





TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: Allison Armour-Garb 

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

DATE: May 27, 2021

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

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

- **South Bronx Charter School for International Cultures and the Arts** (revision to expand grade levels served from Kindergarten through Grade 8 to Kindergarten through Grade 12 and increase the school's authorized enrollment from 660 students to 1160 students).

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at its June 2021 meeting.

Procedural History

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

Background Information

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

Related Regents Items

South Bronx Charter School for International Cultures and the Arts

May 2005 [Initial Charter](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/documents/meetings/2005Meetings/May2005/0505emscvesida6.htm>)

June 2008 [Revision](#) reflecting changes in curriculum and dual language model

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2008/2008-06-48>)

April 2010 [First Renewal](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2010/2010-04-7>)

February 2013 [Second Renewal](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/report/feb-2013/p-12-education>)

April 2013 [Third Renewal](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/report/apr-2013/p-12-education>)

February 2018 [Fourth Renewal](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/218p12a3revised.pdf>)

Recommendations

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

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that the **South Bronx Charter School for International Cultures and the Arts**: (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 request to amend the charter is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in subdivision two of Section twenty-eight hundred fifty of this article; and (4) granting the request to amend the charter would have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the charter revision for **South Bronx Charter School for International Culture and the Arts** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for the above-named charter school will become effective July 1, 2021.

South Bronx Charter School for International Cultures and the Arts

Charter School Summary

Name of Charter School	South Bronx Charter School for International Cultures and the Arts
Board Chair	Mr. Donald Mattson
District of Location	NYC CSD 7 ¹
Initial Commencement of Instruction	Fall 2005
Current Charter Term	July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2023
Current Term Authorized Grades / Authorized Enrollment	Kindergarten – Grade 8 /660 Students
Facilities	164 Bruckner Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10454 – Private Space
Mission Statement	<i>In an effort to represent the community’s prestige, The South Bronx Charter School for International Cultures and the Arts is a model of excellence providing its youngsters with a constructivist and child-centered curriculum. Our intellectually challenging and standards-based curriculum is enriched by our international perspective, the arts, and dual language program. Students receive a well-rounded education that uses the arts to promote excellence in all areas: cognitive, social, emotional, and moral. Our school meets or exceeds New York State Learning Standards, aligns student learning to those standards and supports teachers with professional development opportunities. Our community, parents, and staff are empowered to participate meaningfully in our school to strengthen its potential for success.</i>
Key Design Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dual language, Spanish-English, program • Thinking-based Learning • Rigorous Standards-based Curriculum • Interdisciplinary Studies • Cultural Visual and Performing Arts Program • Analysis of Student Data • Digital Platforms & Technology for Learning
Requested Revisions	To expand grade levels served from Kindergarten through Grade 8 to Kindergarten through Grade 12 and increase the school’s authorized enrollment from 660 students to 1160 students.

The requested revisions will have no bearing on the number of charters available for issuance in New York City or the State. The school, in its 16th year of operation, has a long-term track record of meeting its academic goals. The school also has strong community connections and enrollment demand. This proposed revision will allow the school to respond to parent and community demand, while offering its dual-language, arts-focused model to new and existing students through high school.

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

The Board of Regents granted an initial charter to South Bronx Charter School for International Cultures and the Arts in May 2005. The school opened for instruction in September 2005, initially serving 150 students in K through grade 1. South Bronx Charter School for International Cultures and the Arts’ charter was subsequently renewed by the Board of Regents in 2010, 2013 and 2018, with revisions approved in 2008.

The charter school’s Board of Trustees requests, and NYC DOE Chancellor Porter recommends, that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to the school’s charter to reflect an expansion to serve high school grades and increase authorized enrollment to 1,160 students.

Table 1: Current Grade Levels and Authorized Enrollment

	Year 1 2018 to 2019	Year 2 2019 to 2020	Year 3 2020 to 2021	Year 4 2021 to 2022	Year 5 2022 to 2023
Grade Configuration	K – Grade 6	K – Grade 7	K – Grade 8	K – Grade 8	K – Grade 8
Total Authorized Enrollment	532	596	660	660	660

Table 2: Proposed Grade Levels and Authorized Enrollment

	(Current Year) Year 3 2020 to 2021	Year 4 2021 to 2022	Year 5 2022 to 2023	Year 1* 2023 to 2024	Year 2* 2024 to 2025	Year 3* 2025 to 2026
Grade Configuration	K – Grade 8	K – Grade 8	K – Grade 9	K – Grade 10	K – Grade 11	K – Grade 12
Total Authorized Enrollment	660	660	785	910	1035	1160

*The expansion of these grades would continue into the school’s next charter term if a renewal is recommended by the NYC DOE Chancellor and granted by the Board of Regents.

Figure 1: Elementary/Middle School Assessment Proficiency State and District Differentials Over Time Comparison to NYC CSD 7

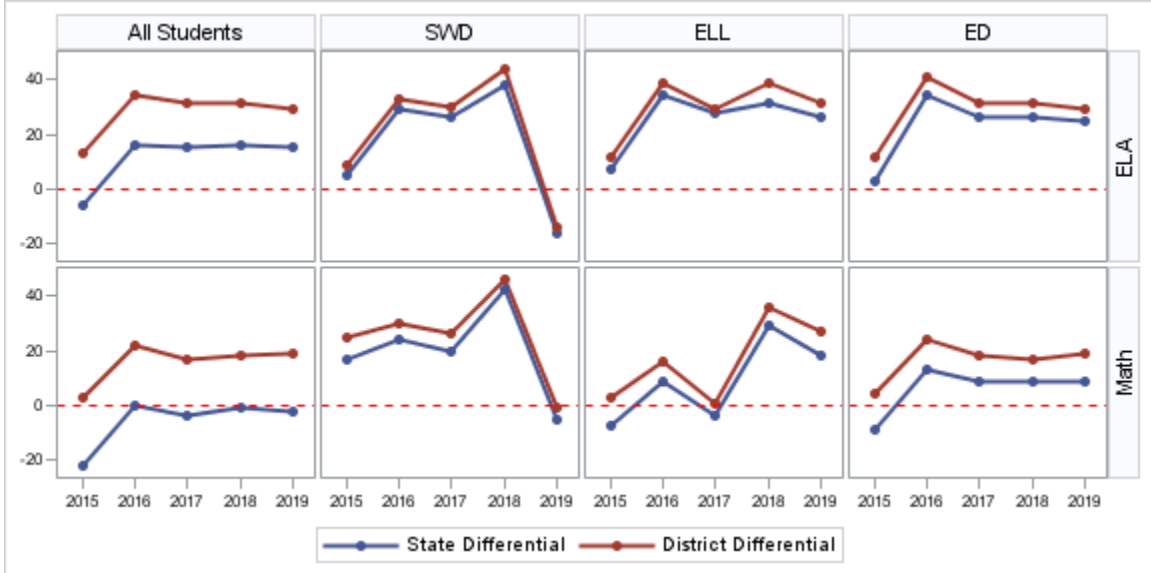


Table 3: Elementary/Middle School Assessment Proficiency Outcomes: Charter School, District & NYS

		ELA					Math				
		South Bronx CS for International Cultures and the Arts	NYC CSD 7	Differential to District	NYS	Differential to NYS	South Bronx CS for International Cultures and the Arts	NYC CSD 7	Differential to District	NYS	Differential to NYS
All Students	2014-2015	25%	12%	+13	31%	-6	21%	18%	+3	43%	-22
	2015-2016	55%	21%	+34	39%	+16	43%	21%	+22	43%	0
	2016-2017	55%	24%	+31	40%	+15	41%	24%	+17	45%	-4
	2017-2018	61%	30%	+31	45%	+16	48%	30%	+18	49%	-1
	2018-2019	61%	32%	+29	46%	+15	48%	29%	+19	50%	-2
SWD	2014-2015	13%	4%	+9	8%	+5	33%	8%	+25	16%	+17
	2015-2016	40%	7%	+33	11%	+29	40%	10%	+30	16%	+24
	2016-2017	38%	8%	+30	12%	+26	38%	12%	+26	18%	+20
	2017-2018	56%	12%	+44	18%	+38	63%	17%	+46	21%	+42
	2018-2019	0%	14%	-14	16%	-16	17%	18%	-1	22%	-5
ELL	2014-2015	20%	8%	+12	13%	+7	17%	14%	+3	24%	-7
	2015-2016	50%	11%	+39	16%	+34	33%	17%	+16	24%	+9
	2016-2017	43%	14%	+29	15%	+28	19%	18%	+1	23%	-4
	2017-2018	59%	20%	+39	28%	+31	63%	27%	+36	34%	+29
	2018-2019	54%	23%	+31	28%	+26	52%	25%	+27	34%	+18
ED	2014-2015	24%	12%	+12	21%	+3	22%	18%	+4	31%	-9
	2015-2016	62%	21%	+41	28%	+34	44%	20%	+24	31%	+13
	2016-2017	55%	24%	+31	29%	+26	42%	24%	+18	33%	+9
	2017-2018	61%	30%	+31	35%	+26	47%	30%	+17	38%	+9
	2018-2019	61%	32%	+29	36%	+25	48%	29%	+19	39%	+9

Table 4: Subgroup Enrollment: Students with Disabilities (SWDs), English Language Learners (ELLs), and Economically Disadvantaged (ED)

	SWD			ELL			ED		
	South Bronx CS for International Cultures and the Arts	NYC CSD 7	Differential to District	South Bronx CS for International Cultures and the Arts	NYC CSD 7	Differential to District	South Bronx CS for International Cultures and the Arts	NYC CSD 7	Differential to District
2015-2016	9%	27%	-18	37%	23%	+14	76%	97%	-21
2016-2017	9%	27%	-18	36%	21%	+15	70%	97%	-27
2017-2018	8%	27%	-19	40%	23%	+17	94%	96%	-2
2018-2019	7%	28%	-21	42%	23%	+19	92%	95%	-3
2019-2020	5%	28%	-23	42%	23%	+19	92%	95%	-3

The school currently has lottery preferences for ELLs and will implement a lottery preference for SWDs starting with the next student enrollment lottery in the spring of 2022.

Table 5: Aggregate and Subgroup Retention

	All Students			SWD			ELL			ED		
	South Bronx CS for International Cultures and the Arts	NYC CSD 7	Differential to District	South Bronx CS for International Cultures and the Arts	NYC CSD 7	Differential to District	South Bronx CS for International Cultures and the Arts	NYC CSD 7	Differential to District	South Bronx CS for International Cultures and the Arts	NYC CSD 7	Differential to District
2015-2016	80%	84%	-4	69%	84%	-15	78%	87%	-9	79%	84%	-5
2016-2017	74%	84%	-10	58%	84%	-26	77%	86%	-9	72%	85%	-13
2017-2018	80%	85%	-5	64%	86%	-22	82%	88%	-6	81%	86%	-5
2018-2019	80%	82%	-2	72%	81%	-9	80%	81%	-1	80%	82%	-2
2019-2020	78%	83%	-5	40%	84%	-44	76%	82%	-6	78%	83%	-5

Table 6: Aggregate Enrollment: Reported vs Contracted – Target = 100%

South Bronx CS for International Cultures and the Arts	Contracted Enrollment	Reported Enrollment	Percent of Contracted Enrollment
2015-2016	468	443	95%
2016-2017	468	422	90%
2017-2018	468	427	91%
2018-2019	532	452	85%
2019-2020	596	467	78%

Summary of Public Comment

The required public hearing was held by the New York City Department of Education on May 6, 2021. Thirteen people attended, and eight people spoke. All eight were in favor of the revision. None were opposed.