




THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY,
NY 12234

TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: Ken Slentz 
SUBJECT: Issuance of the Charter School Requests for Proposals
(RFPs)
DATE: November 4, 2011
AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents direct the Commissioner of Education and the State Education Department (SED) to develop and issue the Charter School Requests for Proposals (RFPs) consistent with the requirements of the Charter School Statute, the Federal Charter School Program Grant (CSP) requirements, and the Regents priorities; and to conduct an application review process on behalf of the Board, including making decisions about whether or not applicants have met required criteria and can progress through the process?

Background Information

The 2010 amendments to the New York State Charter School Statute (Education Law §2852(9-a)) direct the Board of Regents to issue competitive requests for proposals (RFPs) for applications for new charter schools. In 2010 and 2011, SED issued the RFPs and conducted the application review process on behalf of the Regents. The 2010 and 2011 RFP processes resulted in the Regents approving and issuing seven initial charters in December 2010, and nine initial charters in September 2011. The Charter School Statute requires that the 2012 RFP be issued on January 1, 2012, and that the 2013 RFP be issued on September 1, 2013. No specific issuance dates are required for those RFPs issued in succeeding years.

While similar to the Regents 2010 and 2011 Charter School RFPs in most substantive respects, the format of the 2012 RFP will be updated and restructured to ensure an even tighter alignment with all statutory requirements in the Charter Schools Act. In addition, the 2012 RFP will be updated to align with New York State's successful 2011 Federal Charter Schools Program Grant award which brings \$113 million to support quality choice and innovation in our State's public charter schools. The CSP Grant priorities include:

- Over-age/under-credited youth
- Students with disabilities
- English language learners
- Blended learning models
- Middle schools in New York City

The charter application review process will include an initial review by staff to determine if applicants have met the required criteria and should advance through the staged application process. In addition, the 2012 RFP will include a scoring rubric to prioritize applicant alignment with the objectives set forth in the Charter School Statute in the event that the number of applications meeting the review criteria exceeds the number of available charters in this round of applications. This updated application process will be described in the RFP/application kit that will be formally released in January 2012.

Ultimately, it is the Board of Regents that will make the final decision whether or not to approve and issue charters to any of the applicants that are recommended to the Board by SED.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents directs the Commissioner of Education and the State Education Department (SED) to develop and issue the Charter School Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and to conduct an application review process, on behalf of the Board of Regents.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action concerning Charter School RFPs shall take effect immediately.