II.A.

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO BE PROPOSED:
August 4, 2015

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 10-66bb(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the distribution of 9,201 seats in state charter schools and 102 seats at a local charter school for the 2015-16 school year, and grants enrollment waivers for nine schools, as delineated in the August 4, 2015, memorandum to the Board, "Approval of Charter School Enrollments," and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of 8:0, this fourth day of August, Two Thousand Fifteen.

Signed: Dianna R. Wentzell
Dianna R. Wentzell, Secretary
State Board of Education

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education

DATE: August 4, 2015

SUBJECT: Approval of Charter School Enrollments

Introduction
There are currently 21 state charter schools in Connecticut serving 7,966 students and one local charter school serving 70 students. Additionally, two new state charter schools will open for the 2015-16 school year. In accordance with 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 charter school enrollments for the 2015-16 school year. Consistent with C.G.S. § 10-66bb(c), the CSDE requests, within the confines of the state budget enacted by the Connecticut General Assembly, to apportion available seats based on each school's capacity and demonstrated record of achievement.

Background
The CSDE seeks the SBE's approval of charter school enrollments on an annual basis. In August 2014, existing state charter schools submitted projected enrollment requests for 2015-16 to the CSDE, which the Department analyzed and used to inform its state budget request. In April 2015, the CSDE asked each school to confirm its initial projections by submitting an updated request for seats based on projected student enrollment for the 2015-16 school year. Existing charter schools were afforded a final opportunity to amend the April 2015 request, after passage of the state budget.

This proposal reflects a total of 9,201 seats in state charter schools and 102 seats in a local charter school during the 2015-16 school year. The 9,201 state charter seats represent an increase of 1,024 seats compared to the 2014-15 SBE-approved enrollment levels. Six hundred and six of the 1,024 new seats are for existing state charter schools and 418 are for new state charter schools opening in 2015-16. Applying the statutory per-pupil rate for state charter schools of $11,000 for 2015-16, these totals are within the state budget appropriation for state charter schools. Enrollments are disaggregated and detailed in Table 1 (attached).

Elm City Montessori School (ECMS), a local charter school, will enroll 102 students from the City of New Haven (through the local charter school program) and 11 students from suburban districts (through the Open Choice program) during the 2015-16 school year. Using the appropriate statutory per-pupil rate of $3,000 for local charter schools, the seat request for ECMS is within the state budget appropriation during the 2015-16 school year. In accordance with C.G.S. § 10-266aa, New Haven Public Schools and ECMS entered into an agreement in 2014 to enroll ten percent of ECMS' students from suburban districts through the Open Choice program.

State Charter School Seat Proposals
Charter schools are listed below in three categories: (A) schools requesting waivers to increase enrollment beyond the statutory limit; (B) schools not requesting enrollment waivers; and (C) charter schools approved to open in the 2015-16 school year. This information is also summarized in the attached table.

A. *Schools Requesting Waivers to Increase Enrollment*

C.G.S. § 10-66bb(c)(1) places an enrollment cap on the number of students that a state charter school may enroll (300 seats for schools serving Grades K-8 and 250 for all other grade levels). The cap may be waived pursuant to C.G.S. § 10-66bb(c)(2) for those schools that have a demonstrated record of achievement. Schools must apply to the CSDE for permission to expand enrollment beyond the statutory limit. CSDE staff reviewed the applications and schools' records of achievement. Applications were received from: (1) Achievement First Bridgeport; (2) Achievement First Hartford; (3) Amistad Academy; (4)The Bridge; (5) Elm City College Preparatory School; (6) Highville Charter School; (7) Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication; (8) New Beginnings Family Academy; and (9) Park City Prep. The tables below show three-year School Performance Index (SPI) trend data for each charter school seeking a waiver to increase enrollment beyond the enrollment cap and the District Performance Index (DPI) for its respective host district.

1. Achievement First Bridgeport (AFB) (host district: Bridgeport)

The CSDE recommends granting an enrollment waiver to add 47 seats to the 2014-15 SBE approved enrollment of 968 students for a total of 1,015 seats. The requested seats are for expansion across existing Grades K-12. Achievement First Bridgeport has a strong record of student achievement, as illustrated below:

AFB vs. Bridgeport host district

Charter School/Host District	SPI/DPI		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
AFB CMT	66.2	79.6	76.7
Bridgeport CMT	53.6	55.5	53.7
AFB CAPT	N/A	N/A	77.6
Bridgeport CAPT	40.7	40.5	38.4

Note: 2012-13 was the first year that AFB educated 10th graders.

2. Achievement First Hartford (AFH) (host district: Hartford)

The CSDE recommends granting an enrollment waiver to add 101 seats to the 2014-15 SBE approved enrollment of 1,019 students for a total of 1,120 seats. This represents 59 seats for a new Grade 6, 33 seats for a new Grade 12, and nine additional seats for expansion in existing Grades K-5 and 7-11. Achievement First Hartford has a strong record of student achievement, as illustrated below:

AFH vs. Hartford

Charter School/Host District	SPI/DPI		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
AFH CMT	72.9	78.2	76.9
Hartford CMT	56.2	58.4	58.1

Note: 2013-14 was the first year that AFB educated 10th graders.

3. Amistad Academy (host district: New Haven)

The CSDE recommends granting an enrollment waiver to add 52 seats to the 2014-15 SBE approved enrollment of 985 students for a total of 1,037 seats. The requested seats are for expansion across existing Grades K-12. Amistad Academy has a strong record of student achievement, as illustrated below:

Amistad Academy vs. New Haven

Charter School/Host District	SPI/DPI		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Amistad CMT	80.3	81.9	78.6
New Haven CMT	60.9	62.2	60.1
Amistad CAPT	80.4	78.3	81.1
New Haven CAPT	53.1	52.1	53.3

4. The Bridge (host district: Bridgeport)

The CSDE recommends granting an enrollment waiver to add five seats to the 2014-15 SBE approved enrollment of 275 students for a total of 280 seats. The additional seats are for expansion across existing Grades 7-12. The Bridge has a demonstrated record of student achievement, as illustrated below:

The Bridge vs. Bridgeport

Charter School/Host District	SPI/DPI		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
The Bridge CMT	60.4	61.4	65.2
Bridgeport CMT	53.6	55.5	53.7
The Bridge CAPT	51.0	60.1	60.1
Bridgeport CAPT	40.7	40.5	38.4

5. Elm City College Preparatory School (host district: New Haven)

The CSDE recommends granting an enrollment waiver to add 61 seats to the 2014-15 SBE approved enrollment of 644 students for a total of 705 seats. The additional seats are for expansion across existing Grades K-12. Elm City College Preparatory School has a strong record of student achievement, as illustrated below:

Elm City Prep vs. New Haven

Charter School/Host District	SPI/DPI		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Elm City Prep CMT	76.1	78.5	79.0
New Haven CMT	60.9	62.2	60.1
Elm City Prep CAPT	N/A	79.4	73.2
New Haven CAPT	53.1	52.1	53.3

Note: In 2010-11, Elm City had fewer than 20 CAPT test takers.

6. **Highville Charter School (host district: New Haven)***

The CSDE recommends granting an enrollment waiver to add 60 seats to the 2014-15 SBE approved enrollment of 400 students for a total of 460 seats. This represents 40 seats to expand to a new Grade 11 and 20 additional seats for expansion in existing Grades PK-10. Highville has a strong record of student achievement and academic improvement, as illustrated below:

Highville vs. Hamden and New Haven

Charter School/*Host District	SPI/DPI		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Highville CMT	72.3	77.0	77.2
New Haven CMT	60.9	62.2	60.1
Hamden CMT	74.8	75.5	75.5

*Highville draws 55% of its students from New Haven, 36% from Hamden and 9% from area towns.

7. **Interdistrict School for Arts and Communications (ISAAC) (host district: New London)**

The CSDE recommends granting an enrollment waiver to add eight seats to the 2014-15 SBE approved enrollment of 262 students for a total of 270 seats. The additional seats are for expansion across existing Grades 6-8. ISAAC has a strong record of student achievement, as illustrated below:

ISAAC vs. New London

Charter School/Host District	SPI/DPI		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
ISAAC CMT	72.3	65.0	70.0
New London CMT	55.5	61.0	61.4

8. **New Beginnings Family Academy (host district: Bridgeport)**

The CSDE recommends granting an enrollment waiver to add 27 seats to the 2014-15 SBE approved enrollment of 470 students for a total of 497 seats. The requested seats are for expansion of the PK program. The school serves Grades PK-8. New Beginnings Family Academy has a strong record of student achievement, as illustrated below:

New Beginnings Family Academy vs. Bridgeport

Charter School/ Host District	SPI/DPI		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
New Beginnings CMT	66.3	69.6	68.5
Bridgeport CMT	53.6	55.5	53.7

9. **Park City Prep (host district: Bridgeport)**

The CSDE recommends granting an enrollment waiver to add four seats to the 2014-15 SBE approved enrollment of 356 students for a total of 360 seats. The requested seats are for expansion across existing Grades 5-8. Park City Prep has a strong record of student achievement, as illustrated below:

Park City Prep vs. Bridgeport

Charter School/ Host District	SPI/DPI		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Park City Prep CMT	73.1	74.4	72.9
Bridgeport CMT	53.6	55.5	53.7

B. Charters Not Requesting Enrollment Waivers

Six state charter schools requested seats under the statutory enrollment caps and do not require waivers for the 2015-16 school year. They include: Booker T. Washington, Brass City, Common Ground High School, Explorations, Great Oaks and Path Academy.

C. Charters Approved to Open in the 2015-16 School Year

Pursuant to previous SBE charter approval, the CSDE recommends approving 250 seats for Capital Prep Harbor and 168 seats for Stamford Charter School for Excellence.

Recommendation

The CSDE recommends that the SBE, pursuant to Section 10-66bb(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, approve the distribution of 9,201 seats in state charter schools and 102 seats in a local charter school for the 2015-16 school year and grant enrollment waivers for nine schools, as delineated in this report.

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

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

Approved by: _____
Charlene Russell-Tucker
Chief Operating Officer

Charter School Name	Host District	2014-15 SBE-Approved Enrollment	2015-16 Enrollment Proposed	Enrollment Increase vs. 2014-15 SBE-Approved Enrollment	2014-15 Grade Levels	Approved New Grade Expansion
*Achievement First Bridgeport	Bridgeport	968	1,015	47	K-12	None
*Achievement First Hartford	Hartford	1,019	1,120	101	K-11	6,12
*Amistad	New Haven	985	1,037	52	K-12	None
Booker T. Washington	New Haven	120	180	60	K-1	2
Brass City	Waterbury	148	182	34	PK-2	3
*The Bridge	Bridgeport	275	280	5	7-12	None
Common Ground	New Haven	180	185	5	9-12	None
*Elm City	New Haven	644	705	61	K-12	None
Explorations	Winsted	86	90	4	9-12	None
Great Oaks	Bridgeport	125	225	100	6	7
*Highville	New Haven	400	460	60	PK-10	11
Integrated Day	Norwich	330	330	0	PK-8	None
*ISAAC	New London	262	270	8	6-8	None
Jumoke	Hartford	795	795	0	PK-11	12
*New Beginnings	Bridgeport	470	497	27	PK-8	None
Odyssey	Manchester	327	327	0	K-8	None
*Park City Prep	Bridgeport	356	360	4	5-8	None
Path	Windham	140	200	60	9-12	None
Side by Side	Norwalk	236	236	0	PK-8	None
Stamford Academy	Stamford	149	149	0	9-12	None
Trailblazers	Stamford	162	140	(22)	6-8	None
Existing State Charters Schools	**--**	**8,177**	**8,783**	**606**		**--**
Capital Prep Harbor	Bridgeport		250	250		6-12
Stamford Charter School for Excl.	Stamford		168	168		PK-1
New State Charter Schools			**418**	**418**		
Total State Charter Schools		**8,177**	**9,201**	**1,024**		
**Elm City Montessori School (Local Charter School)	New Haven	64	102	38	PK-K	1

* Enrollment waiver requested.
** Achievement First Hartford Academy opened a new middle school in the 2014-15 school year serving Grade 5.
*** Elm City Montessori School will enroll 102 students from the City of New Haven through the local charter school program and 11 students from suburban districts through the Open Choice program.