



Charter Schools Institute *The State University of New York*

This release and event photos (by school) are available on the Institute's website at:
<http://www.newyorkcharters.org/RenewalCeremony.htm>

Six Public Charter Schools Honored for Receiving SUNY's Highest Level of Renewal: A Full-Term, Five-Year Renewal

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(NEW YORK) The SUNY Charter Schools Institute announced today that six New York State public charter schools will be honored for achieving the highest level of renewal the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York can bestow – a full-term, five-year renewal.

In making the announcement, Jennifer Sneed, Senior Vice President of the Charter Schools Institute said, “The six schools that earned this distinction in 2007-08 have each met a remarkably high bar. From Buffalo to Brooklyn, these schools reflect the high level of innovation, student progress and achievement found in public charter school education.”

The Renewal Recognition Ceremony will take place Tuesday, May 6 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the SUNY College of Optometry located at 33 West 42nd Street.

The six schools commended for their outstanding work and granted a full, five-year renewal are:

- The **Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School** which serves 692 students in Kindergarten through 8th grade in Brooklyn. The school has outperformed other schools located in its school district and was previously named by the State Education Department as a “high performing/gap closing” school for its performance through 2006.
- The **Harlem Village Academy Charter School**, located in Manhattan, currently serves 233 students in 5th through 9th grades. Harlem Village Academy has outperformed the local school district and the city on the New York State Testing Program assessments in English language arts and mathematics. In addition, 90 percent of all the 8th graders at the school passed the Regents Mathematics A examination.
- The **KIPP S.T.A.R. College Prep Charter School**, located in Manhattan, currently serves 270 students in 5th through 8th grade. During the renewal charter period, KIPP STAR far outperformed other schools in the local school district and has performed much higher than predicted in comparison to schools state-wide with similar family income levels.

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- The **King Center Charter School (“King Center”)** located in Buffalo, New York, currently serves 105 students in Kindergarten through the 4th grades. King Center has posted strong results on the New York State assessments in English language arts and mathematics, meeting its Accountability Plan goals in both of these subjects.
- The **Bronx Charter School for Better Learning**, located in the Bronx, (New York) currently serves 286 students in the 1st - 5th grades. Over its initial charter term, the Bronx Charter School for Better Learning has consistently outperformed its local district and similar schools state-wide.
- The **Family Life Academy Charter School**, located in the Bronx, (New York) currently serves 290 students in Kindergarten through 5th grades. Family Life Academy far outperformed the local school district and performed better than predicted in comparison to similar schools statewide. Of note, the Family Life Academy Charter School has the highest percentage of students who qualify for free lunch (95%) of any SUNY authorized charter school. Further, the school enrolls significantly more students who are English Language Learners than the Community School District in which it resides (41.7% vs. 23.2% for 2006-07).

Charter schools are initially granted a period of five years for their first term. At the end of that term schools are evaluated and must apply to renew their charters. They are forced to demonstrate positive results if they wish to continue having the privilege of educating New York’s children.

The criteria used by SUNY to evaluate charter schools’ renewal options is based on the State University Trustees’ policy document on charter schools, the *Practices, Policies and Procedures for the Renewal of Charter Schools Authorized by the State University Board of Trustees*. Specifically, SUNY’s renewal practices are guided by four key questions: (1) Is the school an academic success? (2) Is the school an effective, viable organization? (3) Is the school fiscally sound? and (4) What are the school’s plans for the next charter period and are they reasonable, feasible and achievable?

New York State currently has 96 charter schools, 43 of which are authorized by SUNY. On the New York State standardized assessments in mathematics, 77% of SUNY authorized charter schools outperformed their local district; 70.5% of SUNY authorized charter schools outperformed their local district in the state's 2006-07 standardized exam in English language arts.

This release and event photos (by school) will be available on the Institute's website on May 7th at: <http://www.newyorkcharters.org/>

The Charter Schools Institute was created by the SUNY Board of Trustees to help it in carrying out its responsibilities under the Charter Schools Act. The Board of Trustees of the State University of New York and the SUNY Charter Schools Institute were recently featured in a new United States Department of Education (USDOE) guide on high quality charter authorizing, Supporting Charter School Excellence Through Quality Authorizing.