



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

TO: Full Board
FROM: Jean C. Stevens
SUBJECT: 2004-05 Annual Report on the Status of Charter Schools in New York State
DATE: June 29, 2006
STRATEGIC GOAL: Goals 1 and 2
AUTHORIZATION(S):

Summary

Issue for Decision

Should the Regents approve the proposed 2004-05 report on charter schools?

Reason for Consideration

Required by State statute, §2857(3) of the Education Law.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board on July 26, 2006 for discussion and action.

Procedural History

A report of the status of charter schools in New York State has been approved by the Board annually for submission to the Governor and Legislature starting in 2000. A five-year report was also submitted and approved by the Board at your December 2003 meeting.

Background Information

The Board needs to review the attached report and determine if it wishes to make any changes in policy as a result of the findings, and/or make any recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. Potential recommendations are provided. Appendix A of the report will be available in the Regents Office. It contains information obtained from public school districts on the type and level of impact, if any, of the charter schools located in those districts.

Recommendation

VOTED: That the Board of Regents approve the 2004-05 Annual Report to the Governor, the Temporary President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the Assembly on the Status of Charter Schools in New York State.

Timetable for Implementation

Not applicable.

Attachment

ANNUAL REPORT TO
THE
GOVERNOR,
THE TEMPORARY
PRESIDENT OF THE
SENATE,
THE SPEAKER OF THE
ASSEMBLY
AND
THE BOARD OF
REGENTS
ON THE STATUS OF
CHARTER SCHOOLS IN
NEW YORK STATE
2004-05

JULY 2006

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF THE
STATE
OF
NEW YORK

THE STATE
EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT

Background and Introduction

The New York Charter Schools Act, now Article 56 of the Education Law, was enacted on December 17, 1998. This Act amended existing Education Law to allow for the creation of charter schools. The stated purpose of the Article "is to authorize a system of charter schools to provide opportunities for teachers, parents, and community members to establish and maintain schools that operate independently of existing schools and school districts in order to accomplish the following objectives:

- (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"(§2850(2) of Education Law).

Article 56 also requires the Board of Regents to report annually to the Governor, the Temporary President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the Assembly on the status of charter schools in New York State (§2857(3) of Education Law). This report covers the 2004-05 school year.

This report includes data submitted by the charter schools and local school districts.

Executive Summary

This report provides data required by §2857(3) of the Education Law and covers the 2004-05 school year, during which a total of 61 charter schools were open for instruction. Of these 61 schools, 16 were chartered by the Board of Regents, 32 were chartered by the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York ("SUNY"), 11 were chartered by the Chancellor of the New York City Public Schools, and two were chartered by the Board of Education of the Buffalo City School District. Twenty-one had management companies as partners. There were six charter schools with Edison Schools, Inc. as a partner, four schools each with Victory Schools, Inc. and National Heritage Academies as a partner, three schools with Chancellor Beacon Academies as a partner, and one school each with SABIS, Lighthouse Academies, Uncommon Schools, Inc. and Mosaica Education Inc. as a management partner. There were 32 charter schools located in New York City, 12 in Buffalo, four in Rochester, three in Albany, three in Syracuse, and one each in East Hampton (Wainscott Common School District), Kenmore, Lackawanna, Riverhead, Roosevelt, Schenectady, and Troy. The largest student enrollment reported was 1,105 at the Charter School of Science and Technology in Rochester, and the smallest was 88 at the Child Development Center of the Hamptons Charter School in Wainscott. There were 36 schools that served elementary students (i.e., K-6) in a variety of grade configurations (e.g., K-1, K-2). Seven served students in grades K-8, three served students in grades K-7, two served students in grades K-9, two served students in grades 5-6, and two schools served students in grade 9 only. Finally, one each served students in grades 5-10, 7-9, K and 6, 5-6, 8-12, 5-8, 6-7, 7-10, and K-12.

The charters for three charter schools were not renewed by SUNY past the 2004-05 school year. The schools that were closed are the Central New York Charter School for Math and Science (Syracuse), the Charter School of Science and Technology (Rochester), and the Rochester Leadership Academy Charter School (Rochester).

According to the Basic Educational Data System (BEDS) forms that were submitted in October 2004, a total of 18,408 students were reported enrolled in these 61 charter schools during 2004-05. Most (12,634) were reported as Black (not Hispanic origin) and the fewest (65) were reported as being American Indian or Alaskan Native. There were 255 Asian or Pacific Islander students reported. Hispanics made up the second largest population, with 3,059 students enrolled. The number of White (not Hispanic origin) students was reported to be 2,395. In grades K and 1, there were more Black (not Hispanic) students reported as being enrolled (3,762) than there were students in any other ethnic group in grades K-12.

Most students (15,305) were enrolled in grades K-6, while 3,103 were enrolled in grades 7-12. No students were reported as "Ungraded Secondary" but five students were reported as "Ungraded Elementary." Among the elementary students, most (9,737) continue to be enrolled in grades K-3. Enrollment in grades 4-6 was 5,563. Grade 6 had the lowest enrollment (1,612) at the elementary level. At the secondary level, most students (1,915) continue to be enrolled in grades 7 and 8, but the enrollment gap between grades 7 - 8 and grades 9-12 is decreasing as several charter schools expand or are created to serve high school students. In 2004-05, 1,188 students were

enrolled in grades 9-12.

Fiscal impact is calculated using the number of students reported on each charter school's BEDS form multiplied by the adjusted expense per pupil (AEP) for that district. That figure is then compared with the annual operating budget of the resident district and a percent is derived. This figure may be different from what the districts actually pay to a charter school since such payments are based upon a full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment figure that must be derived per Commissioner's Regulation 119.1. Those FTEs are not reported herein since final reconciliation of payments occurs in July of each year and the data are not readily available. The figures reported herein are a reasonable estimate, however, of the potential fiscal impact upon any district.

Overall fiscal impact in New York City appeared to be negligible (0.30 percent impact on the district budget). In 2004-05, fiscal impact ranged from .01 percent of the school budget for several school districts with a small number of students attending charter schools to 10.15 percent of the Albany City School District budget. Cumulative impact was 8.25 percent on the Lackawanna City School District budget, 7.77 percent on the Buffalo City School District budget, 4.52 percent on the Roosevelt Union Free School District, 4.06 percent on the Rochester City School District budget, 3.64 percent on the Schenectady City School District, 3.27 percent on the Shelter Island Union Free School District, 3.18 percent on the Syracuse City School District, 3.17 percent on the Sagaponack Common School District, 3.03 percent impact on the Wainscott Common School District, and 2.07 percent impact on the Troy City School District budget.

According to the information provided by the financial audits, 15 schools had a decrease in unrestricted net assets (i.e., fund balance) for the year. The total amount of Revenue and Support for the charter schools totaled \$186.6 million. Government contracts and grants accounted for 89 percent of the total Revenue and Support.

Academic achievement, as measured by State exams, was mixed. For those schools for which the 2004-05 school year was the first year of instruction in the grades assessed, the test results should be interpreted as a baseline by which all future test results will be judged.

On the grade 4 English Language Arts (ELA) exam, the top performers were as follows (percentages are for the percent of students scoring at or above Level 3):

- § Harlem Day Charter School, New York City: 100.0%
- § Renaissance Charter School, New York City: 95.7%
- § Roosevelt Children's Academy Charter School, Roosevelt: 87.3%
- § Carl C. Icahn Charter School, New York City: 86.2%
- § Genesee Community Charter School, Rochester: 83.8%%

On the grade 4 English Language Arts exam, the weakest performers were as follows (percentages are for the percent of students scoring at or above Level 3):

- § Pinnacle Charter School, Buffalo (baseline year): 18.4%
- § Stepping Stone Academy Charter School, Buffalo: 20.4%
- § Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School, New York City: 29.9%
- § COMMUNITY Charter School, Buffalo: 32.5%
- § Charter School of Science and Technology, Rochester: 33.9%

On the grade 4 math exam, the top performers were as follows (percentages are for the percent of students scoring at or above Level 3):

- § Carl C. Icahn Charter School, New York City: 100.0%
- § International Charter School of Schenectady, Schenectady, 100.0%

- § Tapestry Charter School, Buffalo: 100.0%
- § Our World Neighborhood Charter School, New York City: 95.8%
- § Harlem Day Charter School, New York City: 94.4%
- § Renaissance Charter School, New York City: 92.0%
- § Roosevelt Children's Academy Charter School, Roosevelt: 91.8%
- § Genesee Community Charter School, Rochester, 90.7%

On the grade 4 math exam, the weakest performers were as follows (percentages are for the percent of students scoring at or above Level 3):

- § Stepping Stone Academy Charter School, Buffalo: 33.9%

On the grade 8 ELA exam, the top performer was as follows (percentages are for the percent of students scoring at or above Level 3):

- § KIPP Academy Charter School, New York City: 71.5%

On the grade 8 ELA exams, the weakest performers were as follows (percentages are for the percent of students scoring at or above Level 3):

- § John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School, New York City: 8.3%
- § Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School, Buffalo: 13.6%
- § Enterprise Charter School, Buffalo: 16.3%
- § Stepping Stone Academy Charter School, Buffalo: 20.0%
- § Charter School for Applied Technologies, Kenmore-Tonawanda: 27.3%

Based upon their 2004-05 State assessment date, five charter schools have been identified as being furthest from State standards. They are:

- § Ark Community Charter School, Troy: grade 4 ELA;
- § Enterprise Charter School, Buffalo: grade 8 math;
- § John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School, NYC: HS ELA and HS math.
- § Pinnacle Charter School, Buffalo: grade 4 ELA; and
- § Stepping Stone Academy Charter School, Buffalo: grade 4 ELA and grade 4 math.

Results for the 2001 grade 9 cohort show that most students (60.6 percent) in the John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School did not take the Regents English exam, while 17.1 percent of the students scored between 0 and 64, and 22.2 percent scored between 65 and 100. For the Regents math exam, most students (80.8 percent) did not take the exam, while 10.1 percent scored between 0 and 64, while 9.1 percent scored between 65 and 84.

Most students in the Renaissance Charter School (81.4 percent) did take the Regents English exam. The results show that 23.0 percent scored between 0 and 64, while

74.4 percent scored between 65 and 100. The results for the Regents math exam show that all students attending the Renaissance Charter School took the exam, with 38.5 percent scoring between zero and 64, and 61.6 percent scoring between 65 and 100.

In the 2004-05 school year, the charter schools reported serving a total of 358 English language learners, with 343 being enrolled in grade K-6 and the remaining 15 students enrolled in grades 7-12.

A total of 1,502 students with disabilities were reported in grades K-12, representing nine percent of the student enrollment in charter schools. The Child Development Center of the Hamptons Charter School had the largest percentage of students with disabilities, 48 of its 88 students (55 percent).

A total of 11,555 students receiving Free or Reduced Lunch were reported, representing 63 percent of all students attending a New York State charter school during 2004-05. Of that number, 9,903 were reported at the K-6 level, and 1,652 were reported at the 7-12 level.

During the 2004-05 school year, a total of 1,445 students were reported as having transferred out of charter schools and into other educational settings. Of the 1,445, 1,331 transferred into another public school, and 114 were reported as having transferred into a non-public school or to home instruction.

Charter schools reported serving 23 homeless students, and two migrant students.

Additional information is provided that describes many of the issues and concerns that have been raised regarding the implementation of Article 56, the New York Charter Schools Act. Suggestions are made for possible amendments to the legislation.

The Number, Distribution, and Brief Description of New Charter Schools Operating in New York State in 2004-05

Table 1 provides information for each charter school open for instruction during the 2004-05 school year and includes the grades and number of students to be served, the management company (if applicable), the specific educational approach to be used, the date that instruction commenced, and the charter entity.

Table 2 shows the distribution of students reported enrolled by grade, ethnicity, and gender.

Table 1

Approved Charter Schools Open for Instruction in New York State During 2004-05

Name and Address	New or Conversion	District of Location	Grades Served	Total Number of Students	Management Company	Educational Approach	Opening Date	Charter Entity
Amber Charter School 220 East 106 th Street New York, NY 10029	New	NYC (CSD 4)	K-5	280	None	Leonard Bernstein Center Artful Learning Model; dual language immersion (Spanish/English)	9/00	SUNY
Ark Community Charter School 762 River Street Troy, NY 12180-1230	New	Troy	K-5	140	None	Essential Questions; commitment to theory of multiple intelligences	9/01	SUNY
Beginning with Children Charter School 11 Bartlett Street Brooklyn, NY 11206-5001	Conversion	NYC (CSD 14)	K-8	450	None	Increased learning opportunities, continuous assessment	9/01	Chancellor

Brighter Choice Charter Schools for Boys 250 Central Avenue Albany, NY 12206-2610	New	Albany	K-3	95	None	Liberal Arts, Core Knowledge	9/02	Regents
Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls 250 Central Avenue Albany, NY 12206-2610	New	Albany	K-3	95	None	Liberal Arts, Core Knowledge	9/02	Regents
Bronx Charter School for Better Learning 3740 Baychester Avenue Bronx, NY 10466-5031	New	NYC (CSD 11)	1-2	50	None	"Subordination of Teaching to Learning"	9/03	SUNY
Bronx Charter School for Children 388 Willis Avenue Bronx, NY 10454-1303	New	NYC (CSD)	K-1	132	None	Literacy development	9/04	Regents

Name and Address	New or Conversion	District of Location	Grades Served	Total Number of Students	Management Company	Educational Approach	Opening Date	Charter Entity
Bronx Charter School for Excellence 1508 Webster Avenue Bronx, NY 10457-8015	New	NYC (CSD 11)	K-1	100	None	Liberal arts, back-to-basics	9/04	SUNY
Bronx Charter School for the Arts 890 Garrison Avenue Bronx, NY 10474-5354	New	NYC (CSD 8)	K-5	200	None	Arts education as a catalyst for academic and social success	9/03	Regents
Bronx Lighthouse Charter School 977 Fox Street Bronx, NY 10459-3320	New	NYC (CSD 8)	K-2	120	Lighthouse Academies	Open Court reading, Saxon math, Full Option Science System, Core Knowledge	9/04	Chancellor
Bronx Preparatory Charter School 1508 Webster Avenue Bronx, NY 10457	New	NYC (CSD 9)	5-10	350	None	Classical, college-preparatory curriculum	9/00	SUNY
Brooklyn Charter School 545 Willoughby Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11233	New	NYC (CSD 16)	K-5	234	None	Project-based instruction	9/00	Chancellor
Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School 856 Quincy Street Brooklyn, NY 11221-3612	New	NYC (CSD 15)	K-6	480	National Heritage Academies	Back-to-basics academics, character development	9/03	SUNY
Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School 15 Jewett Parkway Buffalo, NY 14214-2319	New	Buffalo	7-9	225	None	Emphasis on math and science	9/04	Regents
Buffalo United Charter School 325 Manhattan Avenue Buffalo, NY 14215	New	Buffalo	K-6	480	National Heritage Academies	Back-to-basics academics, character development	9/03	SUNY

Name and Address	New or Conversion	District of Location	Grades Served	Total Number of Students	Management Company	Educational Approach	Opening Date	Charter Entity
Carl C. Icahn Charter School 1525 Brook Avenue Bronx, NY 10457-8005	New	NYC (CSD 9)	K-5	216	None	Core Knowledge	9/01	SUNY
Central New York Charter School for Math and Science 601 East Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13202	New	Syracuse	K-6	549	Chancellor Beacon Academies, Inc.	Core Knowledge	8/00	SUNY
Charter School for Applied Technologies 2303 Kenmore Avenue Buffalo, NY 14207	New	Kenmore-Tonawanda	K-9	1,000	Edison Schools, Inc.	Integrated subject matter in five domains	9/01	Regents
Charter School of Science and Technology 690 St. Paul Street Rochester, NY 14605	New	Rochester	K-8	1,100	Edison Schools, Inc.	Integrated subject matter in five domains	9/00	SUNY
Child Development Center of the Hamptons Charter School 175 Daniels Hole Road Wainscott, NY 11975	New	Wainscott	K-6	85	None	Thematic approach in a community-based setting	1/01	SUNY
COMMUNITY Charter School 404 Edison Avenue Buffalo, NY 14215-2936	New	Buffalo	K-5	275	Chancellor Beacon Academies, Inc.	Core Knowledge	9/03	Regents
Community Partnership Charter School 171 Clermont Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11205	New	NYC (CSD 13)	K-5	350	None	Hands-on learning	9/00	SUNY
Enterprise Charter School 275 Oak Street Buffalo, NY 14203-1638	New	Buffalo	K-9	460	None	Project-based; Constructivist	7/03	Buffalo BOE

Name and Address	New or Conversion	District of Location	Grades Served	Total Number of Students	Management Company	Educational Approach	Opening Date	Charter Entity
Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School 938 Clifford Avenue Rochester, NY 14621	New	NYC (CSD 16)	K-1	88	Uncommon Schools, Inc.	Single-gender education for boys; literacy based; Core Knowledge	9/04	SUNY
Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant 598 Lafayette Avenue 3 rd Floor Brooklyn, NY 11216-1020	New	NYC (CSD 13)	K-2	152	None	Knowledge based on Bedford Stuyvesant YMCA I Have a Dream After-school Program	9/04	SUNY
Explore Charter School 15 Snyder Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11226-4020	New	NYC (CSD 17)	K-5	240	None	Interdisciplinary with a focus on literacy.	9/02	Chancellor
Family Life Academy Charter School 14 West 170 th Street Bronx, NY 10452-3227	New	NYC (CSD 9)	K-4	219	None	English/Spanish immersion	9/01	SUNY

Genesee Community Charter School 657 East Avenue Rochester, NY 14607-2177	New	Rochester	K-6	200	None	Expeditionary Learning-Outward Bound	9/01	Regents
Global Concepts Charter School 1001 Ridge Road Lackawanna, NY 14218	New	Lackawanna	K-5	365	None	Global education, Success for All	9/02	Regents
Grand Concourse Academy Charter School 116-118 East 169 th Street Bronx, NY 10452-7704	New	NYC (CSD	K-2	175	None	Balanced literacy approach, Everyday Mathematics	9/04	SUNY

Name and Address	New or Conversion	District of Location	Grades Served	Total Number of Students	Management Company	Educational Approach	Opening Date	Charter Entity
Harbor Science and Arts Charter School 1 East 104 th Street New York, NY 10029	New	NYC (CSD 4)	K-8	196	None	Constructivist	9/00	SUNY
Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School 175 West 134 th Street New York, NY 10030	New	NYC (CSD 5)	K, 6	200	None	Literacy based, Open Court reading, Saxon math, arts enrichment	9/04	Chancellor
Harlem Day Charter School 240 East 123 rd Street New York, NY 10035-2038	New	NYC (CSD 4)	K-4	200	None	Core Knowledge	9/01	SUNY
Harlem Village Academy Charter School 413 E. 120 th Street New York, NY 10035	New	NYC (CSD 4)	5-6	125	None	Liberal arts	9/03	SUNY
Harriet Tubman Charter School 3565 Third Avenue Bronx, NY 10456-3403	New	NYC (CSD 9)	K-6	250	Edison Schools, Inc.	Integrated subject matter in five domains	9/01	Regents
International Charter School of Schenectady 408 Eleanor Street Schenectady, NY 12306-3122	New	Schenectady	K-5	425	SABIS	College preparatory	9/02	SUNY
John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School 17 Battery Place New York, NY 10004	Conversion	NYC (CSD 2)	8-12	485	None	Cooperative learning; thematic projects/units	9/00	Chancellor
King Center Charter School 938 Genesee Street Buffalo, NY 14211-3025	New	Buffalo	K-4	100	None	Individualized	9/00	SUNY

Name and Address	New or Conversion	District of Location	Grades Served	Total Number of Students	Management Company	Educational Approach	Opening Date	Charter Entity
KIPP Academy Charter School 250 East 156 th Street Room 418 Bronx, NY 10451	Conversion	NYC (CSD 7)	5-8	240	None	Extended-day, college preparatory program	9/00	Chancellor

KIPP Sankofa Charter School 140 Central Park Plaza Buffalo, NY 14214	New	Buffalo	5-6	180	None	Extended-day, college preparatory program	9/03	SUNY
KIPP S.T.A.R. College Preparatory Charter School 618 W. 138 th Street New York, NY 10031	New	NYC (CSD 5)	5-6	180	None	Extended-day, college preparatory program	9/03	SUNY
Merrick Academy – Queens Public Charter School 207-01 Jamaica Avenue Queens Village, NY 11428	New	NYC (CSD 29)	K-6	450	Victory Schools, Inc.	Direct Instruction, Core Knowledge	9/00	SUNY
New Covenant Charter School 50 North Lark Street Albany, NY 12210	New	Albany	K-6	911	Edison Schools, Inc.	Integrated subject matter in five domains	9/99	SUNY
Opportunity Charter School 222 West 134 th Street New York, NY 10030-3002	New	NYC (CSD 5)	6-7	108	None	Standards-based, Schools Attuned model, Balanced Literacy program	9/04	Chancellor
Our World Neighborhood Charter School 36-12 35 th Avenue Astoria, NY 11106	New	NYC (CSD 30)	K-7	600	Mosaica Education, Inc.	Constructivist, Core Knowledge	9/02	SUNY

Name and Address	New or Conversion	District of Location	Grades Served	Total Number of Students	Management Company	Educational Approach	Opening Date	Charter Entity
Peninsula Preparatory Academy Charter School 1110 Foam Place Far Rockaway, NY 11691-4005	New	NYC (CSD 27)	K-2	150	Victory Schools, Inc.	Balanced literacy approach, Everyday Mathematics	9/04	Chancellor
Pinnacle Charter School 115 Ash Street Buffalo, NY 14204	New	Buffalo	K-6	300	None	Coalition of Effective Schools	9/03	Regents
ReadNet Bronx Charter School 116 E. 63 rd . Street New York, NY 10021	New	NYC (CSD 7)	K-2	120	None	Skill-based, computer-assisted, individualized learning process	9/03	Regents
Renaissance Charter School 35-59 81 st Street Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Conversion	NYC (CSD 30)	K-12	500	None	Core studies, project-based learning, and community involvement	9/00	Chancellor
Riverhead Charter School 3685 Middle Country Road Calverton, NY 11933	New	Riverhead	K-5	216	Edison Schools, Inc.	Integrated subject matter in five domains	9/01	Regents

Rochester Leadership Academy Charter School 1020 Maple Street Rochester, NY 14604-1614	New	Rochester	K-8	648	National Heritage Academies	Back-to-basics academics, character development	9/00	SUNY
Roosevelt Children's Academy Charter School 105 Pleasant Avenue Roosevelt, NY 11575	New	Roosevelt	K-6	300	Victory Schools, Inc.	Direct Instruction and Core Knowledge	9/00	SUNY

Name and Address	New or Conversion	District of Location	Grades Served	Total Number of Students	Management Company	Educational Approach	Opening Date	Charter Entity
Sisulu Children's Academy-Harlem Public Charter School 125 W. 115 th Street New York, NY 10026-2908	New	NYC (CSD 3)	K-5	225	Victory Schools, Inc.	Direct Instruction and Core Knowledge	9/99	SUNY
South Buffalo Charter School 2219 South Park Avenue Buffalo, NY 14220	New	Buffalo	K-8	533	Beacon Educational Management, LLC	Core Knowledge	9/00	SUNY
Southside Academy Charter School 800 South Wilbur Avenue, Bldg. 1C Syracuse, NY 13204	New	Syracuse	K-7	329	National Heritage Academies	Back-to-basics academics, character development	9/02	Regents
Stepping Stone Academy Charter School 907 East Ferry Street Buffalo, NY 14211-1423	New	Buffalo	K-8	556	Edison Schools, Inc.	Integrated subject matter in five domains	9/01	SUNY
Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School 112 South Wilbur Avenue Syracuse, NY 13204	New	Syracuse	7-10	250	None	College Preparatory; Tutoring	9/03	Regents
Tapestry Charter School 40 North Street Buffalo, NY 14202-1106	New	Buffalo	K-7	192	None	Multi-age; Child Development Project; Work Sampling System	9/01	SUNY
Western New York Maritime Charter School 266 Genesee Street Buffalo, NY 14203	New	Buffalo	9	150	None	Navy Junior ROTC	9/04	Regents

Name and Address	New or Conversion	District of Location	Grades Served	Total Number of Students	Management Company	Educational Approach	Opening Date	Charter Entity
Westminster Community Charter School 24 Westminster Street Buffalo, NY 14215-1614	Conversion	Buffalo	K-8	500	None	Standards-based instruction using a language arts platform; classroom reading/writing workshops	9/04	Buffalo BOE

Williamsburg Charter High School 424 Leonard Street, 4 th Floor Brooklyn, NY 11222-3908	New	NYC (CSD 14)	9	125	None	Basic literacy; Liberal Arts and Critical Thinking; Comprehensive Youth Development.	9/04	Chancellor
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Table 2

**Student Enrollment by Grade, Ethnicity and Gender
Summary of Data Reported by All Charter Schools
2004-05**

Grade	American Indian or Alaskan Native		Black (not Hispanic origin)		Asian Or Pacific Islander		Hispanic		White (not Hispanic origin)		Total Enrollment	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Kindergarten (half-day)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kindergarten (full-day)	3	5	981	897	28	17	220	225	175	151	1407	1295
First	5	10	902	982	14	19	226	197	165	176	1312	1384
Second	4	6	773	851	18	14	159	183	160	175	1114	1229
Third	3	4	672	739	12	13	144	123	151	135	982	1014
Fourth	5	3	664	760	11	8	128	129	130	150	938	1050
Fifth	2	1	684	747	11	8	138	156	115	101	950	1013
Sixth	2	2	538	589	10	10	139	146	94	82	783	829
Ungraded Elementary	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
Seventh	2	1	313	359	7	7	83	115	89	68	494	550
Eighth	1	4	267	302	5	3	70	73	79	67	422	449
Ninth	0	1	196	186	5	4	95	113	46	53	342	357
Tenth	1	0	58	61	3	5	35	53	12	5	109	124
Eleventh	0	0	31	35	3	9	22	28	3	2	59	74
Twelfth	0	0	20	22	9	2	22	37	4	7	55	68
Ungraded Secondary*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	28	37	6,102	6,532	136	119	1,481	1,578	1,223	1,172	8,970	9,438

Note: **Ungraded Elementary and Ungraded Secondary** refer to students with disabilities who spend 60% or more of their time in special education classes. Ungraded students who are not students with disabilities should be assigned, according to age, to a grade above.

Fiscal and Programmatic Impact of Charter Schools

Article 56 requires that this report contain information on the current and projected fiscal impact of charter schools on the delivery of services by the public school system. Appendix A contains information obtained from the public school districts in which charter schools are located. They were asked to provide such information from their point of view. It was assumed that the districts themselves would be in the best position to ascertain what type and level of impact, if any, the charter schools had upon the districts.

Table 3 shows the fiscal information for each charter school for the 2004-05 school year. Included are reported sending districts, the number of students reported enrolled in charter schools (regardless of the charter school's location) for the 2004-05 school year, the adjusted expense per pupil (AEP) for the 2004-05 school year, and the AEP multiplied by the number of students. It should be noted that this fiscal analysis is based upon the assumption that all charter school students would have been enrolled in their district of residence if the charter school had not been in existence, and that the school districts would not have incurred costs for special education, transportation, textbooks, and health services beyond the costs that the districts would have incurred if the charter school students had been enrolled in their districts of residence.

It should also be noted that the total AEP per district calculated herein may be different from what the districts actually pay to a charter school, since such payments are based upon a full-time equivalent (FTE) figure that must be derived per Commissioner's Regulation 119.1. Those FTEs are not reported herein since final reconciliation of payments occurs in July of each year and the data are not readily available. The figures reported herein are a reasonable estimate, however, of the potential fiscal impact upon any district.

Table 3

District Expenditures for Charter Schools by Percent of Budget 2004-05

District name	Students in Charter School(s)	Adjusted Expense Per Pupil	Payment to Charter Schools	District Budget	% of Dist. Budget
Albany	1,659	\$8,894	\$14,755,146	\$145,340,715	10.15
Amagansett	1	\$35,959	\$35,959	\$6,105,364	0.59
Amherst	8	\$8,133	\$65,064	\$36,713,400	0.18
Amityville	2	\$11,709	\$23,418	\$58,071,948	0.04
Amsterdam	3	\$7,654	\$22,962	\$40,600,000	0.06
Baldwin	2	\$11,164	\$22,328	\$68,373,161	0.03
Bethlehem	3	\$7,693	\$23,079	\$59,487,294	0.04
Brentwood	2	\$8,649	\$17,298	\$224,615,316	0.01
Buffalo	4,624	\$8,245	\$38,124,880	\$490,900,000	7.77
Center Moriches	6	\$11,460	\$68,760	\$26,822,000	0.26
Cheektowaga	25	\$7,259	\$181,475	\$29,497,960	0.62
Cheektowaga-Maryvale	2	\$7,352	\$14,704	\$29,723,578	0.05
Cheektowaga-Sloan	2	\$8,406	\$16,812	\$22,823,997	0.07
Cleveland Hill	10	\$7,103	\$71,030	\$22,298,497	0.32
Cohoes	4	\$8,800	\$35,200	\$27,608,244	0.13
Depew	1	\$9,260	\$9,260	\$31,690,175	0.03
Duanesburg	1	\$6,344	\$6,344	\$11,146,110	0.06
East Hampton	20	\$13,482	\$269,640	\$41,027,280	0.66
East Irondequoit	5	\$7,839	\$39,195	\$47,282,321	0.08
East Moriches	3	\$11,613	\$34,839	\$18,396,100	0.19
East Quogue	1	\$13,606	\$13,606	\$15,430,583	0.09
Eastport	1	\$7,885	\$7,885	\$60,732,449	0.01
Eden	1	\$7,068	\$7,068	\$20,264,886	0.03
Elmont	1	\$8,880	\$8,880	\$54,974,766	0.02
Fairport	2	\$8,437	\$16,874	\$85,310,358	0.02
Freeport	19	\$10,761	\$204,459	\$112,772,779	0.18
District name	Students in Charter School(s)	Adjusted Expense Per Pupil	Payment to Charter Schools	District Budget	% of Dist. Budget
Frontier	4	\$6,947	\$27,788	\$58,367,514	0.05
Gates-Chili	5	\$8,598	\$42,990	\$65,713,656	0.07

Grand Island	4	\$8,179	\$32,716	\$40,612,262	0.08
Greece	7	\$8,242	\$57,694	\$169,211,316	0.03
Guilderland	2	\$8,026	\$16,052	\$71,241,300	0.02
Hamburg	2	\$7,419	\$14,838	\$44,944,647	0.03
Hampton Bays	10	\$9,007	\$90,070	\$26,701,477	0.34
Hempstead	76	\$11,786	\$895,736	\$120,974,579	0.74
Honeoye Falls	1	\$7,402	\$7,402	\$33,279,034	0.02
Jamesville-Dewitt	6	\$8,670	\$52,020	\$36,304,189	0.14
Kenmore-Tonawanda	54	\$8,319	\$449,226	\$119,218,504	0.38
Lackawanna	313	\$8,395	\$2,627,635	\$31,815,000	8.26
Lancaster	5	\$6,425	\$32,125	\$62,993,043	0.05
Lansingburgh	2	\$7,653	\$15,306	\$28,102,479	0.05
Levittown	1	\$12,434	\$12,434	\$145,082,285	0.01
Liverpool	8	\$8,501	\$68,008	\$106,352,036	0.06
Lockport	5	\$7,095	\$35,475	\$62,992,154	0.06
Longwood	74	\$9,705	\$718,170	\$163,988,442	0.44
Lynbrook	1	\$12,011	\$12,011	\$54,431,191	0.02
Lyncourt	1	\$9,076	\$9,076	\$5,607,513	0.16
Malverne	1	\$12,106	\$12,106	\$35,235,908	0.03
Maplewood	1	\$8,254	\$8,254	\$2,157,945	0.38
Menands	2	\$13,928	\$27,856	\$5,766,216	0.48
Miller Place	1	\$10,111	\$10,111	\$45,783,264	0.02
Montauk	8	\$12,872	\$102,976	\$11,306,861	0.91
New York City	5,391	\$8,586	\$46,287,126	\$15,600,000,000	0.30
Newfane	2	\$7,637	\$15,274	\$26,530,269	0.06
Niagara Falls	1	\$7,815	\$7,815	\$106,228,137	0.01
Niagara-Wheatfield	3	\$8,540	\$25,620	\$52,037,919	0.05
Niskayuna	5	\$8,450	\$42,250	\$52,876,569	0.08
North Colonie	1	\$8,008	\$8,008	\$67,034,200	0.01

District name	Students in Charter School(s)	Adjusted Expense Per Pupil	Payment to Charter Schools	District Budget	% of Dist. Budget
North Syracuse	9	\$7,653	\$68,877	\$106,595,307	0.06
North Tonawanda	8	\$7,800	\$62,400	\$53,540,423	0.12
Onondaga	1	\$7,761	\$7,761	\$13,480,000	0.06
Orchard Park	3	\$8,574	\$25,722	\$61,820,395	0.04
Palmyra-Macedon	1	\$8,661	\$8,661	\$27,805,513	0.03
Patchogue-Medford	3	\$8,794	\$26,382	\$123,263,803	0.02
Penfield	13	\$9,458	\$122,954	\$66,737,305	0.18
Rensselaer	4	\$9,030	\$36,120	\$14,726,080	0.25
Riverhead	83	\$10,585	\$878,555	\$83,111,150	1.06
Rochester	2,143	\$8,461	\$18,131,923	\$446,762,256	4.06
Rockville Centre	1	\$13,166	\$13,166	\$71,318,553	0.02
Rocky Point	1	\$8,843	\$8,843	\$49,216,489	0.02
Roosevelt	187	\$12,289	\$2,298,043	\$50,797,670	4.52
Rotterdam-Mohonasen	14	\$6,603	\$92,442	\$34,246,829	0.27
Rush-Henrietta	3	\$9,281	\$27,843	\$86,282,936	0.03
Sag Harbor	10	\$15,063	\$150,630	\$23,847,231	0.63
Sagaponack	1	\$37,200	\$37,200	\$1,174,171	3.17
Schalmont	5	\$13,769	\$68,845	\$34,917,546	0.20
Schenectady	450	\$8,262	\$3,717,900	\$102,261,917	3.64
Schodack	1	\$8,486	\$8,486	\$16,577,982	0.05
Scotia-Glenville	3	\$8,258	\$24,774	\$37,348,832	0.07

Shelter Island	12	\$20,831	\$249,972	\$7,636,261	3.27
Shenendehowa	1	\$8,282	\$8,282	\$113,358,238	0.01
Solvay	4	\$7,637	\$30,548	\$23,125,000	0.13
South Colonie	1	\$8,934	\$8,934	\$69,369,288	0.01
South Country	11	\$10,937	\$120,307	\$78,790,581	0.15
Southampton	4	\$17,613	\$70,452	\$42,750,858	0.16

District Expenditures for Charter Schools by Percent of Budget 2004-05

District name	Students in Charter School(s)	Adjusted Expense Per Pupil	Payment to Charter Schools	District Budget	% of Dist. Budget
Spencerport	1	\$7,680	\$7,680	\$55,328,217	0.01
Springs	12	\$11,314	\$135,768	\$14,627,263	0.93
Sweet Home	4	\$8,751	\$35,004	\$52,709,165	0.07
Syracuse	1,080	\$7,318	\$7,903,440	248,238,034	3.18
Tonawanda	17	\$7,189	\$122,213	\$19,741,989	0.62
Troy	154	\$9,480	\$1,459,920	\$70,634,418	2.07
Uniondale	14	\$12,741	\$178,374	\$122,974,000	0.15
Valley Stream 24	1	\$14,179	\$14,179	\$20,606,873	0.07
Voorheesville	1	\$8,722	\$8,722	\$18,442,445	0.05
Wainscott	1	\$59,645	\$59,645	\$1,968,896	3.03
Wappingers	1	\$7,863	\$7,863	\$139,928,158	0.01
Watervliet	15	\$7,037	\$105,555	\$16,303,791	0.65
Webster	6	\$8,923	\$53,538	\$109,131,826	0.05
West Genesee	4	\$7,293	\$29,172	\$53,043,855	0.05
West Hill	2	\$7,625	\$15,250	\$24,065,807	0.06
West Irondequoit	16	\$7,919	\$126,704	\$51,041,643	0.25
West Seneca	18	\$7,156	\$128,808	\$82,996,280	0.16
Westbury	1	\$12,330	\$12,330	\$71,184,386	0.02
Westhampton Beach	1	\$13,196	\$13,196	\$33,458,944	0.04
William Floyd	23	\$8,639	\$198,697	\$154,611,917	0.13
Williamsville	4	\$7,942	\$31,768	\$127,672,670	0.02

Academic Progress of Students Attending Charter Schools

Article 56 requires that this annual report contain a comparison of the academic progress of students attending charter schools with that of students attending comparable public and non-public schools, wherever practicable. Students attending charter schools are required to take State tests to the same extent required of other public school students. In 2004-05, 43 charter schools served grades in which State tests were required. Tables 4 and 5 show the grade 4 State test results for each charter school as compared with the State test results for its district of location. Tables 6 and 7 show the grade 8 State test results for each charter school as compared with the State test results for its district of location. Table 8 shows the Regents Exam results for all charter schools serving students in grades 9-12. For comparison purposes in New York City, the district of location is either the community school district in which the charter school is located or all other high schools citywide (including alternative high schools).

A comparison with all non-public schools was not practicable.

Note that the description for each of the performance levels on the grades 4 and 8 State tests is as follows:

Level 1: These students have serious academic deficiencies.

Level 2: These students need extra help to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination.

Level 3: These students meet the standards and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination.

Level 4: These students exceed the standards and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination.

Table 4
Grade 4 English Language Arts (ELA)
2004-05 School Year Results

Charter School and District of Location	Percent of Students Scoring At:			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Amber Charter School	3.4	46.6	43.1	6.9
NYC CSD #4	8.4	39.4	43.1	9.0
Ark Community Charter School	16.7	44.4	38.9	0.0
Troy City School District	7.6	38.5	44.3	9.6
Beginning with Children Charter School	0.0	19.6	50.0	30.4
NYC CSD#14	6.7	33.3	47.5	12.6
Bronx Charter School for the Arts	7.9	34.2	44.7	13.2
NYC CSD #8	10.1	40.9	41.9	7.1
Brooklyn Charter School	3.2	29.0	58.1	9.7
NYC CSD #14	6.7	33.3	47.5	12.6
Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School	7.5	62.7	26.9	3.0
NYC CSD #16	14.5	39.2	37.6	8.6
Buffalo United Charter School	2.0	30.0	58.0	10.0
Buffalo City School District	17.1	43.6	32.9	6.3
Carl C. Icahn Charter School	0.0	13.8	75.9	10.3
NYC CSD #9	10.1	42.3	39.2	8.4
Central New York Charter School for Math & Science	9.9	49.3	35.2	5.6
Syracuse City School District	11.1	38.1	41.3	9.5
Charter School for Applied Technologies	5.8	37.9	45.6	10.7
Kenmore-Tonawanda Union Free School District	4.9	20.6	56.7	17.7
Buffalo City School District*	17.1	43.6	32.9	6.3
Charter School of Science and Technology	17.4	48.7	31.3	2.6
Rochester City School District	7.9	34.8	46.9	10.4
Child Development Ctr. of the Hamptons Charter School	0.0	62.5	37.5	0.0
Wainscott Union Free School District**	-	-	-	-
COMMUNITY Charter School	25.6	41.9	30.2	2.3
Buffalo City School District	17.1	43.6	32.9	6.3
Community Partnership Charter School	11.4	36.4	36.4	15.9
NYC CSD #13	9.1	37.8	42.5	10.6
Enterprise Charter School	13.0	50.0	32.6	4.3
Buffalo City School District	17.1	43.6	32.9	6.3
Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School	0.0	44.7	44.7	10.5
Rochester City School District	7.9	34.8	46.9	10.4

Charter School and District of Location	Percent of Students Scoring At:			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Explore Charter School	2.4	36.6	53.7	7.3
NYC CSD #17	11.0	37.5	42.0	9.6
Family Life Academy Charter School	22.5	40.0	35.0	2.5
NYC CSD #9	10.1	42.3	39.2	8.4

Genesee Community Charter School	6.5	9.7	54.8	29.0
Rochester City School District	7.9	34.8	46.9	10.4
Global Concepts Charter School	4.7	51.2	41.9	2.3
Lackawanna City School District	8.6	41.7	42.4	7.3
Harbor Science and Arts Charter School	3.6	21.4	60.7	14.3
NYC CSD #4	8.4	39.4	43.1	9.0
Harlem Day Charter School	0.0	0.0	64.7	35.3
NYC CSD #4	8.4	39.4	43.1	9.0
Harriet Tubman Charter School	7.5	40.0	45.0	7.5
NYC CSD#9	10.1	42.3	39.2	8.4
International Charter School of Schenectady	0.0	27.8	63.0	9.3
Schenectady City School District	7.0	39.3	45.4	8.3
King Center Charter School	5.9	35.3	41.2	17.6
Buffalo City School District	17.1	43.6	32.9	6.3
Merrick Academy – Queens Public Charter School	6.8	23.3	50.7	19.2
NYC CSD#29	5.5	35.1	47.5	11.9
New Covenant Charter School	12.4	48.6	37.1	1.9
Albany City School District	11.0	36.0	42.4	10.7
Our World Neighborhood Charter School	5.6	22.5	52.1	19.7
NYC CSD #30	3.7	28.2	50.3	17.8
Pinnacle Charter School	31.6	50.0	15.8	2.6
Buffalo City School District	17.1	43.6	32.9	6.3
Renaissance Charter School	0.0	4.3	52.2	43.5
NYC CSD#30	3.7	28.2	50.3	17.8
Riverhead Charter School	5.3	31.6	57.9	5.3
Riverhead Central School District	4.0	24.6	51.6	19.8
Rochester Leadership Academy Charter School	3.0	47.8	43.3	6.0
Rochester City School District	7.9	34.8	46.9	10.4
Roosevelt Children’s Academy Charter School	0.0	12.7	67.6	19.7
Roosevelt Union Free School District	2.4	13.7	57.1	26.8

Charter School and District of Location	Percent of Students Scoring At:			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem	1.4	39.1	53.6	5.8
NYC CSD#3	4.4	32.2	45.7	17.9
South Buffalo Charter School	3.8	36.7	53.2	6.3
Buffalo City School District	17.1	43.6	32.9	6.3
Southside Academy Charter School	11.8	44.1	35.3	8.8
Syracuse City School District	11.1	38.1	41.3	9.5
Stepping Stone Academy Charter School	38.6	40.9	15.9	4.5
Buffalo City School District	17.1	43.6	32.9	6.3
Tapestry Charter School	0.0	16.7	33.3	50.0
Buffalo City School District	17.1	43.6	32.9	6.3
Westminster Community Charter School	3.6	43.6	49.1	3.6
Buffalo City School District	17.1	43.6	32.9	6.3

*Since the CSAT draws most of its students from Buffalo, comparisons with that district are also provided.

**Too few students to report.

Table 5
Grade 4 Mathematics
2004-05 School Year Results

Charter School and District of Location	Percent of Students Scoring At:
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	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Amber Charter School	1.7	35.6	49.2	13.6
NYC CSD # 4	4.4	20.0	50.7	24.9
Ark Community Charter School	5.9	11.8	64.7	17.6
Troy City School District	5.1	17.7	56.8	20.4
Beginning with Children Charter School	0.0	8.2	67.3	24.5
NYC CSD# 14	6.0	17.4	45.9	30.7
Brooklyn Charter School	0.0	20.7	72.4	6.9
NYC CSD # 14	9.4	25.3	46.8	18.5
Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School	7.7	36.9	52.3	3.1
NYC CSD # 16	9.4	25.3	46.8	18.5
Buffalo United Charter School	2.0	24.0	40.0	34.0
Buffalo City School District	7.4	26.0	50.6	15.9
Carl C. Icahn Charter School	0.0	0.0	34.5	65.5
NYC CSD # 9	9.1	28.1	47.9	14.9
Central New York Charter School for Math & Science	4.4	8.8	54.4	32.4
Syracuse City School District	6.8	24.3	51.4	17.6
Charter School for Applied Technologies	2.9	12.7	51.0	33.3
Kenmore-Tonawanda Union Free School District	1.2	10.2	44.9	43.7
Buffalo City School District*	7.4	26.0	50.6	15.9
Charter School of Science and Technology	15.1	38.7	42.5	3.8
Rochester City School District	4.7	22.5	53.4	19.4
Child Development Ctr. of the Hamptons Charter School	0.0	22.2	55.6	22.2
Wainscott Union Free School District**	-	-	-	-
COMMUNITY Charter School	6.8	36.4	36.4	20.5
Buffalo City School District	7.4	26.0	50.6	15.9
Community Partnership Charter School	4.4	11.1	48.9	35.6
NYC CSD # 13	7.3	24.6	45.2	22.8
Enterprise Charter School	2.2	23.9	56.5	17.4
Buffalo City School District	7.4	26.0	50.6	15.9
Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School	0.0	16.2	56.8	27.0
Rochester City School District	4.7	22.5	53.4	19.4

Charter School and District of Location	Percent of Students Scoring At:			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Explore Charter School	2.5	10.0	75.0	12.5
NYC CSD # 17	3.8	14.0	43.3	38.9
Family Life Academy Charter School	7.3	48.8	43.9	0.0
NYC CSD #9	9.1	28.1	47.9	14.9
Genesee Community Charter School	3.1	6.3	46.9	43.8
Rochester City School District	4.7	22.5	53.4	19.4
Global Concepts Charter School	2.4	36.6	46.3	14.6
Lackawanna City School District	7.8	20.1	51.9	20.1
Harbor Science and Arts Charter School	0.0	14.3	60.7	25.0
NYC CSD # 4	4.4	20.0	50.7	24.9
Harriet Tubman Charter School	2.6	31.6	52.6	13.2
NYC CSD# 9	9.1	28.1	47.9	14.9
Harlem Day Charter School	0.0	5.6	61.1	33.3
NYC CSD #4	4.4	20.0	50.7	24.9
International Charter School of Schenectady	0.0	0.0	80.4	19.6
Schenectady City School District	5.1	20.5	51.7	22.7
King Center Charter School	0.0	11.8	29.4	58.8
Buffalo City School District	7.4	26.0	50.6	15.9

Merrick Academy – Queens Public Charter School	8.5	16.9	49.3	25.4
NYC CSD# 29	5.7	19.7	50.7	23.9
New Covenant Charter School	4.1	21.6	50.5	23.7
Albany City School District	6.3	21.3	51.5	21.0
Our World Neighborhood Charter School	0.0	4.2	50.0	45.8
NYC CSD # 30	3.9	14.2	46.7	35.2
Pinnacle Charter School	8.3	33.3	55.6	2.8
Buffalo City School District	7.4	26.0	50.6	15.9
Renaissance Charter School	0.0	8.0	60.0	32.0
NYC CSD# 30	3.9	14.2	46.7	35.2
Riverhead Charter School	0.0	21.1	63.2	15.8
Riverhead Central School District	1.9	13.3	47.7	37.1
Rochester Leadership Academy Charter School	1.5	24.6	53.8	20.0
Rochester City School District	4.7	22.5	53.4	19.4

Charter School and District of Location	Percent of Students Scoring At:			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Roosevelt Children’s Academy Charter School	0.0	8.2	56.2	35.6
Roosevelt Union Free School District	2.0	15.3	47.4	35.2
Sisulu-Walker Charter School of Harlem	0.0	11.1	52.4	36.5
NYC CSD# 3	3.1	13.5	46.4	37.0
South Buffalo Charter School	0.0	10.3	57.7	32.1
Buffalo City School District	7.4	26.0	50.6	15.9
Southside Academy Charter School	11.1	25.0	58.3	5.6
Syracuse City School District	6.8	24.3	51.4	17.6
Stepping Stone Academy Charter School	29.5	36.4	29.5	4.5
Buffalo City School District	7.4	26.0	50.6	15.9
Tapestry Charter School	0.0	0.0	58.3	41.7
Buffalo City School District	7.4	26.0	50.6	15.9
Westminster Community Charter School	0.0	10.5	59.6	29.8
Buffalo City School District	7.4	26.0	50.6	15.9

*Since the CSAT draws most of its students from Buffalo, comparisons with that district are also provided.

**Too few students to report.

Table 6
Grade 8 English Language Arts (ELA)
2004-05 School Year Results

Charter School and District of Location	Percent of Students Scoring At:			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Beginning with Children Charter School	0.0	63.4	34.1	2.4
NYC CSD#14	10.9	64.5	22.3	2.2
Bronx Preparatory Charter School	1.9	40.4	57.7	0.0
NYC CSD#9	12.4	67.6	18.6	1.4
Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School	13.6	72.7	13.6	0.0
Buffalo City School District	17.1	56.9	22.1	4.0
Charter School for Applied Technologies	7.3	65.5	27.3	0.0
Kenmore-Tonawanda CSD	2.9	38.5	50.6	8.9
Buffalo City School District	17.1	56.9	22.1	4.0
Charter School of Science and Technology	12.7	71.6	14.7	1.0
Rochester City School District	15.5	67.0	15.8	1.7
Enterprise Charter School	20.4	63.3	16.3	0.0
Buffalo City School District	17.1	56.9	22.1	4.0

Harbor Science and Arts Charter School	3.7	63.0	33.3	0.0
NYC CSD #4	13.9	65.2	19.0	1.9
John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School	0.0	91.7	8.3	0.0
NYC CSD#2	3.0	40.8	43.9	12.3
KIPP Academy Charter School	0.0	28.6	61.2	10.2
NYC CSD#7	22.4	66.8	10.3	0.5
Renaissance Charter School	0.0	48.0	48.0	4.0
NYC CSD#30	7.8	52.7	33.1	6.4
Rochester Leadership Academy Charter School	2.1	68.8	29.2	0.0
Rochester City School District	15.5	67.0	15.8	1.7
South Buffalo Charter School	0.0	57.1	34.7	8.2
Buffalo City School District	17.1	56.9	22.1	4.0
Stepping Stone Academy Charter School	11.1	68.9	20.0	0.0
Buffalo City School District	17.1	56.9	22.1	4.0
Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School	9.6	53.0	34.9	2.4
Syracuse City School District	16.3	61.4	19.8	2.5
Westminster Community Charter School	0.0	49.1	47.2	3.8
Buffalo City School District	17.1	56.9	22.1	4.0

Table 7
Grade 8 Mathematics
2004-05 School Year Results

Charter School and District of Location	Percent of Students Scoring At:			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Beginning with Children Charter School	0.0	17.8	51.1	31.1
NYC CSD #14	22.0	40.8	33.3	3.9
Bronx Preparatory Charter School	7.5	39.6	50.9	1.9
NYC CSD #9	33.5	45.0	20.6	0.9
Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School	21.3	63.9	14.8	0.0
Buffalo City School District	32.2	43.5	23.1	1.2
Charter School for Applied Technologies	6.8	53.4	39.8	0.0
Kenmore-Tonawanda Central School District	7.0	25.5	59.7	7.9
Buffalo City School District	32.2	43.5	23.1	1.2
Charter School of Science and Technology	27.7	56.4	16.0	0.0
Rochester City School District	34.6	46.1	18.7	0.6
Enterprise Charter School	50.0	41.7	8.3	0.0
Buffalo City School District	32.2	43.5	23.1	1.2
Harbor Science and Arts Charter School	7.4	44.4	48.1	0.0
NYC CSD #4	25.8	46.9	25.2	2.2
John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School	11.1	88.9	0.0	0.0
NYC CSD #2	8.7	26.5	49.1	15.7
KIPP Academy Charter School	0.0	8.3	87.5	4.2
NYC CSD#7	39.0	41.8	18.6	0.6
Renaissance Charter School	8.2	32.7	55.1	4.1
NYC CSD#30	17.7	38.1	37.4	6.9
Rochester Leadership Academy Charter School	25.0	56.8	18.2	0.0
Rochester City School District	34.6	46.1	18.7	0.6
South Buffalo Charter School	8.2	36.7	55.1	0.0
Buffalo City School District	32.2	43.5	23.1	1.2
Stepping Stone Academy Charter School	27.3	47.7	25.0	0.0
Buffalo City School District	32.2	43.5	23.1	1.2
Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School	34.2	31.6	32.9	1.3
Syracuse City School District	33.2	46.0	19.8	1.0
Westminster Community Charter School	1.9	34.0	62.3	1.9
Buffalo City School District	32.2	43.5	23.1	1.2

**Table 8
General Education Students First Entering Grade 9 in September 2000
Summary of Regents English and Mathematics Graduation Requirements
Results as of June 2005**

Test and School	Number of General Education Students in Cohort	Percent of Cohort:						
		Not Tested	Receiving Regents Credit for Approved Alternative	Scoring 0-54	Scoring 55-64	Scoring 65-84	Scoring 85-100	Scoring 55-100 or Receiving Regents Credits for an Approved Alternative
<i>Regents English</i>								
John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School	99	60.6	0.0	3.0	14.1	18.2	4.0	0.0
Renaissance Charter School	39	2.6	0.0	5.1	17.9	43.6	30.8	0.0
NYC Public HS	54,172	15.8	0.0	8.0	10.5	42.9	22.7	0.0
<i>Regents Mathematics</i>								
John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School	99	80.8	0.0	2.0	8.1	9.1	0.0	0.0
Renaissance Charter School	39	0.0	0.0	10.3	28.2	59.0	2.6	0.0
NYC Public HS	54,172	16.8	0.0	7.2	12.7	47.5	15.9	0.0

Financial Audits of Charter Schools

Education Law Article 56 requires that charter schools obtain annual independent financial audits by a licensed certified public accountant or public accountant as set forth in their charter. These independent audits must be conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting and audit standards.

The following tables present data obtained from charter school annual financial statement audits for the 2004-05 school year. Information from the statements was consolidated where possible to facilitate comparisons among schools.

Table 9 summarizes the financial position of each school as well as the net results of operations for the year. Fifteen of the schools submitting statements had a decrease in unrestricted net assets (fund balance) for the year and ten schools had total liabilities exceeding total assets. Overall, unrestricted net assets increased by \$15.9 million to a net total of \$49.3 million for all schools.

Table 10 shows a breakdown of revenues and expenses. Revenue and Support totaled \$186.6 million, an increase of \$29.1 million from the 2003-04 school year. The base funding that a charter school receives depends on the number of students enrolled and the adjusted expense per pupil (AEP). The base funding is received from the districts of residence for the enrolled students and represents the primary source of funds for charter schools. Base funding amounts are reported under the heading of Government Contracts and Grants in Table 10. Schools also may receive private grants, contributions and other revenue (such as interest). Government contracts and grants accounted for 89 percent of total Revenue and Support for the charter schools reporting fiscal data. Private grants, contributions and other revenue accounted for about seven percent of total.

Expenses totaled \$170.7 million, an increase of \$29.4 million from the 2003-04 school year. Most school financial statements show a breakdown of expenses by the categories of program and management and general expenses. For schools reporting expenses in this manner, program expenses were about 83 percent of total expenses.

Table 9
Charter Schools Data Related to Financial Position and Change in Net Assets 2004-05

School Name	Assets	Liabilities	Total Net Assets or Fund Balance	Change in Unrestricted Net Assets or Fund Balance (see Table 10)
Amber Charter School	\$4,760,718	\$3,175,409	1,585,309	\$849,941
Ark Community Charter School	2,558,742	518,604	2,040,138	186,956
Beginning with Children Charter School	1,828,100	1,054,239	773,861	-179,133
Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys	3,274,250	3,515,232	-240,982	-123,341
Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls	3,293,126	3,527,334	-234,208	-152,587
Bronx Charter School for Better Learning	921,158	230,307	690,851	-66,764
Bronx Charter School for Children	248,421	80,290	168,131	82,754
Bronx Charter School for Excellence	537,220	355,390	181,830	-329,221
Bronx Charter School for the Arts	1,222,016	102,864	1,119,152	445,343
Bronx Lighthouse Charter School	512,250	390,285	121,965	121,965
Bronx Preparatory Charter School	20,247,492	4,966,951	15,280,541	4,108,864
Brooklyn Charter School (formerly Clearpool)	189,628	260,684	-71,056	11,792
Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School	885,756	831,214	54,542	27,493
Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School	791,593	363,631	427,962	377,435
Buffalo United Charter School	128,420	89,564	38,856	19,044
Carl C. Icahn Charter School	1,168,742	727,723	441,019	103,507
Central New York CS for Math and Science *				
Charter School for Applied Technologies	26,818,544	23,249,253	3,569,291	2,028,447
Charter School of Science and Technology *				
Child Development Center of the Hamptons Charter School	904,290	728,785	175,505	158,406
COMMUNITY Charter School	\$773,016	\$439,871	333,145	\$320,583
Community Partnership Charter School	784,555	238,586	545,969	333,825
Enterprise Charter School	1,358,705	1,045,069	313,636	459,644
Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School	870,845	194,078	676,767	297,320
Excellence Charter School of Bedford-Stuyvesant	297,813	178,772	119,041	119,041
School Name	Assets	Liabilities	Total Net Assets or Fund Balance	Change in Unrestricted Net Assets or Fund Balance (see Table 10)
Explore Charter School	673,620	315,670	357,950	173,338
Family Life Academy Charter School	973,174	92,854	880,320	-123,927
Genesee Community Charter School	1,555,490	80,865	1,474,625	322,189
Global Concepts Charter School	1,431,525	762,523	669,002	647,857
Grand Concourse Academy Charter School	420,374	295,339	125,035	125,035
Harbor Science and Arts Charter School	312,921	253,066	59,855	86,555
Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School	529,574	24,345	505,229	133,368

Harlem Day Charter School	6,847,903	684,528	6,163,375	1,738,591
Harlem Village Academy Charter School (formerly East Harlem Village Academy Charter School)	683,530	76,198	607,332	348,857
Harriet Tubman Charter School	2,302,447	3,049,044	-746,594	-504,935
International Charter School of Schenectady	657,463	406,433	251,030	230,397
John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School	2,809,459	441,273	2,368,186	515,353
King Center Charter School	452,664	117,759	334,905	54,721
KIPP Academy Charter School*			0	
KIPP Sankofa Charter School	603,844	290,183	313,661	103,104
KIPP S.T.A.R. Charter School	997,653	259,863	737,790	465,616
Merrick Academy-Queens Public Charter School	1,702,026	1,964,735	-262,709	-11,545
New Covenant Charter School	19,804,678	20,163,336	-358,658	-244,656
Opportunity Charter School	413,280	357,245	56,035	56,035
Our World Neighborhood Charter School	3,417,248	1,773,162	1,644,086	840,468
Peninsula Preparatory Academy Charter School	196,379	200,751	-4,372	-4,372
Pinnacle Charter School	1,222,649	554,399	668,250	376,989
ReadNet Bronx Charter School*				
Renaissance Charter School	1,567,083	0	1,567,083	-223,549
Riverhead Charter School	5,382,519	6,497,747	-1,115,228	-593,928
Rochester Leadership Academy Charter School	572,913	524,383	48,530	9,050
School Name	Assets	Liabilities	Total Net Assets or Fund Balance	Change in Unrestricted Net Assets or Fund Balance (see Table 10)
Roosevelt Children's Academy Charter School	2,114,134	1,486,128	628,006	484,250
Sisulu Children's Academy – Harlem Public Charter School	807,513	327,908	479,605	138,714
South Buffalo Charter School	3,315,614	806,812	2,508,802	307,562
Southside Academy Charter School	461,160	393,169	67,991	25,850
Stepping Stone Academy Charter School	5,313,758	5,820,216	-506,458	-37,583
Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School	488,712	112,495	376,217	130,652
Tapestry Charter School	784,868	461,138	323,730	-17,929
Western New York Maritime Charter School	547,149	136,797	410,352	605,639
Westminster Community Charter School	1,443,728	564,653	879,075	879,075
Williamsburg Charter High School	384,794	669,235	-284,441	-302,563
Totals	\$145,567,246	\$96,228,387	\$49,338,859	\$15,935,592

Source: Audited Financial Statements July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005. * Financial Statements not received.

Table 10
Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets for Charter Schools 2004-05

School Name	Revenues				Expenses			Change in Unrestricted Net Assets or Fund Balance
	Government Contracts and Grants	Private Grants, Contributions and Other Revenue	Net Assets Released from Restrictions or Proceeds From Long-Term Debt	Total Revenue & Support	Program	Mgmt. & General	Total Expenses	
Amber Charter School	2,856,932	279,322	772,021	3,908,275	2,853,432	204,902	3,058,334	849,941

Ark Community Charter School	1,448,447	275,015	0	1,723,462	1,132,700	403,806	1,536,506	186,956
Beginning with Children Charter School	4,353,723	202,376	13,828	4,569,927	4,277,080	471,980	4,749,060	-179,133
Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys	853,173	149,414	0	1,002,587	967,865	158,063	1,125,928	-123,341
Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls	983,766	131,480	0	1,115,246	1,111,058	156,775	1,267,833	-152,587
Bronx Charter School for Better Learning	2,209,854	218,747	399,241	2,827,842	2,396,839	497,767	2,894,606	-66,764
Bronx Charter School for Children	1,071,261	48,981	0	1,120,242	835,057	202,431	1,037,488	82,754
Bronx Charter School for Excellence	1,517,018	91,141	0	1,608,159	1,641,489	295,891	1,937,380	-329,221
Bronx Charter School for the Arts	1,230,370	227,708	365,902	1,823,980	1,129,539	249,098	1,378,637	445,343
Bronx Lighthouse Charter School	1,480,567	211,636	0	1,692,203	1,281,995	288,243	1,570,238	121,965
Bronx Preparatory Charter School	4,752,717	1,191,834	2,485,184	8,429,735	3,935,680	385,191	4,320,871	4,108,864
Brooklyn Charter School (formerly Clearpool)	1,425,661	594,133	0	2,019,794	1,676,736	331,266	2,008,002	11,792
Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School	4,654,183	687,731	0	5,341,914	4,791,482	522,939	5,314,421	27,493
Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School	2,278,940	8,848	0	2,287,788	1,255,695	654,658	1,910,353	377,435
Buffalo United Charter School	3,904,108	18,031	0	3,922,139	3,282,158	620,937	3,903,095	19,044
Carl C. Icahn Charter School	1,743,219	235,808	210,574	2,189,601	1,820,678	265,416	2,086,094	103,507
Central New York CS for Math and Science *								
Charter School for Applied Technologies	10,354,070	89,136	22,757	10,465,963	6,882,921	1,554,595	8,437,516	2,028,447
Charter School of Science and Technology *								
Child Development Center of the Hamptons CS*	2,401,245	128,753	0	2,529,998	2,044,611	326,981	2,371,592	158,406
COMMUNITY Charter School	2,381,417	6,384	0	2,387,801	1,668,900	398,318	2,067,218	320,583
Community Partnership Charter School	2,790,259	191,574	150,000	3,131,833	2,470,009	327,999	2,798,008	333,825
Enterprise Charter School	5,052,825	98,938	0	5,151,763	4,232,550	459,569	4,692,119	459,644
Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School	3,342,078	181,254	0	3,523,332	3,007,424	218,588	3,226,012	297,320
Excellence Charter School of Bedford-Stuyvesant	1,204,163	139,592	0	1,343,755	1,150,250	74,464	1,224,714	119,041
Explore Charter School	2,668,145	320,971	0	2,989,116	2,259,688	556,090	2,815,778	173,338
Family Life Academy Charter School	1,671,360	48,416	132,405	1,852,181	1,493,992	482,116	1,976,108	-123,927
Genesee Community Charter School	1,908,778	92,079	126,148	2,127,005	1,527,327	277,489	1,804,816	322,189
Global Concepts Charter School	3,776,293	57,490	0	3,833,783	2,676,392	509,534	3,185,926	647,857
Grand Concourse Academy Charter School	1,993,731	9,957	0	2,003,688	1,640,499	238,154	1,878,653	125,035
Harbor Science and Arts Charter School	2,158,528	43,250	0	2,201,778	2,036,961	78,262	2,115,223	86,555
Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School	2,356,051	58,936	0	2,414,987	2,194,322	87,297	2,281,619	133,368
Harlem Day Charter School	1,919,693	2,028,967	602,345	4,551,005	2,065,841	746,573	2,812,414	1,738,591
Harlem Village Academy Charter School (formerly East Harlem Village Academy Charter School)	1,462,130	5,050	25,566	1,492,746	1,033,631	110,258	1,143,889	348,857
Harriet Tubman Charter School	2,439,652	237,262	0	2,676,914	3,010,213	171,636	3,181,849	-504,935
International Charter School of Schenectady	4,277,718	11,027	72,632	4,361,377	3,212,664	918,316	4,130,980	230,397
John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy CS	4,455,827	136,435	98,962	4,691,224	3,787,443	388,428	4,175,871	515,353
King Center Charter School	870,804	5,964	403,490	1,280,258	997,510	228,027	1,225,537	54,721
KIPP Academy Charter School*				0			0	0
KIPP Sankofa Charter School	1,210,149	54,107	241,418	1,505,674	1,168,973	233,597	1,402,570	103,104
KIPP S.T.A.R. Charter School	1,515,841	291,489	316,201	2,123,531	1,276,879	381,036	1,657,915	465,616
Merrick Academy-Queens Public CS	4,228,863	4,616	0	4,233,479	3,308,605	936,419	4,245,024	-11,545
New Covenant Charter School	7,985,180	451,411	288,292	8,724,883	7,218,855	1,750,684	8,969,539	-244,656

Opportunity Charter School	2,007,421	13,273	0	2,020,694	1,514,511	450,148	1,964,659	56,035
Our World Neighborhood Charter School*	5,866,444	57,955	0	5,924,399	4,072,917	1,011,014	5,083,931	840,468
Peninsula Preparatory Academy Charter School	1,348,917	2,740	0	1,351,657	983,875	372,154	1,356,029	-4,372
Pinnacle Charter School	2,866,578	31,733	0	2,898,311	2,176,006	345,316	2,521,322	376,989
ReadNet Bronx Charter School*								
Renaissance Charter School	4,901,640	124,821	0	5,026,461	4,172,843	1,077,167	5,250,010	-223,549
Riverhead Charter School	2,222,207	3,294	0	2,225,501	2,346,402	473,027	2,819,429	-593,928
Rochester Leadership Academy Charter School	5,691,105	17,731	0	5,708,836	4,940,273	759,513	5,699,786	9,050
Roosevelt Children's Academy Charter School	3,997,864	46,701	0	4,044,565	2,543,392	1,016,923	3,560,315	484,250
Sisulu Children's Academy – Harlem Public Charter School	2,351,488	523,714	0	2,875,202	2,193,709	542,779	2,736,488	138,714
South Buffalo Charter School	5,042,530	52,044	0	5,094,574	4,008,464	778,548	4,787,012	307,562
Southside Academy Charter School	2,900,515	1,006,684	0	3,907,199	3,344,897	536,452	3,881,349	25,850
Stepping Stone Academy Charter School	4,255,708	38,684	912,191	5,206,583	4,515,286	728,880	5,244,166	-37,583
Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School	2,127,591	15,140	0	2,142,731	1,128,923	883,156	2,012,079	130,652
Tapestry Charter School	1,625,763	117,715	101,995	1,845,473	1,230,075	633,327	1,863,402	-17,929
Western New York Maritime Charter School	1,110,053	261,407	459,557	1,831,017	851,285	374,093	1,225,378	605,639
Westminster Community Charter School	4,946,994	591,442	0	5,538,436	4,146,075	513,286	4,659,361	879,075
Williamsburg Charter High School	1,722,562	74,939	0	1,797,501	1,235,222	864,842	2,100,064	-302,563
Totals	\$166,174,119	\$12,245,280	\$8,200,709	\$186,620,108	\$142,160,098	\$28,524,418	\$170,684,516	\$15,935,592

Source: Audited Financial Statements July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005.

* Financial Statements not received.

Other Information Regarding Charter Schools

Article 56 authorizes the Board of Regents to include in this report any other information that it deems necessary. This section includes observations and reflections based on concerns that have arisen since the enactment of Article 56. Though the Department has developed policies and procedures to address both the letter and the spirit of the statute, concerns remain. The most relevant of these concerns are listed below in an attempt to help focus future discussion on potential amendment recommendations to the Legislature.

Application Process

1. §2852(1) of the Education Law should be amended to require the submission of applications by July 1, rather than October 1, in order to trigger the requirement that action be taken by the charter entity on or before January 1 of the succeeding calendar year. This will allow the charter entities more time to interact meaningfully with the applicants to reach a decision regarding approval, and will also provide earlier notification to districts regarding the possible establishment of a charter school within their boundaries.
2. §2852(5-a) of the Education Law should be amended to allow the Board of Regents 120 days to review and approve proposed charters submitted by other charter entities. This would allow for a more meaningful interaction between the charter entities as well as provide sufficient time for the review process itself.
3. §2854(2)(b) of the Education Law should be amended to provide that, in New York City, the student's district of residence for purposes of the enrollment preference for students residing in the school district would be the Community School District in which s/he resides.

Conversion Process

1. §2851(3)(c) of the Education Law should be amended to require that a Board of Education, when acting in its capacity of a charter entity, enter into a memorandum of agreement with the school before its conversion, to define the support and the services that will be provided by the Board to the charter school. It should also specify any agreements that have been reached regarding facilities, disposition of supplies and equipment, and personnel issues such as pension benefits. This will help to alleviate confusion after the fact and will more clearly describe ahead of time the roles and responsibilities of all parties.
2. §2851(3)(c) of the Education Law should be further amended to allow the Commissioner of Education to promulgate regulations describing the process by which the parents or guardians of a majority of the students then enrolled in the existing public school shall vote on the issue of conversion. This will help ensure that consistent processes are enacted to provide for a fair and meaningful vote.

Renewal Process

1. §2851(4) of the Education Law sets forth the current process for the renewal of charters. Charters may be renewed for a term of up to five years. It is recommended that this portion of the law be amended to allow for charters to be renewed for up to ten (10) years. The discretion for the actual length of the renewed charter should remain with the charter entity. This will allow successful charter schools to more successfully negotiate leases, loans, and lines of credit when seeking to expand their facilities. The charter entities would maintain their right and responsibility to oversee and monitor the continued educational and fiscal soundness of the schools, and to require corrective action as necessary. The Department would also maintain its role as the ultimate overseer of all public schools.

Relocation of Charter Schools

1. A new subdivision 7-a should be added to §2852 of the Education Law to require that, where a charter is amended upon renewal or otherwise to relocate the charter school to a new school district, an analysis of community support and the programmatic and fiscal impact of the charter school on the proposed new school district of location and other public and nonpublic schools must be conducted. At least 45 days' notice of the proposed relocation should be given to the proposed new school district of location, so that it has an opportunity to comment on the relocation and to hold a public hearing to solicit comment from the community.

Financing of Charter Schools

1. §2853(1)(d) and §2853(3)(b) should be amended to allow charter schools access to financing of the construction or renovation of facilities through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, including the ability to pledge or assign monies provided under §2856.
2. §2856(2) of the Education Law should be amended to allow the Commissioner of Education to impose a financial penalty or other sanction upon a school district for its persistent failure to pay monies owed to charter schools. Commissioner's Regulation 119.1 would also be amended to reflect this proposed change in the law. This will help to ensure timely payments to the charter schools. If the districts dispute the enrollment figures, they must use the complaint procedure described in §2855(4) of the Education Law.
3. The current method for determining the level of per pupil payments to charter schools should be reviewed by the Legislature to determine if differential funding by grade level would be more appropriate, and, if so, the formula by which such determinations would be made.

Facilities

1. §2853(3) of the Education Law should be amended to require that the State Education Department, rather than local building code enforcement officials, approve the plans and specifications and issue certificates of occupancy for charter school facilities. This would not be retroactive but would pertain to all charter school applications approved after February 1, 2004 for charter schools that seek to commence instruction in September 2005.

Charter School Operation

1. §§2853(4)(c) and 1950(4)(h) of the Education Law should be amended to provide Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) with the authority to provide the same services to charter schools, at cost, as they do for public school districts and to explicitly authorize school districts to similarly contract with a charter school to provide services at cost . Education Law §282 should also be amended to authorize school library systems to provide services to charter school libraries. This will allow charter schools to operate in a more efficient manner, and provide charter school students with the benefit of access to the same service providers that serve other public schools.
2. The current special education IEP service delivery and funding scheme should be reviewed to determine if there is a more cost efficient and programmatically effective approach to delivery of special education programs and services to students with disabilities enrolled in charter school.

APPENDIX A

District Responses