

VI.C.

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

TO BE PROPOSED:

June 26, 2013

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the distribution of 567 additional seats among existing state charter schools for the 2013-14 school year.

Approved by a vote of 8:0, this twenty-sixth day of June, Two Thousand Thirteen.

Signed: Allan B. Taylor (pc)
Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson
State Board of Education

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Debra Kurshan, Chief Turnaround Officer
DATE: June 26, 2013
SUBJECT: Approval of Charter School Enrollments

Executive Summary

Introduction

In accordance with the provisions of Section 10-66bb(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) seeks the State Board of Education's (SBE) approval of the charter school enrollments for the 2013-14 school year.

History/Background

Section 10-66bb(c) of the C.G.S. provides, in part, "(1) Except as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, no state charter school shall enroll (A) (i) more than two hundred fifty students, or (ii) in the case of a kindergarten to grade eight, inclusive, school, more than three hundred students... (2) In the case of a state charter school found by the State Board of Education to have a demonstrated record of achievement, said board shall, upon application by such school to said board, waive the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection for each school." Tables 2-9 are attached showing each school's demonstrated record of achievement.

The CSDE seeks the SBE's approval of charter school enrollments on an annual basis. Each charter school submitted a 2013-14 projected enrollment request to the CSDE in August 2012 that was used to develop the budget. Schools were then asked to confirm their projections in April 2013. Due to enrollment fluctuations that occurred during the year, the total projected enrollments from April 2013 exceeded the state budget for charter schools for 2013-14 by seven seats. The CSDE worked with the charters to make enrollment adjustments to meet the state budget for 2013-14.

The SBE's authorization will provide a total of 7,018 seats in existing state charter schools for the 2013-14 school year, which represents an additional 567 seats compared to last year, and is within the state budget charter school appropriation of \$75,474,000 for the 2013-14 fiscal year. The state budget utilizes the appropriate statutory per-pupil rate for state charter schools of \$10,500 for 2013-14.

The total increase of 567 seats includes the projected growth of 91 seats in four charter schools operating within the enrollment cap (Common Ground High School, ISAAC, Stamford Academy and Trailblazers), a two-seat reduction from last year for Explorations Charter School, and 478 seats requested, pursuant to the CSDE's authority to waive enrollment caps, as per Section 10-66bb(c)(2) of the C.G.S.

Enrollment Increase Waiver Requests

Charter schools must apply to the CSDE for permission to expand enrollment beyond the statutory limit of 300 seats for schools authorized to serve Grades K-8, and 250 for all other grade levels. Applications were received from Achievement First Bridgeport, Achievement First Hartford, Amistad Academy, Elm City College Preparatory School, Highville Charter School, Jumoke Academy and Park City Prep. The applications were reviewed by a charter school advisory committee consisting of CSDE staff. Of the authorized 567 seats, 478 seats were requested by the seven schools noted above.

Achievement First Bridgeport

Achievement First Bridgeport (AFB) has requested an increase of 166 seats to add new Grades 3 and 11, as per their growth plan approved in their charter application. The school presented a strong record of student achievement and academic improvement.

Based on the review of AFB's Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) performance, I recommend granting an enrollment waiver to add 166 seats to the 2013-14 enrollment, for a total of 837 seats.

Achievement First Hartford

Achievement First Hartford (AFH) has requested an increase of 71 seats to expand enrollment in current grades and add a new Grade 10 (VI.A.). The school presented a strong record of student achievement and academic improvement.

Based on the review of AFH's CMT performance, I recommend granting an enrollment waiver to add 71 seats to the 2013-14 enrollment, for a total of 874 seats.

Amistad Academy, New Haven

Amistad Academy (Amistad) has requested an increase of 60 seats to expand enrollment in current grades to meet the demand for high-quality schools. The school presented a strong record of student achievement and academic improvement.

Based on the review of Amistad's CMT and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) performance, I recommend granting an enrollment waiver to add 60 seats to the 2013-14 enrollment, for a total of 941 seats.

Elm City College Preparatory School, New Haven

Elm City College Preparatory School (ECCPS) has requested an increase of 38 seats to expand enrollment in current grades to meet the demand for high-quality schools. The school presented a strong record of student achievement and academic improvement.

Based on the review of ECCPS's CMT and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) performance, I recommend granting an enrollment waiver to add 38 seats to the 2013-14 enrollment, for a total of 635 seats.

Highville Charter School, Hamden

Highville Charter School (Highville) has requested an increase of 20 seats to add a new Grade 9. The school presented a strong record of student achievement and academic improvement.

Under its charter approved by the SBE in 2010, Highville is authorized to provide instruction in Grades PK-8. Given the demand by parents for a continuum of educational experience at the charter school, Highville seeks to expand its grade levels to offer Grade 9, which includes 20 students. In order to provide a continuum of educational experience, Highville will submit a request to add Grades 10 through 12 as part of

the charter renewal in 2014. The curricula and student assessment system for the Highville Grade 9 will be submitted to the CSDE for approval on July 17, 2013.

I recommend amending the charter to add Grade 9 and granting an enrollment waiver to add 20 seats to the 2013-14 enrollment, for a total of 360 seats, conditioned on approval of the curricula and assessment system submitted to the state on July 17, 2013.

Jumoke Academy, Hartford

Jumoke Academy (Jumoke) has requested an increase of 113 seats to expand enrollment in current grades and add a new Grade 10. The school presented a strong record of student achievement and academic improvement.

Under its charter approved by the SBE in 2012, Jumoke is authorized to provide instruction in Grades K-9. Given the demand by parents for a continuum of the high school experience at the charter school, Jumoke seeks to expand enrollment in current grades and add a new Grade 10 in 2013-14. Jumoke plans to add Grades 11 and 12 in succeeding years. Expanding grade levels beyond the original SBE approved charter requires an amendment to the charter (VI.B.).

Based on the review of Jumoke's CMT performance, I recommend granting an enrollment waiver to add 113 seats to the 2013-14 enrollment, for a total of 705 seats.

Park City Prep

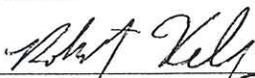
Park City Prep (Park City) has requested an increase of 10 seats to expand enrollment in current grades to meet the demand for high-quality schools. The school presented a strong record of student achievement and academic improvement.

Based on the review of Park City's CMT performance, I recommend granting an enrollment waiver to add 10 seats to the 2013-14 enrollment, for a total of 260 seats.

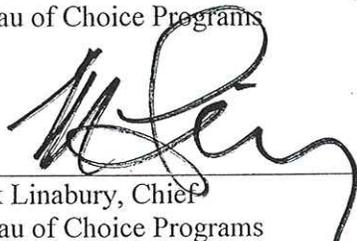
Recommendation and Justification

I recommend that the SBE authorize 567 additional seats, for a total of 7,018 seats in existing charter schools, for the 2013-14 school year. The authorization of an additional 567 seats for the 2013-14 school year is within the state budget charter school appropriation of \$73,694,276 for the 2013-14 fiscal year. The 2013-14 Charter School Enrollment Summary is attached.

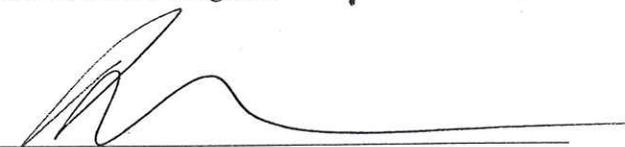
Prepared by:


Robert Kelly, Charter School Program Manager
Bureau of Choice Programs

Reviewed by:


Mark Linabury, Chief
Bureau of Choice Programs

Approved by:


Debra Kurshan
Chief Turnaround Officer

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I recommend amending the charter to add Grade 9 and granting an enrollment waiver to add 20 seats to the 2013-14 enrollment, for a total of 360 seats, conditioned on approval of the curricula and assessment system submitted to the state on July 17, 2013.

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Based on the review of Jumoke’s CMT performance, I recommend granting an enrollment waiver to add 113 seats to the 2013-14 enrollment, for a total of 705 seats.

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Prepared by: _____
Robert Kelly, Charter School Program Manager
Bureau of Choice Programs

Reviewed by: _____
Mark Linabury, Chief
Bureau of Choice Programs

Approved by: _____
Debra Kurshan
Chief Turnaround Officer

Table 1 - 2013-14 Charter School Enrollment Summary

Charter School Name	2012-13 Grade Levels	2012-13 Eligible Enrollment	2013-14 Grades Requested	2013-14 Enrollment Requested	Enrollment Increase Requested
*Achievement First Bridgeport	K-2, 5-10	671	3,11	837	166
*Achievement First Hartford	K-9	803	10	874	71
*Amistad Academy	K-12	881	None	941	60
The Bridge Academy	7-12	275	None	275	0
Common Ground High School	9-12	164	None	180	16
*Elm City College Preparatory School	K-12	597	None	635	38
Explorations Charter School	9-12	85	None	83	-2
*Highville Charter School	PK-8	340	9	360	20
Integrated Day Charter School	PK-8	330	None	330	0
ISAAC	6-8	191	None	246	55
*Jumoke Academy	PK-9	592	10	705	113
New Beginnings Family Academy	PK-8	400	None	400	0
Odyssey Community School	K-8	324	None	324	0
*Park City Prep	6-8	250	None	260	10
Side by Side Community School	PK-8	236	None	236	0
Stamford Academy	9-12	136	None	144	8
Trailblazers Academy	6-8	176	None	188	12
Total		6,451		7,018	567

* Enrollment waiver requested.

Table 2

CMT Data Comparison: State, Bridgeport and Achievement First Hartford

Grade 5	Year	Mathematics					Reading					Writing					Science				
		Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Average Scale Score	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Average Scale Score	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency		
		State	39,641	72.6	87.8	39,186	61.8	75.4	256.8	68.2	87.3	41,012	75.4	87.3	256.8	68.2	87.3	41,070	59.7	82.5	
	2010																				
	2011	39,298	72.7	87.6	38,972	61.4	75.1	257.0	66.8	88.0	40,756	75.1	88.0	257.0	66.8	88.0	40,798	60.2	82.4		
	2012	38,800	71.8	85.7	38,386	67.7	79.7	255.8	68.1	88.5	40,364	79.7	88.5	255.8	68.1	88.5	40,418	64.1	82.4		
Bridgeport	2010	1,400	40.2	66.5	1,391	24.7	39.5	226.7	40.2	71.0	1,456	39.5	71.0	226.7	40.2	71.0	1,451	19.6	50.0		
	2011	1,473	40.6	64.8	1,454	25.3	40.9	224.6	36.2	68.9	1,533	40.9	68.9	224.6	36.2	68.9	1,544	22.9	51.2		
	2012	1,369	40.5	61.6	1,362	32.3	48.1	226.6	37.8	70.1	1,465	48.1	70.1	226.6	37.8	70.1	1,463	26.2	51.7		
Achievement First	2010	72	63.9	81.9	72	23.6	31.9	223.7	36.0	69.3	75	31.9	69.3	223.7	36.0	69.3	75	21.3	54.7		
	2011	81	46.9	70.4	82	23.2	42.7	224.5	32.9	72.9	85	42.7	72.9	224.5	32.9	72.9	85	27.1	56.5		
	2012	83	53.0	75.9	78	46.2	60.3	248.4	69.0	92.0	87	60.3	92.0	248.4	69.0	92.0	87	63.2	78.2		

Grade 8	Year	Mathematics					Reading					Writing					Science				
		Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Average Scale Score	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Average Scale Score	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency		
		State	40,096	66.8	86.0	39,992	74.7	83.4	250.9	64.8	81.6	41,413	83.4	81.6	250.9	64.8	81.6	41,499	63.3	75.9	
	2011																				
	2012	40,277	67.4	87.1	40,133	76.8	86.2	255.6	68.4	86.2	41,701	86.2	86.2	255.6	68.4	86.2	41,698	62.1	77.1		
Bridgeport	2011	1,236	31.1	60.7	1,239	43.2	58.4	216.0	29.1	55.2	1,299	58.4	55.2	216.0	29.1	55.2	1,296	25.5	41.8		
	2012	1,338	34.9	64.2	1,354	44.5	59.2	221.9	32.3	63.1	1,423	59.2	63.1	221.9	32.3	63.1	1,413	27.6	46.0		
Achievement First	2011	65	70.8	95.4	65	58.5	70.8	244.6	52.3	83.1	65	70.8	83.1	244.6	52.3	83.1	65	40.0	60.0		
	2012	60	78.3	95.0	59	79.7	89.8	254.5	69.2	95.4	65	89.8	95.4	254.5	69.2	95.4	65	30.8	67.7		

Note: 2011 was the first year that the school educated eighth-graders.

Table 3

CMT Data Comparison: State, Hartford, Achievement First - Hartford

Grade 5	Year	Mathematics			Reading			Writing			Science		
		Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency
State	2010	39,641	72.6	87.8	39,186	61.8	75.4	41,012	68.2	87.3	41,070	59.7	82.5
	2011	39,298	72.7	87.6	38,972	61.4	75.1	40,756	66.8	88.0	40,798	60.2	82.4
	2012	38,800	71.8	85.7	38,386	67.7	79.7	40,364	68.1	88.5	40,418	64.1	82.4
Hartford	2010	1,328	33.4	62.7	1,322	18.0	32.2	1,472	33.4	66.1	1,468	16.2	43.6
	2011	1,269	35.6	63.3	1,265	22.4	39.2	1,414	35.6	71.9	1,413	17.7	46.9
	2012	1,250	36.8	60.2	1,221	36.4	52.7	1,386	42.1	73.0	1,401	26.1	50.0
Achievement First	2010	86	60.5	79.1	86	24.4	36.0	88	60.2	80.7	88	25.0	61.4
	2011	89	61.8	79.8	89	21.3	31.5	90	35.6	73.3	90	27.8	58.9
	2012	89	76.4	91.0	90	45.6	63.3	96	69.8	91.7	96	59.4	84.4

Grade 8	Year	Mathematics			Reading			Writing			Science		
		Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency
State	2012	40,277	67.4	87.1	40,133	76.8	86.2	41,701	68.4	86.2	41,698	62.1	77.1
Hartford	2012	1,446	34.4	64.0	1,424	48.1	65.4	1,577	37.0	67.9	1,583	26.2	43.9
Achievement First	2012	63	69.8	92.1	64	78.1	92.2	68	77.9	91.2	68	69.1	83.8

Note: 2012 was the first year that the school educated students up through eighth grade.

Table 4

CMT Data Comparison: State, New Haven, Amistad Academy

Grade 5	Year	Mathematics			Reading			Writing			Science		
		Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency
State	2010	39,641	72.6	87.8	39,186	61.8	75.4	41,012	68.2	87.3	41,070	59.7	82.5
	2011	39,298	72.7	87.6	38,972	61.4	75.1	40,756	66.8	88.0	40,798	60.2	82.4
	2012	38,800	71.8	85.7	38,386	67.7	79.7	40,364	68.1	88.5	40,418	64.1	82.4
New Haven	2010	1,246	43.7	68.4	1,215	30.8	47.7	1,345	38.7	70.2	1,350	28.1	55.9
	2011	1,225	47.7	72.0	1,202	34.4	49.5	1,335	41.3	74.1	1,341	28.7	58.9
	2012	1,269	45.5	66.2	1,234	39.3	58.2	1,383	46.9	77.9	1,391	33.8	59.5
Amistad Academy	2010	78	65.4	82.1	74	33.8	50.0	79	50.6	83.5	79	29.1	59.5
	2011	79	75.9	89.9	77	24.7	57.1	80	63.8	93.8	80	58.8	87.5
	2012	83	79.5	91.6	82	50.0	61.0	86	55.8	93.0	86	61.6	88.4

Grade 8	Year	Mathematics			Reading			Writing			Science		
		Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency
State	2010	41,163	67.5	86.6	41,060	73.4	82.6	42,265	62.7	80.6	42,301	63.1	76.0
	2011	40,096	66.8	86.0	39,992	74.7	83.4	41,413	64.8	81.6	41,499	63.3	75.9
	2012	40,277	67.4	87.1	40,133	76.8	86.2	41,701	68.4	86.2	41,698	62.1	77.1
New Haven	2010	1,109	40.8	71.6	1,100	48.5	66.5	1,196	29.6	55.3	1,199	30.8	48.5
	2011	1,262	40.8	69.2	1,249	52.1	67.7	1,374	30.6	58.2	1,380	34.3	52.5
	2012	1,221	43.2	73.2	1,218	58.0	74.9	1,336	40.9	70.7	1,337	36.3	56.5
Amistad Academy	2010	55	87.3	98.2	55	76.4	89.1	56	87.5	98.2	56	46.4	67.9
	2011	53	92.5	98.1	53	69.8	86.8	57	78.9	93.0	57	63.2	80.7
	2012	61	90.2	100.0	60	80.0	91.7	62	91.9	95.2	62	69.4	90.3

Table 5

CMT Data Comparison: State, New Haven, Elm City College Prep.

Grade 5	Year	Mathematics			Reading			Writing			Science		
		Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency
State	2010	39,641	72.6	87.8	39,186	61.8	75.4	41,012	68.2	87.3	41,070	59.7	82.5
	2011	39,298	72.7	87.6	38,972	61.4	75.1	40,756	66.8	88.0	40,798	60.2	82.4
	2012	38,800	71.8	85.7	38,386	67.7	79.7	40,364	68.1	88.5	40,418	64.1	82.4
New Haven	2010	1,246	43.7	68.4	1,215	30.8	47.7	1,345	38.7	70.2	1,350	28.1	55.9
	2011	1,225	47.7	72.0	1,202	34.4	49.5	1,335	41.3	74.1	1,341	28.7	58.9
	2012	1,269	45.5	66.2	1,234	39.3	58.2	1,383	46.9	77.9	1,391	33.8	59.5
Elm City Col Prep	2010	50	58.0	68.0	49	30.6	55.1	57	49.1	77.2	57	26.3	47.4
	2011	50	56.0	74.0	48	39.6	47.9	53	49.1	81.1	53	32.1	64.2
	2012	61	55.7	78.7	61	47.5	65.6	61	50.8	83.6	61	44.3	70.5

Grade 8	Year	Mathematics			Reading			Writing			Science		
		Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency
State	2010	41,163	67.5	86.6	41,060	73.4	82.6	42,265	62.7	80.6	42,301	63.1	76.0
	2011	40,096	66.8	86.0	39,992	74.7	83.4	41,413	64.8	81.6	41,499	63.3	75.9
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New Haven	2010	1,109	40.8	71.6	1,100	48.5	66.5	1,196	29.6	55.3	1,199	30.8	48.5
	2011	1,262	40.8	69.2	1,249	52.1	67.7	1,374	30.6	58.2	1,380	34.3	52.5
	2012	1,221	43.2	73.2	1,218	58.0	74.9	1,336	40.9	70.7	1,337	36.3	56.5
Elm City Col Prep	2010	47	85.1	97.9	47	66.0	78.7	47	72.3	91.5	47	68.1	83.0
	2011	42	76.2	95.2	42	64.3	78.6	46	63.0	80.4	46	56.5	76.1
	2012	45	80.0	100.0	44	75.0	93.2	45	82.2	93.3	45	44.4	66.7

Table 6

CAPT Data Comparison: State, New Haven, Amistad Academy, Elm City College Prep.

Grade 10	Year	Mathematics			Science			Reading			Writing		
		Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency
State	2010	40,587	48.9	78.8	41,433	45.5	81.5	40,629	45.9	82.9	41,182	59.6	86.2
	2011	39,972	49.6	80.3	41,037	47.2	81.7	40,035	44.8	81.9	40,718	61.3	88.6
	2012	39,757	49.3	78.8	40,928	47.3	80.2	39,985	47.5	80.9	40,704	63.1	88.8
New Haven	2010	1,165	13.3	49.4	1,216	14.6	53.1	1,159	18.6	59.0	1,193	30.8	70.7
	2011	1,063	17.3	54.1	1,138	17.7	57.6	1,086	16.0	61.2	1,127	33.5	74.5
	2012	1,101	18.2	51.9	1,195	16.7	51.0	1,112	21.0	60.4	1,165	37.5	75.1
Amistad Academy	2010	33	33.3	84.8	33	45.5	84.8	34	26.5	79.4	33	63.6	97.0
	2011	26	53.8	92.3	27	40.7	85.2	28	35.7	92.9	26	92.3	100.0
	2012	26	61.5	96.2	28	21.4	78.6	26	38.5	92.3	26	88.5	96.2
Elm City Col Prep	2010	22	54.5	86.4	23	21.7	69.6	22	45.5	90.9	23	69.6	95.7
	2011	17	47.1	94.1	17	23.5	82.4	17	23.5	94.1	17	82.4	100.0
	2012	30	50.0	93.3	31	22.6	83.9	29	55.2	93.1	29	79.3	96.6

Table 7

CMT Data Comparison: State, Hamden, New Haven, Highville

Grade 5	Year	Mathematics			Reading			Writing			Science		
		Number Tested	At/Above Goal %	% At/Abv. Proficiency	Number Tested	At/Above Goal %	% At/Abv. Proficiency	Number Tested	At/Above Goal %	% At/Abv. Proficiency	Number Tested	At/Above Goal %	% At/Abv. Proficiency
State	2010	39,641	72.6	87.8	39,186	61.8	75.4	41,012	68.2	87.3	41,070	59.7	82.5
	2011	39,298	72.7	87.6	38,972	61.4	75.1	40,756	66.8	88.0	40,798	60.2	82.4
	2012	38,800	71.8	85.7	38,386	67.7	79.7	40,364	68.1	88.5	40,418	64.1	82.4
Hamden	2010	411	66.4	84.4	398	56.5	69.3	423	63.6	84.4	424	53.8	78.5
	2011	405	65.9	83.7	398	54.5	70.6	434	59.9	82.7	436	51.8	75.7
	2012	361	64.3	86.1	359	61.8	76.6	386	59.3	84.7	387	57.1	79.6
New Haven	2010	1,246	43.7	68.4	1,215	30.8	47.7	1,345	38.7	70.2	1,350	28.1	55.9
	2011	1,225	47.7	72.0	1,202	34.4	49.5	1,335	41.3	74.1	1,341	28.7	58.9
	2012	1,269	45.5	66.2	1,234	39.3	58.2	1,383	46.9	77.9	1,391	33.8	59.5
Highville	2010	17	94.1	100.0	17	64.7	88.2	17	70.6	100.0	17	17.6	82.4
	2011	32	90.6	100.0	32	56.3	81.3	32	71.9	96.9	32	37.5	71.9
	2012	37	59.5	83.8	36	50.0	75.0	39	59.0	82.1	39	38.5	76.9

Grade 8	Year	Mathematics			Reading			Writing			Science		
		Number Tested	At/Above Goal %	% At/Abv. Proficiency	Number Tested	At/Above Goal %	% At/Abv. Proficiency	Number Tested	At/Above Goal %	% At/Abv. Proficiency	Number Tested	At/Above Goal %	% At/Abv. Proficiency
State	2010	41,163	67.5	86.6	41,060	73.4	82.6	42,265	62.7	80.6	42,301	63.1	76.0
	2011	40,096	66.8	86.0	39,992	74.7	83.4	41,413	64.8	81.6	41,499	63.3	75.9
	2012	40,277	67.4	87.1	40,133	76.8	86.2	41,701	68.4	86.2	41,698	62.1	77.1
Hamden	2010	434	60.8	85.3	426	71.8	81.2	455	53.2	75.2	455	50.3	66.2
	2011	408	55.4	80.9	416	67.1	77.9	443	58.0	76.1	441	48.1	61.7
	2012	431	54.5	79.8	426	66.7	78.4	467	56.7	79.9	465	48.2	64.3
New Haven	2010	1,109	40.8	71.6	1,100	48.5	66.5	1,196	29.6	55.3	1,199	30.8	48.5
	2011	1,262	40.8	69.2	1,249	52.1	67.7	1,374	30.6	58.2	1,380	34.3	52.5
	2012	1,221	43.2	73.2	1,218	58.0	74.9	1,336	40.9	70.7	1,337	36.3	56.5
Highville	2010	17	47.1	82.4	17	70.6	76.5	17	58.8	70.6	17	35.3	64.7

2011	14	35.7	85.7	13	46.2	53.8	16	37.5	68.8	16	18.8	37.5
2012	16	62.5	93.8	16	68.8	75.0	16	75.0	93.8	16	18.8	56.3

Table 8

CMT Data Comparison: State, Hartford, Jumoke Academy

Grade 5	Year	Mathematics			Reading			Writing			Science		
		Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency
		State	39,641	72.6	87.8	39,186	61.8	75.4	41,012	68.2	87.3	41,070	59.7
	2011	39,298	72.7	87.6	38,972	61.4	75.1	40,756	66.8	88.0	40,798	60.2	82.4
	2012	38,800	71.8	85.7	38,386	67.7	79.7	40,364	68.1	88.5	40,418	64.1	82.4
Hartford	2010	1,328	33.4	62.7	1,322	18.0	32.2	1,472	33.4	66.1	1,468	16.2	43.6
	2011	1,269	35.6	63.3	1,265	22.4	39.2	1,414	35.6	71.9	1,413	17.7	46.9
	2012	1,250	36.8	60.2	1,221	36.4	52.7	1,386	42.1	73.0	1,401	26.1	50.0
Jumoke Academy	2010	39	59.0	87.2	39	35.9	61.5	42	57.1	83.3	42	28.6	66.7
	2011	46	54.3	89.1	45	57.8	82.2	46	80.4	97.8	46	21.7	67.4
	2012	45	68.9	86.7	44	65.9	77.3	48	64.6	87.5	48	43.8	64.6

Grade 8	Year	Mathematics			Reading			Writing			Science		
		Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency
		State	41,163	67.5	86.6	41,060	73.4	82.6	42,265	62.7	80.6	42,301	63.1
	2011	40,096	66.8	86.0	39,992	74.7	83.4	41,413	64.8	81.6	41,499	63.3	75.9
	2012	40,277	67.4	87.1	40,133	76.8	86.2	41,701	68.4	86.2	41,698	62.1	77.1
Hartford	2010	1,393	32.9	63.1	1,404	44.9	59.5	1,522	31.3	57.9	1,525	27.0	44.4
	2011	1,402	31.8	60.1	1,409	44.3	56.9	1,561	30.0	52.6	1,557	26.7	40.7

2012	1,446	34.4	64.0	1424	48.1	65.4	1,577	37.0	67.9	1,583	26.2	43.9
Jumoke Academy 2010	40	87.5	100.0	40	87.5	97.5	42	69.0	90.5	42	52.4	64.3
2011	38	78.9	97.4	39	71.8	82.1	39	76.9	94.9	39	64.1	76.9
2012	42	69.0	92.9	42	71.4	85.7	42	76.2	92.9	42	52.4	76.2

Table 9

CMT Data Comparison: State, Bridgeport, Park City Prep.

Grade 6	Year	Mathematics			Reading			Writing		
		Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency
		State	2010	40,378	71.0	88.2	40,067	74.9	85.5	41,775
	2011	39,591	71.6	88.5	39,272	76.0	86.5	41,043	65.3	86.1
	2012	39,170	69.5	87.2	38,864	74.2	84.8	40,662	67.4	84.9
Bridgeport	2010	1,395	50.0	73.0	1,373	49.2	64.4	1,459	40.0	70.3
	2011	1,301	45.8	71.8	1,293	46.6	64.5	1,348	41.6	73.2
	2012	1,388	40.6	69.5	1,382	44.6	61.0	1,493	38.5	65.4
Park City Prep	2010	62	43.5	69.4	61	47.5	65.6	62	46.8	74.2
	2011	90	67.8	91.1	90	57.8	73.3	89	55.1	88.8
	2012	79	70.9	88.6	78	60.3	73.1	82	58.5	78.0

Grade 8	Year	Mathematics			Reading			Writing			Science		
		Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency	Number Tested	% At/Above Goal	% At/Above Proficiency
		State	2010	41,163	67.5	86.6	41,060	73.4	82.6	42,265	62.7	80.6	42,301
	2011	40,096	66.8	86.0	39,992	74.7	83.4	41,413	64.8	81.6	41,499	63.3	75.9
	2012	40,277	67.4	87.1	40,133	76.8	86.2	41,701	68.4	86.2	41,698	62.1	77.1

Bridgeport	2010	1,347	30.6	61.6	1,348	38.6	52.3	1,400	28.1	53.6	1,393	25.5	43.4
	2011	1,236	31.1	60.7	1,239	43.2	58.4	1,299	29.1	55.2	1,296	25.5	41.8
	2012	1,338	34.9	64.2	1,354	44.5	59.2	1,423	32.3	63.1	1,413	27.6	46.0
Park City Prep	2010	80	43.8	73.8	81	43.2	56.8	81	23.5	54.3	81	28.4	50.6
	2011	68	61.8	83.8	68	54.4	61.8	68	35.3	72.1	67	43.3	59.7
	2012	74	41.9	75.7	75	57.3	70.7	78	42.3	82.1	78	33.3	43.6

VI.D.

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**TO BE PROPOSED:
June 5, 2013**

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes, accepts the Commissioner's recommendation and grants approval of a state charter to Brass City Charter School for the period July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2018, said approval granted subject to the conditions noted in the Commissioner's June 5, 2013, memorandum to the State Board of Education, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of 8:0, this fifth day of June, Two Thousand Thirteen.

Signed: _____


Stefan Pryor, Secretary
State Board of Education

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Stefan Pryor, Commissioner of Education

SUBJECT: Granting of a New State Charter to Brass City Charter School

Introduction

Subsection (f) of Section 10-66bb of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that an application for the establishment of a state charter school be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval, and filed with the local board or regional board of education in the school district in which the charter school is to be located. The statute outlines the State Board's responsibilities: (1) application review; (2) hold a public hearing; (3) solicit and review comments on the application from the local or regional board of education for the school district where the charter school is to be located, and from local or regional boards of education that are contiguous to the district in which the school is to be located; and (4) vote on a complete application not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the application. Also, the statute provides that the State Board of Education may condition the opening of such charter school on the school meeting certain conditions determined by the Commissioner of Education to be necessary, and may authorize the Commissioner to release the charter when the Commissioner determines such conditions are met. Charters are granted for a period of time of up to five years, and the State Board of Education may allow the applicant to delay its opening for a period of time of up to one year, in order for the applicant to fully prepare to provide appropriate instructional services.

BACKGROUND

On February 7, 2013, the State Board of Education requested applications for state and local charter schools. The application for Brass City Charter School, a proposed state charter school to be located in Waterbury, was received on April 1, 2013.

The proposed mission of Brass City Charter School (BCCS) is to provide a rigorous academic and holistic social-emotional learning program to eliminate the achievement gap for underserved students in Waterbury. BCCS reflects the vision and model of Children's Community School, which has served Waterbury's at-risk student population for the past 44 years. Accordingly, BCCS is committed to ending the isolation of children of poverty, preparing young children to enter school ready to learn and poised for academic success, and, ultimately, eradicating the cycle of poverty in Waterbury. BCCS will strive to ensure that its students achieve academically

and develop as people of character, leading meaningful and productive lives both for themselves and for their community.

As a proposed Pre-K through Grade 8 school, BCCS promises a rigorous, standards-based academic program, as well as a strong character development program to prepare its students for success in competitive high school programs. The Common Core and Connecticut Framework will provide the curricular foundation upon which mastery learning will be accomplished. Students will be expected to perform at or above grade level in the core subjects of reading, math and writing. Frequent assessment, both informal and formal, will be the basis for data-driven teaching and differentiated instruction. In addition, an extended school day, extended school year and summer program will provide increased instructional time on task to foster student achievement.

If approved and established, BCCS would be the only charter school in operation in Waterbury, which is designated as an Alliance District and a priority school district with a history of underperforming schools. For the reasons noted above, BCCS will expand high-quality educational choices for Waterbury students and their families.

Key partners in the development of BCCS are the Children’s Community School, the Connecticut Community Foundation and the Leever Foundation.

BCCS proposes to open in July 2013, with the following growth plan:

Year	Grade PK	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Total
2013-2014	38	38	38								114
2014-2015	34	38	38	38							148
2015-2016	34	34	38	38	38						182
2016-2017	34	34	34	38	38	38					216
2017-2018	34	34	34	34	38	38	38				250
2018-2019	34	34	34	34	34	38	38	38			284
2019-2020	34	34	34	34	34	34	38	38	38		318*
2020-2021	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	38	38	38	352*

**Note that under state law, BCCS must have a demonstrated record of achievement and State Board of Education approval prior to exceeding the statutory limit of 300 pupils for schools authorized to serve Grades K-8.*

BCCS seeks to be considered for the following preferences:

1. Serving high-need populations – specifically students who receive free or reduced price lunch;
2. Reduction of racism, ethnic and economic isolation;
3. Priority School District or District with at least 75 percent racial or ethnic minority enrollment; and
4. Serving underserved geographic location – there is currently no charter school in Waterbury.

Brass City Charter School Application Review Process

Application Review: A team composed of Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) staff with education expertise and knowledge of charter school operation and finance reviewed the application. The application was evaluated based on the standards and review criteria detailed in the *Application Package for the Development of State and Local Charter Schools*. In the 21 sections of the application that were scored, BCCS met expectations for the criteria in each section. The review team has determined that the application demonstrated a comprehensive capability and financial viability for the operation of a successful charter school.

Interview of School Representatives: CSDE staff members met with representatives from the proposed Brass City Charter School on May 3, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to determine the applicant's commitment and capacity to establishing and operating a high-quality school. The meeting required the applicant to respond to a series of questions about aspects of the proposed school. The applicant's answers demonstrated that the BCCS team has a strong capacity to establish and operate a high-quality school.

Public Hearing: Joseph Vrabely, Jr., member of the State Board of Education, and CSDE staff presided over a public hearing on BCCS's application on May 21, 2013. The hearing was held in the City of Waterbury, the district in which the proposed school is to be located. Sixty people attended the public hearing; 33 individuals, including a state representative, parents, members of the BCCS team, educators and community business representatives, spoke at the hearing. The response from the public was overwhelmingly positive.

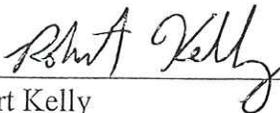
Invitation for Written Comments: The CSDE solicited comments from the Waterbury Board of Education and from the local and regional boards of education in towns contiguous to Waterbury. These districts include Naugatuck, Plymouth, Regional District 15, Regional District 16, Thomaston, Waterbury, Watertown and Wolcott. In response, Dr. Kathleen Ouellette, the Superintendent of Waterbury, submitted a letter supporting the proposed charter school (see attached). Additional letters of support were submitted by Mayor Neil O'Leary, City of Waterbury, and members of the Connecticut General Assembly, including Victor Cuevas, Selim Noujaim, Joe Markley, Jeffery Berger, David Aldorando, Anthony D'Amelio, Joan Hartley and Larry Butler (see attached).

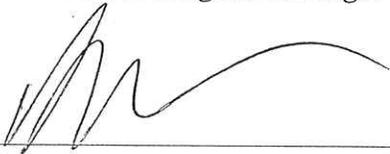
RECOMMENDATION WITH CONDITIONS

I recommend approval of Brass City Charter School for a state charter spanning a five-year period, July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2018. The recommendation is based on the aggregate evaluation of the application process, considering the following key elements: (1) the quality of the proposed program as measured against the criteria contained in the charter school application, including preferences sought; (2) the substantive issues surrounding the overall feasibility and reasonableness of the application in terms of the likelihood of the opening and continued operation of a successful school; and (3) the degree of public support for the proposal. This approval is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. Receipt of funding from the General Assembly, which must be in addition to funding received for expansion of existing charter schools;

2. Receipt of documentation relating to facility requirements, including safety, liability and insurance certifications; and
3. Receipt of documentation relating to incorporation status and identification of governing board members.

Prepared by: 
Robert Kelly
Charter School Program Manager

Approved by: 
Debra Kurshan
Chief Turnaround Officer



Waterbury Public Schools

236 Grand Street ♦ Waterbury, Connecticut 06702 ♦ (203) 574-8000 ♦ Fax (203) 574-8010

Dr. Kathleen M. Ouellette
Superintendent

August 13, 2012

Dr. Barbara Ruggiero, Exec. Director/Principal
Children's Community School
31 Wolcott Street
Waterbury, CT 06702

RE: Charter School Application -- Brass City Community School, Waterbury, CT

Dear Dr. Ruggiero:

I am writing in support of your Charter School application to create the Brass City Community School. Your experience with urban education to date will surely benefit students and families of the new charter school. As Superintendent of Schools for the Waterbury School District, I am cognizant of the large student population in Waterbury and the desire of some parents in the community to have a variety of school options for their children. Historically, a tradition of varied educational opportunities has been a strength of the Waterbury community.

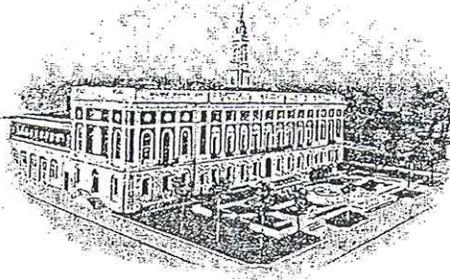
While the overwhelming majority (89.2%) of Waterbury children and youth now attend district schools, there is certainly room in Waterbury for an alternative such as the Brass City Community Charter School. I am pleased to agree to provide a representative from the school district to serve as a member of your charter school Board.

I wish you the best of luck with your proposal. I hope you will keep me informed of the progress of your Charter application.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen M. Ouellette
Superintendent of Schools

NEIL M. O'LEARY
MAYOR



JOSEPH A. GEARY
CHIEF OF STAFF

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE CITY OF WATERBURY
CONNECTICUT

March 19, 2013

Stefan Pryor
Commissioner of Education
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Commissioner Pryor,

I am writing to support the application for the creation of the Brass City Charter School in Waterbury. BSSC will reflect the philosophy and mission of Children's Community School which has a long history of providing a quality education to some of the city's poorest students. As Mayor, and a former member of the Board of Education, I am committed to ensuring high quality education to all of our City's children and applaud the commitment of this founders group to address the unique needs of some of the City's poorest families. BCCS will provide an attractive educational alternative in the City, the only city among the largest in Connecticut without a charter school. I have promised my full support to the founders who are well positioned to ensure its success.

We welcome this school in the community and applaud the effort to bridge the well-documented achievement gap. We believe, like the governor and legislatures, that *charter schools can prove to be catalysts in the restructuring of our public schools.*

Sincerely,

Neil M. O'Leary,

Mayor, City of Waterbury



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE VICTOR CUEVAS, MS, ABD
SEVENTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4043
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-0083
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267
FAX: (860) 240-0206
E-MAIL: Victor.Cuevas@cga.ct.gov

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

May 21, 2013

Why Brass City Charter School for Waterbury

five
Of the ~~four~~ largest cities in Connecticut, Waterbury is the only one without a charter school despite the fact that Waterbury is a high priority school district with failing schools. A charter school can act as a catalyst to bridge the achievement gap for inner city students.

As we know, the Brass City Community School is modeled after a proven commodity, Children's Community School. Children's Community School has been providing a strong education to underserved students in Waterbury for 44 years. Children's Community School (Pre-K through 5th Grade) graduates have gone on to graduate from high school at rates far exceeding contemporary students from identical socio-economic backgrounds.

The Brass City Charter School will expand upon this model to educate basically twice the number of students. The Charter School will have two classes per grade, as opposed to the now one class per grade at Children's Community School. This Charter School will allow students to continue in this strong academic and personal development environment through the 8th grade.

More Waterbury families deserve the opportunity to send their children to a school that we know, based upon history, vastly improves a child's chance to experience a rigorous academic setting, develop strong character, and graduate from high school.

The Brass City Charter School is designed to serve those Waterbury students that are at risk and underserved. It will give students access to small classrooms, individualized attention, and a volunteer system designed to help cultivate the development of the child personally as well as academically.

It is my hope that Brass City Charter School will be a model of success in Waterbury.

Thank you.

Victor Cuevas
State Representative
75th District - Waterbury



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

November 13, 2012

Stefan Pryor, Commissioner
Department of Education
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

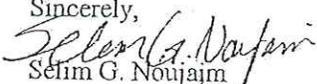
Dear Commissioner Pryor:

We are pleased to write this letter in strong support for Brass City Charter School, a new proposed charter school in Waterbury. Brass City Charter School will be a welcome alternative in education for the Greater Waterbury Community.

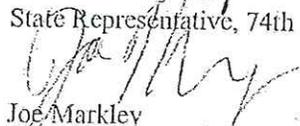
Brass City Children's Charter School will provide a Pre-K through Grade 8 quality education to underserved Waterbury students based on the successful model developed for over more than 40 years at Children's Community School. They emphasize high expectations for students and teachers, coupled with appropriate support and emphasizing strong character development in order to address Connecticut's well documented achievement gap. Waterbury is the only city in Connecticut without a charter school and this school will provide an important educational alternative for city students.

Thank you for your attention to this proposal and we hope that you will consider this welcome addition to our Waterbury Community. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact any of us directly.

Sincerely,

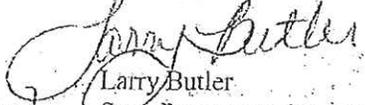

Selim G. Noujaim
State Representative, 74th District

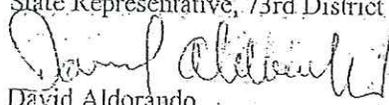

Anthony D'Amelio
State Representative, 71st District


Joe Markley
Senator, 16th District


Joan Hartley
Senator, 15th District


Jeffrey Berger
State Representative, 73rd District


Larry Butler
State Representative, 72nd District


David Aldorando
State Representative, 75th District