



TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: Charles A. Szuberla, Jr. *Charles A. Szuberla Jr.*

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

DATE: September 9, 2015

AUTHORIZATION(S): *MaryEllen Eis*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed charter revisions for Democracy Prep Charter School and Democracy Prep Charter School – Harlem, which are authorized by the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE)?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by New York State law.

Proposed Handling

This issue will be before the Board of Regents P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at the September 2015 Regents meeting.

Background Information

Both Democracy Prep Charter School and Democracy Prep Charter School – Harlem have submitted charter revision requests to the Chancellor of the NYCDOE to take the following actions:

- The schools seek to change their special education programs by creating a Pathways program, and will add a facility to the charter.
- The Pathways program is an intensive, one-year transition program that will offer programming and services to students with disabilities with the greatest academic needs through a cooperative arrangement between the schools and

Democracy Prep Public Schools Inc. Pathways will potentially grow by 1 – 2 students per year for each school.

- Pathways will be located at a private facility in Harlem leased and provided by Democracy Prep Public Schools at no cost to the schools. The facility will be an additional location for Democracy Prep Charter School and Democracy Prep Charter School – Harlem.
- The Pathways program has the potential to revolutionize how the school serves its students with disabilities and will provide a benefit for these students with the greatest needs and give these students the same opportunity to succeed as their peers who are in out-of-district private programs.

Democracy Prep Charter School

Democracy Prep Charter School (or “DPCS”) was first authorized by the Chancellor of the NYCDOE as a charter school to open for the 2006-2007 school year. DPCS is in the third charter term and was issued a five-year full term renewal in May 2015. DPCS is serving 1,061 students in Grades 6-12 for the 2014-2015 school year. DPCS is authorized to serve students in grades K-12.

The chart below outlines the material terms of Democracy Prep Charter School’s charter and the proposed revision.

Democracy Prep Charter School	
Board Chair(s)	Joshua Pristaw
School Leader(s)	Tanya Nunez and Ajaka Roth (MS); Natasha Trivers (HS)
Charter Management Organization (if applicable)	Democracy Prep Public Schools
Other Partner(s)	N/A
District(s) of Location	NYC Community School District 5
Physical Address(es)	2230 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY (Grades 6-8)
	222 West 134 th Street, New York, NY (Grades 9-12)
Facility Owner(s)	DOE
School Opened For Instruction	2006-2007
Current Charter Term Expiration Date	June 30, 2020
Current Authorized Grade Span	K-12
Current Authorized Enrollment	1,061

- DPCS received a full term renewal in May 2015. At the time of renewal, the school demonstrated academic success.
- Annual aggregate English Language Arts (ELA) and math proficiency rates on NYS assessments for DPCS students have consistently exceeded those of Community School District (CSD) 5 during the current charter term.
- In 2013-2014, 25.1% of DPCS students were proficient in ELA on the NYS assessments; this placed the School at the 71st percentile citywide and 100th percentile amongst peer schools.
- Also in 2013-2014, 48.9% of DPCS students were proficient in math on the NYS assessments; this placed the School at the 82nd percentile citywide and 95th percentile amongst peer schools.
- DPCS is split-sited in DOE-operated space. Grades 6-8 are sited in DOE-operated space located at 2230 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10037; the school is co-located with P.S. 197 John B. Russwurm. Grades 9-12 are sited in DOE-operated space located at 222 West 134th Street, New York, NY 10030; the school is co-located with P.S. 092 Mary McLeod Bethune.

Democracy Prep Charter School – Harlem

Democracy Prep Charter School – Harlem (or “DPH”) was first authorized by the Chancellor of the NYCDOE as a charter school to open for the 2010-2011 school year. DPH is in the second term and was issued a 4.5 year renewal in January 2015. DPH is currently serving 1,309 students in Grades K-12 for the 2014-2015 school year. DPH is authorized to serve students in grades K-12.

The chart below outlines the material terms of Democracy Prep Charter School-Harlem and the proposed revision.

Democracy Prep Charter School - Harlem	
Board Chair(s)	Dr. Robert North
School Leader(s)	Theresa Walsh (ES), Anwar Abdul-Rahman (MS), Steven Popper (HS)
Charter Management Organization (if applicable)	Democracy Prep Public Schools
Other Partner(s)	N/A
District(s) of Location	NYC Community School Districts 5 (Grades K-2, 6-8) and 3 (Grades 9-10)
Physical Address(es)	2005 Madison Avenue, New York, NY (K-2)
	207 West 133 rd Street, New York, NY (Grades 6-8)
	212 West 120 th Street, New York, NY (Grades 9-11)
Facility Owner(s)	Private and DOE
School Opened For Instruction	2010-2011
Current Charter Term Expiration Date	June 30, 2019
Current Authorized Grade Span	K-12
Current Authorized Enrollment	1,309

- DPH received a 4.5 year renewal in January 2015. At the time of renewal, DPH demonstrated academic success.
- In 2013-2014, 15% of DPH students were proficient in ELA on the NYS assessments; this placed DPH at the 27th percentile citywide and 17th percentile amongst peer schools.
- Also in 2013-2014, 34.9% of DPH students were proficient in math on the NYS assessments; this placed DPH at the 50th percentile citywide and 47th percentile amongst peer schools.

- DPH is split-sited in private and DOE-operated space. Grades K-1 are sited in DOE-operated space located at 2005 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035; the school is co-located with The Urban Assembly School for Global Commerce, Harlem Children’s Zone Promise Academy II Charter School and Choir Academy of Harlem. Grades 6-8 are sited in private space located at 207 West 133rd Street, New York, NY 10030. Grades 9-10 are sited in DOE-operated space located at 212 West 120th Street, New York, NY 10027; the school is located with an adult learning program.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that the proposed revised charter: (1) meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) will permit the charter school to operate in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in subdivision two of section twenty-eight hundred fifty of Article 56 of the Education Law; and (4) will have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the above listed charter revision as proposed by Chancellor of the NYCDOE and the provisional charter for the Democracy Prep Charter School is amended accordingly.

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Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for Democracy Prep Charter School and Democracy Prep Charter School – Harlem would take effect immediately.

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

% Proficient in English Language Arts					
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Democracy Prep Charter School	34.7%	30.9%	38.5%	18.4%	25.1%
CSD 5	27.8%	27.1%	28.2%	14.6%	16.4%
Difference from CSD 5 *	6.9	3.9	10.3	3.8	8.6
NYC	38.6%	38.3%	42.5%	24.8%	27.0%
Difference from NYC *	-3.9	-7.4	-4.0	-6.3	-1.9
New York State **	53.2%	52.8%	55.1%	31.1%	30.6%
Difference from New York State	-18.5	-21.9	-16.6	-12.7	-5.5

% Proficient in Mathematics					
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Democracy Prep Charter School	76.5%	81.5%	81.7%	26.0%	48.9%
CSD 5	37.2%	40.3%	38.8%	12.7%	13.0%
Difference from CSD 5 *	39.3	41.3	42.9	13.3	35.9
NYC	50.6%	54.7%	57.3%	26.5%	28.9%
Difference from NYC *	25.9	26.9	24.4	-0.5	19.9
New York State **	61%	63.3%	64.8%	31.1%	36.2%
Difference from New York State	15.5	18.2	16.9	-5.1	12.7

HS Performance Compared to Peer and NYC Averages

4-year Graduation Rate					
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Democracy Prep Charter School	-	-	-	66.1%	72.7%
NYC *	-	-	-	66.0%	68.4%
Difference from NYC	-	-	-	0.1	4.3
6-year Graduation Rate					
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Democracy Prep Charter School	-	-	-	-	-
NYC *	-	-	-	-	-
Difference from NYC	-	-	-	-	-

College and Career Preparatory Course Index **					
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Democracy Prep Charter School	-	-	-	94.6%	89.1%
Peer Percent of Range	-	-	-	100.0%	89.5%
City Percent of Range	-	-	-	100.0%	100.0%

* All comparisons to either the CSD or NYC take into account only grades the school itself served. CSD comparisons are particular to the CSD in which the school was sited each year.

** New York State proficiency rates were taken from data.nysed.gov.

Performance on the NYC Progress Report Over the Previous Charter Term

Elementary/Middle School Progress Report Grades	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Overall Grade	A	A	A	A	Progress Reports were discontinued beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.
Student Progress	A	B	A	A	
Student Performance	B	B	A	B	
School Environment	A	A	A	A	

High School Progress Report Grades	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Overall Grade	-	-	-	A	Progress Reports were discontinued beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.
Student Progress	-	-	-	B	
Student Performance	-	-	-	C	
School Environment	-	-	-	A	
College and Career Readiness *	-	-	-	A	

Enrollment of Special Populations Over the Previous Charter Term¹

Special Population		2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL)	Democracy Prep Charter School	81.8%	79.4%	80.1%	58.9%
	CSD 5	78.5%	82.6%	81.7%	79.0%
	NYC	77.7%	79.3%	78.6%	78.4%
Students with Disabilities (SWD)	Democracy Prep Charter School	11.9%	11.5%	15.0%	18.4%
	CSD 5	16.7%	16.6%	16.9%	18.4%
	NYC	18.2%	17.7%	18.1%	18.7%
English Language Learners (ELL)	Democracy Prep Charter School	5.5%	4.6%	4.2%	4.6%
	CSD 5	9.4%	9.3%	8.6%	8.3%
	NYC	13.5%	12.9%	12.4%	12.2%

Additional Enrollment Information				
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Grades Served	6-10	6-11	6-12	6-12
CSD(s)	5	5	5	5

¹ Comparisons of a charter school's special populations to the CSD and City are made relative only to the grades served by the school. For example, if a charter school serves grades kindergarten through five, comparisons of that school's special populations will only be made relative to grades kindergarten through five in the CSD and citywide. CSD comparisons are particular to the grades served in each CSD each year. Enrollment rates reflect demographic characteristics as of June 1 and enrollment as of October 31 for each given school year, with the exception of enrollment in the 2012-2013 school year, which is as of October 26, 2012.

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

% Proficient in English Language Arts				
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Democracy Prep Charter School - Harlem	48.6%	43.3%	16.1%	15.0%
CSD 5	30.1%	28.9%	13.8%	16.4%
Difference from CSD 5 *	18.6	14.3	2.3	-1.4
NYC	43.6%	44.3%	25.7%	27.0%
Difference from NYC *	5.0	-1.0	-9.7	-12.0
New York State **	52.8%	55.1%	31.1%	30.6%
Difference from New York State	-4.2	-11.8	-15.0	-15.6

% Proficient in Mathematics				
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Democracy Prep Charter School - Harlem	70.6%	74.5%	18.2%	34.9%
CSD 5	39.7%	38.6%	11.8%	13.0%
Difference from CSD 5 *	30.9	35.9	6.4	21.9
NYC	56.0%	58.3%	27.3%	28.9%
Difference from NYC *	14.6	16.2	-9.0	5.9
New York State **	63.3%	64.8%	31.1%	36.2%
Difference from New York State	7.3	9.7	-12.9	-1.3

Democracy Prep Charter School - Harlem enrolled its first class of ninth grade students beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. As a result, data on high school graduation rates is not available. In addition, Regents Pass Rates and Credit Accumulation data are only available for the 2013-2014 school year.

Weighted Regents Pass Rates

2014				
	Math	Science	Global History	U.S History
Democracy Prep Charter School - Harlem	1.12	1.08	-	-
Peer Percent of Range	48.9%	41.3%	-	-
City Percent of Range	58.9%	48.4%	-	-

Credit Accumulation

% 1st-Year Students Earning 10+ Credits				
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Democracy Prep Charter School - Harlem	-	-	-	75.0%
Peer Percent of Range	-	-	-	24.9%
City Percent of Range	-	-	-	43.9%

Enrollment of Special Populations Over the Previous Charter Term²

Special Population		2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL)	Democracy Prep Charter School-Harlem	80.7%	85.0%	86.6%	65.0%
	CSD 5	86.5%	88.3%	86.7%	86.3%
	NYC	81.6%	83.8%	82.7%	81.2%
Students with Disabilities (SWD)	Democracy Prep Charter School-Harlem	23.9%	19.8%	19.9%	16.3%
	CSD 5	23.0%	21.2%	22.5%	22.5%
	NYC	19.7%	19.5%	19.9%	19.8%
English Language Learners (ELL)	Democracy Prep Charter School-Harlem	5.5%	6.6%	6.0%	6.1%
	CSD 5	15.1%	12.0%	11.7%	11.6%
	NYC	13.2%	12.1%	11.8%	13.8%

² Comparisons of a charter school's special populations to the CSD and City are made relative only to the grades served by the school. For example, if a charter school serves grades kindergarten through five, comparisons of that school's special populations will only be made relative to grades kindergarten through five in the CSD and citywide. CSD comparisons are particular to the grades served in each CSD each year. Enrollment rates reflect demographic characteristics as of June 1 and enrollment as of October 31 for each given school year, with the exception of enrollment in the 2012-2013 school year, which is as of October 26, 2012.

Additional Enrollment Information				
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Grades Served	6	6-7	6-8	K, 6-9
CSD(s)	5	5	5	5 (Grades K, 6-8) and 3 (Grade 9)