistently far below the target of 85 percent.</li> <li><b>Benchmark 10 “Approaches”:</b> WNYMCS has been unable to maintain sufficient enrollment to meet 85 percent of the chartered maximum for the past two years. The school also has compliance issues with by-laws listing less than the required number of board meetings that must be held annually.</li> </ul>

#### Notices of Concern and/or Deficiency in the Current Charter Term:

- Year 1: In February 2019, the NYSED CSO issued a Notice of Deficiency (NOD) based on inadequate proficiency levels for students in Grades 7-8 in ELA and math. A corrective action plan (CAP) was submitted; however, the issue remains an area of concern with the CAP not yet satisfied.
- Year 2: Year 1 issue remains under active monitoring; CAP not yet resolved.
- Year 3: In June 2023, the NYSED CSO issued a NOD based on improper procedures for student discipline. A corrective action plan (CAP) was submitted, and the school’s discipline policy has since been corrected. The CAP was satisfied in February 2025.
- Years 4 – 5: Year 1 issue remains under active monitoring; CAP not yet resolved.

### **Summary of Public Comment**

The required public hearing was held by the Buffalo Public Schools on October 29, 2024. Ten people attended, and five spoke. Five were in favor of the renewal. No one was opposed.

The school provided evidence of community support for this renewal by submitting to the NYSED CSO a Petition of Support with 207 individual signatures of support.

**Evergreen Charter School**  
**Table 1: Charter School Summary**

<b>Name of Charter School</b>	Evergreen Charter School (ECS)
<b>Board Chair</b>	Gil Bernardino
<b>District of Location</b>	Hempstead Union Free School District <sup>14</sup>
<b>Initial Commencement of Instruction</b>	Fall 2009
<b>Charter Term(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial Term: January 13, 2009 – January 12, 2014</li> <li>• First Renewal: January 13, 2014 – June 30, 2014</li> <li>• Second Renewal: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017</li> <li>• Third Renewal: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2022</li> <li>• Fourth Renewal: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025</li> </ul>
<b>Comprehensive Management Service Provider</b>	None
<b>Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 605 Peninsula Blvd., Hempstead, NY 11550 (K – Grade 1) – Private Space</li> <li>• 436 Front St., Hempstead, NY 11550 (Grades 2 – 4) – Private Space</li> <li>• 120 Greenwich St., Hempstead, NY 11550 (Grades 5 – 8) – Private Space</li> <li>• 94 Fulton Ave., Hempstead, NY 11550 (Grades 9 – 12) – Private Space</li> </ul>
<b>Innovative and Noteworthy Programs (as reported by the school)</b>	ECS is deeply embedded in the community and actively involves community stakeholders in the life of the school. The school employs a large number of bilingual staff who engage non-English speaking students and their families. ECS leverages community partnerships and provides families with workshops and connects them to community resources. Families respond with high participation rates in school events and parent-teacher conferences. Finally, all members of the school community have a voice in decision making, including students, families, faculty, and staff such as kitchen staff and custodians.
<b>Link to Charter School Renewal Report</b>	<a href="https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/evergreen-cs">https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/evergreen-cs</a>

**Table 2: Current Grade Levels and Approved Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Year 2 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>Year 3 2024 to 2025</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	K – Grade 11	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12
<b>Total Approved Enrollment</b>	975	1100	1175

<sup>14</sup> Thirty-five percent of all students residing in this district attend charter schools.

**Table 3: Recommended Renewal Term Grade Levels and Recommended Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2025 to 2026</b>	<b>Year 2 2026 to 2027</b>	<b>Year 3 2027 to 2028</b>	<b>Year 4 2028 to 2029</b>	<b>Year 5 2029 to 2030</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12	K – Grade 12
<b>Total Recommended Enrollment</b>	1225	1225	1225	1225	1225

### **Rationale for Renewal and Revision Recommendation**

Based on the Board of Regents Renewal Policy, NYSED recommends that the Board of Regents grant the renewal term and the revision described above in the **Issue for Decision** section.

As the total enrollment of resident students attending charter schools in the district is greater than five percent of the total public-school enrollment, pursuant to Education Law Section 2852(2)(d), NYSED notes that granting this renewal application provides a significant educational benefit to the students attending and expected to attend this charter school.

#### **Performance Framework Ratings:**

At the time of renewal, the charter school was rated on each of the 10 NYSED Charter School Performance Framework Benchmarks as follows. These ratings reflect performance over the entire charter term and are considered when making a renewal recommendation, pursuant to the Board of Regents Renewal Policy.

- The school received a “Meets” rating on eight of the ten benchmarks.
- The school received an “Approaches” rating on two of the ten benchmarks.

**2019 Charter School Performance Framework Benchmark Ratings<sup>15</sup>**  
**Evergreen Charter School**

2019 Performance Benchmark		Level
Educational Success	<b>Benchmark 1: Student Performance:</b> The school has met or exceeded achievement indicators for academic proficiency, trends toward proficiency, similar schools, college and career readiness, and high school graduation, if applicable. Proficiency at the elementary/middle school level shall be defined as achieving a performance level of 3 or higher on Grade 3-8 state assessments in ELA, math, and science. At the high school level, passing shall be defined as obtaining a Regents exam score of 65 or higher.	<b>Approaches</b>
	<b>Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning:</b> School leaders have systems in place designed to cultivate shared accountability and high expectations and that lead to students' well-being, improved academic outcomes, and educational success. The school implements research-based practices and has rigorous and coherent curriculum and assessments that are aligned to New York State Learning Standards for all students. Teachers engage in strategic practices and decision-making in order to address the gap between what students know and need to learn so that all students experience consistent high levels of engagement, thinking and achievement.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 3: Culture, Climate, and Student and Family Engagement:</b> The school has systems in place to support students' social and emotional health and to provide for a positive, safe, and respectful learning environment that prepares all students for college and career. Families, community members and school staff work together to share in the responsibility for student academic progress and social-emotional growth and well-being. Families and students are satisfied with the school's academics and the overall leadership and management of the school.	<b>Meets</b>
Organizational Soundness	<b>Benchmark 4: Financial Condition:</b> The school is in sound and stable financial condition as evidenced by performance on key financial indicators.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 5: Financial Management:</b> The school operates in a fiscally sound manner with realistic budgets pursuant to a long-range financial plan, appropriate internal controls and procedures, and in accordance with state law and generally accepted accounting practices.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 6: Board Oversight and Governance:</b> The board of trustees provides competent stewardship and oversight of the school while maintaining policies, establishing performance goals, and implementing systems to ensure academic success, organizational viability, board effectiveness and faithfulness to the terms of its charter.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity:</b> The school has established a well-functioning organizational structure, clearly delineated roles for staff, management, and board members. The school has systems and protocols that allow for the successful implementation, evaluation, and improvement of its academic program and operations.	<b>Meets</b>
Faithfulness to Charter & Law	<b>Benchmark 8: Mission and Key Design Elements:</b> The school is faithful to its mission and has implemented the key design elements included in its charter.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention:</b> The school is meeting or making annual progress toward meeting the enrollment plan outlined in its charter and its enrollment and retention targets for students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the free and reduced priced lunch program; or has demonstrated that it has made extensive good faith efforts to attract, recruit, and retain such students. High schools are meeting persistence rates commensurate with the NYSED target.	<b>Approaches</b>
	<b>Benchmark 10: Legal Compliance:</b> The school complies with applicable laws, regulations, and the provisions of its charter.	<b>Meets</b>

<sup>15</sup> Charter schools authorized or renewed beginning in the 2019-2020 school year and thereafter use the [2019 Charter School Performance Framework](#), and all other charter schools use the [2015 Charter School Performance Framework](#) until renewal. Refer to the appropriate framework for the applicable benchmark standards.



Highlights	
Strengths	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECS has demonstrated strong academic performance over the charter term on the New York State Testing Program (NYSTP) 3-8 Assessments and has consistently outperformed the district of location (DOL) in English language arts (ELA) and math for All Students and all subgroups in terms of proficiency rates.</li> <li>The school has maintained full enrollment with a substantial waiting list and enrolls similar proportions of students with disabilities (SWD) and economically disadvantaged (ED) student subgroups compared to the DOL. As of March 2025, the school has received 715 applications and has a waiting list of 590 applications.</li> <li>The school partners with National Education Equity Lab, University of Pennsylvania, and Arizona State University to offer students college coursework and credits while in high school.</li> <li>The school is approved to award the NYS Seal of Biliteracy and three ECS graduates earned this distinction in 2024.</li> <li>The school has been awarded \$14,000 in competitive grants for its gardening program and \$9,000 for its program to provide support to students transitioning from home or pre-K to kindergarten.</li> <li>ECS is in the final stages of building a new facility for grades 7-12. The new facility is the first secondary school in NYS to be Platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified.</li> <li>Despite the ongoing concerns of some stakeholders regarding the source of charter school funding, ECS is deeply embedded in the community and actively involves community stakeholders in the life of the school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Benchmark 1 “Approaches”:</b> The school’s first year of Regents cohort testing data for the 2023-2024 academic year show a negative differential to the State. The school remains committed to monitoring progress and offering additional support to enhance instructional outcomes in the newly implemented high school.</li> <li><b>Benchmark 9 “Approaches”:</b> Although 43 percent of the school’s enrollment in the 2023-2024 school year were ELL, the school has been consistently under-enrolled for the ELL subgroup compared to the DOL.</li> </ul>

**Notices of Concern and/or Deficiency in the Current Charter Term:**

- Year 1: n/a
- Year 2: n/a
- Year 3: n/a

**Material Revision:**

The school is seeking approval of the following material revision to the charter.

- Amend its authorized enrollment from the currently approved 1,175 students to 1,525 students to be fully implemented by year five of the renewal charter term. This enrollment increase does not affect the grades served by the school, which will remain K-12.

- The CSO recommends approving an enrollment increase that is smaller than what the school originally requested. The recommendation is to approve increasing the school's authorized enrollment from 1,175 students to 1,225 students to be implemented by year one of the renewal charter term. This enrollment increase will not affect the grades served by the school, which will remain K-12.

Approving this revision request is likely to improve student learning and achievement because it will allow a significant percentage of those students currently enrolled in all grade levels to have the opportunity to continue their education at ECS for an additional year. Without the revision, the school will have a 75 seat shortage in the middle and upper grades to accommodate all returning students next year. The recommended enrollment increase will reduce that shortage to only 25 students.

Approving this revision request will result in a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school because ECS has a consistent history of outperforming the DOL.

### **Summary of Public Comment**

The required public hearing was held by the Hempstead Union Free School District on October 24, 2024. Thirty-four people attended, and seven spoke. Six were in favor of the renewal and revision. One was opposed.

The school provided evidence of community support for this renewal and revision recommendation by submitting to the NYSED CSO:

- Four (4) letters of support for the renewal and enrollment expansion from the community, including:
  - Adelphi University Derner Child and Family Center
  - Hispanic Federation
  - Our Lady of Loretto Parish
  - the former Hempstead mayor, Wayne J. Hall Sr., and
  - 240 letters of support for the renewal and enrollment expansion from families in the community.

Community support and satisfaction are further demonstrated by the school's robust waiting list.

# United Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science IV

**Table 1: Charter School Summary**

<b>Name of Charter School</b>	United Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science IV (AMS IV)
<b>Board Chair</b>	Lior Evan
<b>District of Location</b>	New York City (NYC) Community School District (CSD) 27 <sup>16</sup>
<b>Initial Commencement of Instruction</b>	Fall 2015
<b>Charter Term(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Term: September 9, 2015 – June 30, 2020</li> <li>First Renewal: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025</li> </ul>
<b>Comprehensive Management Service Provider</b>	None
<b>Facilities</b>	156-10 Baisley Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11434 – Public Space
<b>Innovative and Noteworthy Programs (as reported by the school)</b>	AMS IV students participate in innovative academic programs that provide cutting-edge partnerships rooted in civic engagement through the Academy of Information Technology (AOIT) in partnership with the National Academy Foundation (NAF). Each year a group of twenty ninth grade students join a four-year academy on cybersecurity with the goal of eleventh and twelfth grade students having the opportunity to earn micro-credentials. Additionally, in the 2022-2023 school year, AMS IV was accepted to participate in the Career Readiness and Modern Youth Apprenticeship (CRMYA) Pathway Pilot through the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE), which integrates advanced training through college credit, industry credentials, and paid work in a career field of interest to offer work-based learning opportunities in the fields of business operations, finance, and technology.
<b>Link to Charter School Renewal Report</b>	<a href="https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/uchs-ams-iv-cs">https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/uchs-ams-iv-cs</a>

**Table 2: Current Grade Levels and Approved Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2020 to 2021</b>	<b>Year 2 2021 to 2022</b>	<b>Year 3 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Year 4 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>Year 5 2024 to 2025</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	Grades 9 – 12	Grades 9 – 12	Grades 9 – 12	Grades 9 – 12	Grades 9 – 12
<b>Total Approved Enrollment</b>	566	566	566	566	566

**Table 3: Recommended Renewal Term Grade Levels and Recommended Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2025 to 2026</b>	<b>Year 2 2026 to 2027</b>	<b>Year 3 2027 to 2028</b>	<b>Year 4 2028 to 2029</b>	<b>Year 5 2029 to 2030</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	Grades 9 – 12	Grades 9 – 12	Grades 9 – 12	Grades 9 – 12	Grades 9 – 12
<b>Total Recommended Enrollment</b>	500	500	500	500	500

<sup>16</sup> Nine percent of all students residing in this district attend charter schools.

## **Rationale for Renewal Recommendation**

Based on the Board of Regents Renewal Policy, NYSED recommends that the Board of Regents grant the renewal term described above in the **Issue for Decision** section.

As the total enrollment of resident students attending charter schools in the district is greater than five percent of the total public-school enrollment, pursuant to Education Law Section 2852(2)(d), NYSED notes that granting this renewal application provides a significant educational benefit to the students attending and expected to attend this charter school.

### **Performance Framework Ratings:**

At the time of renewal, the charter school was rated on each of the 10 NYSED Charter School Performance Framework Benchmarks as follows. These ratings reflect performance over the entire charter term and are considered when making a renewal recommendation, pursuant to the Board of Regents Renewal Policy.

- The school received a “Meets” rating on nine of the ten benchmarks.
- The school received an “Approaches” rating on one of the ten benchmarks.

**2019 Charter School Performance Framework Benchmark Ratings<sup>17</sup>**  
**United Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science IV**

2019 Performance Benchmark		Level
Educational Success	<b>Benchmark 1: Student Performance:</b> The school has met or exceeded achievement indicators for academic proficiency, trends toward proficiency, similar schools, college and career readiness, and high school graduation, if applicable. Proficiency at the elementary/middle school level shall be defined as achieving a performance level of 3 or higher on Grade 3-8 state assessments in ELA, math, and science. At the high school level, passing shall be defined as obtaining a Regents exam score of 65 or higher.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning:</b> School leaders have systems in place designed to cultivate shared accountability and high expectations and that lead to students' well-being, improved academic outcomes, and educational success. The school implements research-based practices and has rigorous and coherent curriculum and assessments that are aligned to New York State Learning Standards for all students. Teachers engage in strategic practices and decision-making in order to address the gap between what students know and need to learn so that all students experience consistent high levels of engagement, thinking and achievement.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 3: Culture, Climate, and Student and Family Engagement:</b> The school has systems in place to support students' social and emotional health and to provide for a positive, safe, and respectful learning environment that prepares all students for college and career. Families, community members and school staff work together to share in the responsibility for student academic progress and social-emotional growth and well-being. Families and students are satisfied with the school's academics and the overall leadership and management of the school.	Meets
Organizational Soundness	<b>Benchmark 4: Financial Condition:</b> The school is in sound and stable financial condition as evidenced by performance on key financial indicators.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 5: Financial Management:</b> The school operates in a fiscally sound manner with realistic budgets pursuant to a long-range financial plan, appropriate internal controls and procedures, and in accordance with state law and generally accepted accounting practices.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 6: Board Oversight and Governance:</b> The board of trustees provides competent stewardship and oversight of the school while maintaining policies, establishing performance goals, and implementing systems to ensure academic success, organizational viability, board effectiveness and faithfulness to the terms of its charter.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity:</b> The school has established a well-functioning organizational structure, clearly delineated roles for staff, management, and board members. The school has systems and protocols that allow for the successful implementation, evaluation, and improvement of its academic program and operations.	Meets
Faithfulness to Charter & Law	<b>Benchmark 8: Mission and Key Design Elements:</b> The school is faithful to its mission and has implemented the key design elements included in its charter.	Meets
	<b>Benchmark 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention:</b> The school is meeting or making annual progress toward meeting the enrollment plan outlined in its charter and its enrollment and retention targets for students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the free and reduced priced lunch program; or has demonstrated that it has made extensive good faith efforts to attract, recruit, and retain such students. High schools are meeting persistence rates commensurate with the NYSED target.	Approaches
	<b>Benchmark 10: Legal Compliance:</b> The school complies with applicable laws, regulations, and the provisions of its charter.	Meets

<sup>17</sup> Charter schools authorized or renewed beginning in the 2019-2020 school year and thereafter use the [2019 Charter School Performance Framework](#), and all other charter schools use the [2015 Charter School Performance Framework](#) until renewal. Refer to the appropriate framework for the applicable benchmark standards.

Highlights	
Strengths	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMS IV outperformed the State proficiency rate in math and science for All Students and all subgroups. Most notably, the students with disabilities (SWD) subgroup outperformed the State in math proficiency by +39 percentage points.</li> <li>AMS IV offers an inclusive learning environment that supports the whole child through a comprehensive academic program, incorporating work-based learning, college and career readiness opportunities, and advisory sessions that promote restorative practices and social-emotional learning.</li> <li>School leadership provides high-quality instructional coaching tailored to the developmental needs of both students and educators.</li> <li>The school enjoys a strong culture of community support, which is evident through active family and school engagement, effective communication, and a shared commitment to student success.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Benchmark 9 “Approaches”:</b> The school’s overall enrollment is below the 85 percent threshold for contracted enrollment and ELL students are under-enrolled at -14 percentage points below the DOL.</li> <li>The school’s 2020 cohort 4-Year Regents testing outcomes are below the State in English language arts (ELA), Global History, and U.S. History for All Students and the SWD subgroup. This is a significant drop from the 2019 cohort results.</li> </ul>

**Notices of Concern and/or Deficiency in the Current Charter Term:**

- Year 1: n/a
- Year 2: During the 2021-2022 school year, the NYSED CSO issued a Notice of Deficiency and a request for a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to address fingerprint clearance issues. As a result, the school submitted a CAP to address the issue, which has not yet been satisfied.
- Years 3 – 5: Issue remains under active monitoring; CAP not yet resolved.

**Summary of Public Comment**

The required public hearing was held by the New York City Department of Education on November 14, 2024. The hearing was a joint hearing for AMS IV and New Ventures Charter School. Thirty-two people attended; however, it is not clear whether participants attended for one or both schools. Two people spoke about AMS IV. Both speakers were in favor of the renewal. No one was opposed.

The school provided evidence of community support for this renewal by submitting to the NYSED CSO two letters of support from school community members.

**New Ventures Charter School**  
**Table 1: Charter School Summary**

<b>Name of Charter School</b>	New Ventures Charter School (NVCS)
<b>Board Chair</b>	David Lehr
<b>District of Location</b>	New York City (NYC) Community School District (CSD) 31 <sup>18</sup>
<b>Initial Commencement of Instruction</b>	Fall 2015
<b>Charter Terms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Term: July 6, 2015 – June 30, 2020</li> <li>First Renewal Term: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025</li> </ul>
<b>Comprehensive Management Service Provider</b>	None
<b>Facilities</b>	1441 South Avenue, 4th Floor, Staten Island, NY 10314 – Private Space
<b>Innovative and Noteworthy Programs:</b>	NVCS is dedicated to supporting over-age and under-credited students. The school provides unique and positive learning experiences through tailored, project-based, and career-focused instruction and fieldwork. This approach integrates social-emotional learning, prioritizes student's individual needs, and creates a safe, supportive environment that promotes academic and social growth.
<b>Link to Charter School Renewal Report</b>	<a href="https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/new-ventures-cs">https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/new-ventures-cs</a>

**Table 2: Current Grade Levels and Approved Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2020 to 2021</b>	<b>Year 2 2021 to 2022</b>	<b>Year 3 2022 to 2023</b>	<b>Year 4 2023 to 2024</b>	<b>Year 5 2024 to 2025</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	Grade 10 – 12	Grade 10 – 12	Grade 10 – 12	Grade 10 – 12	Grade 10 – 12
<b>Total Approved Enrollment</b>	180	180	180	180	180

**Table 3: Recommended Grade Levels and Recommended Enrollment**

	<b>Year 1 2025 to 2026</b>	<b>Year 2 2026 to 2027</b>	<b>Year 3 2027 to 2028</b>	<b>Year 4 2028 to 2029</b>
<b>Grade Configuration</b>	Grade 10 – 12	Grade 10 – 12	Grade 10 – 12	Grade 10 – 12
<b>Total Proposed Enrollment</b>	180	180	180	180

<sup>18</sup> Five percent of all students residing in this district attend charter schools.

## **Rationale for Renewal Recommendation**

Based on the Board of Regents Renewal Policy, NYSED recommends that the Board of Regents grant the renewal term described above in the **Issue for Decision** section.

### **Performance Framework Ratings:**

At the time of renewal, the charter school was rated on each of the 10 NYSED Charter School Performance Framework Benchmarks as follows. These ratings reflect performance over the entire charter term and are considered when making a renewal recommendation, pursuant to the Board of Regents Renewal Policy.

- The school received a “Meets” rating on seven of the ten benchmarks.
- The school received an “Approaches” rating on two of the ten benchmarks.
- The school received a “Falls Far Below” rating on one of the ten benchmarks.



**2019 Charter School Performance Framework Benchmark Rating<sup>19</sup>**  
**New Ventures Charter School**

2019 Performance Benchmark		Level
Educational Success	<b>Benchmark 1: Student Performance:</b> The school has met or exceeded achievement indicators for academic proficiency, trends toward proficiency, similar schools, college and career readiness, and high school graduation, if applicable. Proficiency at the elementary/middle school level shall be defined as achieving a performance level of 3 or higher on Grade 3-8 state assessments in ELA, math, and science. At the high school level, passing shall be defined as obtaining a Regents exam score of 65 or higher.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning:</b> School leaders have systems in place designed to cultivate shared accountability and high expectations and that lead to students' well-being, improved academic outcomes, and educational success. The school implements research-based practices and has rigorous and coherent curriculum and assessments that are aligned to New York State Learning Standards for all students. Teachers engage in strategic practices and decision-making in order to address the gap between what students know and need to learn so that all students experience consistent high levels of engagement, thinking and achievement.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 3: Culture, Climate, and Student and Family Engagement:</b> The school has systems in place to support students' social and emotional health and to provide for a positive, safe, and respectful learning environment that prepares all students for college and career. Families, community members and school staff work together to share in the responsibility for student academic progress and social-emotional growth and well-being. Families and students are satisfied with the school's academics and the overall leadership and management of the school.	<b>Meets</b>
Organizational Soundness	<b>Benchmark 4: Financial Condition:</b> The school is in sound and stable financial condition as evidenced by performance on key financial indicators.	<b>Falls Far Below</b>
	<b>Benchmark 5: Financial Management:</b> The school operates in a fiscally sound manner with realistic budgets pursuant to a long-range financial plan, appropriate internal controls and procedures, and in accordance with state law and generally accepted accounting practices.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 6: Board Oversight and Governance:</b> The board of trustees provides competent stewardship and oversight of the school while maintaining policies, establishing performance goals, and implementing systems to ensure academic success, organizational viability, board effectiveness and faithfulness to the terms of its charter.	<b>Approaches</b>
	<b>Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity:</b> The school has established a well-functioning organizational structure, clearly delineated roles for staff, management, and board members. The school has systems and protocols that allow for the successful implementation, evaluation, and improvement of its academic program and operations.	<b>Meets</b>
Faithfulness to Charter & Law	<b>Benchmark 8: Mission and Key Design Elements:</b> The school is faithful to its mission and has implemented the key design elements included in its charter.	<b>Meets</b>
	<b>Benchmark 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention:</b> The school is meeting or making annual progress toward meeting the enrollment plan outlined in its charter and its enrollment and retention targets for students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who are eligible applicants for the free and reduced priced lunch program; or has demonstrated that it has made extensive good faith efforts to attract, recruit, and retain such students. High schools are meeting persistence rates commensurate with the NYSED target.	<b>Approaches</b>
	<b>Benchmark 10: Legal Compliance:</b> The school complies with applicable laws, regulations, and the provisions of its charter.	<b>Meets</b>

<sup>19</sup> Charter schools authorized or renewed beginning in the 2019-2020 school year and thereafter use the [2019 Charter School Performance Framework](#), and all other charter schools use the [2015 Charter School Performance Framework](#) until renewal. Refer to the appropriate framework for the applicable benchmark standards.

Highlights	
Strengths	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NVCS provides unique and significant academic and social-emotional support to over-age and under-credited students. The individual and academic needs of students are met through a comprehensive system that includes pairing students with fieldwork and internship opportunities.</li> <li>The school continues to increase graduation rates for each cohort as they move from 4- to 5- to 6-years, being among the top two percent of schools in the State in increasing its 2017 6-year graduation rate results compared to its 2019 4-year graduation rate results (i.e., the results for students who graduated by August 2023 having first entered ninth grade 4 and 6 school years previously).</li> <li>The coursework provides relevant, project-based, and career-focused education that integrates social-emotional learning and real-world internship experiences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Benchmark 4 “Falls Far Below”:</b> NVCS is part of the Integration Charter Schools education corporation. Integration Charter Schools is in poor financial condition as evidenced by performance on key indicators derived from the education corporation’s independently audited financial statements.</li> <li><b>Benchmark 6 “Approaches”:</b> Several board members have demonstrated poor attendance at board meetings, and the board is in need of training to equip members with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively fulfill their financial oversight responsibilities.</li> <li><b>Benchmark 9 “Approaches”:</b> The school has been consistently under-enrolled over the charter term and enrolled students at 73 percent of its contracted enrollment in 2023-2024. However, the school enrolls all three subgroups at rates that either exceed or closely approach the district of location (DOL). Enrollment of students with disabilities (SWD) is +18 percentage points above, English language learners (ELL) is -3 below, and economically disadvantaged (ED) students is +16 above the DOL.</li> </ul>

**Notices of Concern and/or Deficiency in the Current Charter Term:**

- Year 1: n/a
- Year 2: n/a
- Year 3: n/a
- Year 4: n/a
- Year 5: n/a

**Summary of Public Comment**

The required public hearing was held by the New York City Department of Education on November 14, 2024. The hearing was a joint hearing for NVCS and AMS IV. Thirty-two people attended; however, it is not clear whether participants attended for one or both schools. Nine people spoke about NVCS. All nine were in favor of the renewal. No one was opposed.

The school has not submitted evidence of community support for this renewal.

**APPENDIX**  
**Laws, Regulations, and Regents-endorsed internal Policies Applicable to**  
**Board of Regents-authorized Charter School Renewals**

Statutory requirements pertaining to Board of Regents charter school decision making are enumerated in Article 56 of the Education Law. This section of the law sets forth the purpose of charter schools to:

- (a) Improve student learning and achievement;
- (b) Increase learning opportunities for all students, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for students who are at-risk of academic failure;
- (c) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods;
- (d) Create new professional opportunities for teachers, school administrators and other school personnel;
- (e) Provide parents and students with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system; and
- (f) Provide schools with a method to change from rule-based to performance-based accountability systems by holding the schools established under this article accountable for meeting measurable student achievement results.

Criteria regarding the evaluation of charter schools, including for renewal decisions, are set forth in Section 2852(2) of the Education Law:

- (a) Does the charter school described in the application meet the requirements set out in applicable laws, rules and regulations;
- (b) Does the charter school demonstrate the ability to operate the school in an educationally and fiscally sound manner;
- (c) Will approving the charter school action make it likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes of the law; and
- (d) In a school district where the total enrollment of resident students attending charter schools in the base year is greater than five percent of the total public school enrollment of the school district in the base year (i) would granting the application have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the proposed charter school or (ii) did the school district in which the charter school will be located consent to such application?

In addition, Renewal Guidelines contained in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education (8 NYCRR §119.7) were adopted by the Board of Regents and require that the Board further consider the following when evaluating a charter renewal application:

- (a) The information in the charter school's renewal application;
- (b) Any additional material or information submitted by the charter school;
- (c) Any public comments received;
- (d) Any information relating to the site visit and the site visit report;
- (e) The charter school's annual reporting results including, but not limited to, student academic achievement;
- (f) The Department's renewal recommendation and the charter school's written response, if any; and
- (g) Any other information that the board, in its discretion, may deem relevant to its determination whether the charter should be renewed.
- (h) The Regents must also consider the totality of the evidence presented in each case, and may accept or reject, in whole or in part, the department's renewal recommendation, provided

however that the Regents are not prohibited from weighing any one factor more heavily than another.

[The Board of Regents Renewal Policy](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/November2012/1112p12a1.pdf) (<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2012Meetings/November2012/1112p12a1.pdf>) sets forth the following renewal options and standards upon which the Department's recommendation is based:

**Full-Term Renewal:** A school's charter may be renewed for the maximum term of five years. In order for a school to be eligible for a full-term renewal, the school must have compiled a strong and compelling record of meeting or exceeding Benchmark 1 during the current charter term and, at the time of the renewal analysis, have met substantially all of the other performance benchmarks in the Framework.

**Short-Term Renewal:** A school's charter may be renewed for a shorter term, typically of three years. The Regents will place an even greater emphasis on student performance for schools applying for their second or subsequent renewal, which is consistent with the greater time that a school has been in operation and the corresponding increase in the quantity and quality of student achievement data that the school has generated. In order for a school to be eligible for short-term renewal, a school must either: (a) have compiled a mixed or limited record of meeting Benchmark 1 but, at the time of the renewal analysis, have met substantially all of the other performance benchmarks in the Framework, which will likely result in the school's being able to meet Benchmark 1 with the additional time that short-term renewal permits, or (b) have compiled an overall record of meeting Benchmark 1 but falls far below meeting one or more of the other performance benchmarks in the Framework.

**Nonrenewal:** A school's charter will not be renewed if the school does not apply for renewal or the school fails to meet the benchmark standards for either full-term or short-term renewal. In the case of nonrenewal, a school's charter will be terminated upon its expiration, and the school will be required to comply with the [Department's Closing Procedures](https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/oversight-plan-board-regents-authorized-charter-schools) (<https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/oversight-plan-board-regents-authorized-charter-schools>) to ensure an orderly closure by the end of the school year.

To operationalize these statutory and regulatory requirements, the Board of Regents endorsed the Charter School Performance Framework. This document, and the ten academic, organizational, and legal domains contained within it, were created based on the limited criteria that can be considered when making decisions pertaining to the authorization of new charter schools, charter school renewals, and charter school revisions as set forth in Section 2852(2) of the Education Law. Comprehensive data for these benchmark standards is included in the charter school Regents item, summary documents, and Regents meeting presentations.

### Performance Framework

The Board of Regents Charter School Performance Framework, which is part of the Board of Regents Charter School Renewal Policy and the Oversight Plan included in the Charter Agreement for each school, outlines three key areas of charter school performance: (1) Educational Success; (2) Organizational Soundness; and (3) Faithfulness to Charter and Law. The Charter School Performance Framework sets forth ten performance benchmarks in these three areas. The Charter School Performance Framework is designed to focus on performance outcomes, preserve operational autonomy, and facilitate transparent feedback to schools. It aligns with the Department's ongoing accountability and effectiveness work under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and holds charter schools accountable to standards set forth in the

Education Law, while providing the Regents with discretion. Generally, charter schools are required to demonstrate performance outcomes that exceed those of traditional public schools.

The Department considers evidence related to all ten performance benchmark areas of the Charter School Performance Framework when making recommendations to the Regents concerning charter renewal applications. However, student academic performance is of paramount importance when evaluating each school ([See 8 NYCRR §119.7](https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/charter-school-regulations-1197) (<https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/charter-school-regulations-1197>)). The recommendations in this document were made after a full due-diligence process over the charter term as set forth in the [NYSED Charter School Monitoring Plan](https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/oversight-plan-board-regents-authorized-charter-schools) (<https://www.nysed.gov/charter-schools/oversight-plan-board-regents-authorized-charter-schools>), including review of the information presented by the schools in their Renewal Applications; specific fiscal reviews; a renewal site visit of up to two days conducted by a Department team for each school; comprehensive analysis of achievement data; and consideration of public comment.