



For Immediate Release:

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State Board of Education Approves 4 New Charter Schools Locations approved in Stamford, Bridgeport and New Haven

(HARTFORD, CT)— The Connecticut State Board of Education approved four new charter schools today, one in Stamford, two in Bridgeport, and one in New Haven.

The approvals will expand public school choice for families who are underserved in these communities. Each school focuses on serving high-need student populations who are at risk of falling behind their peers—a major contributing factor to the gaps in achievement among Connecticut students.

“The charter school applications approved today showed a strong capacity to establish and operate high-quality public schools in Connecticut,” State Board of Education Chairman Allan Taylor said. “The applicants presented comprehensive and financially viable models for what we expect will be highly successful environments for student achievement, and for that I congratulate them.”

The [Stamford Charter School for Excellence](#) in Stamford will be modeled after the award-winning Bronx Charter School for Excellence and will offer a longer school day for additional instruction. The school intends to enroll children from families of lower socioeconomic status, English language learners, and children with special needs. Stamford Charter School for Excellence will serve prekindergarten through Grade 5, beginning with prekindergarten-Grade 1 students in the 2015-16 school year.

In Bridgeport, [Great Oaks Charter School](#) will specialize in serving students who are learning English. The school will operate in partnership with the Great Oaks Foundation, a nonprofit organization with a record of operating high-quality charter schools. Great Oaks will be the first of its kind in the city as no other charter schools in Bridgeport focus on serving English language learners. Great Oaks will serve students in Grades 6-12, beginning with Grade 6 students in the 2014-15 school year.

A second charter school in Bridgeport, [Capital Prep Harbor School](#), is designed as a replica of Capital Preparatory Magnet School in Hartford. Capital Prep’s college-preparatory model prepares and supports students’ development into informed, global citizens who are inspired to discover and fulfill their social, academic, and civic responsibilities and to work toward social justice in their communities. Capital Prep Harbor School will serve prekindergarten through Grade 12, beginning with students in Grades 6-12 in the 2015-16 school year.

In New Haven, [Booker T. Washington Academy](#) will focus on serving students living in poverty, specifically those from the high-need, underserved Dixwell/Newhallville area of the city. The school will operate in partnership with Family Urban Schools of Excellence Inc., an organization with a record of operating high-quality public schools in Connecticut. Booker T. Washington Academy will serve

prekindergarten through Grade 8, beginning with students in prekindergarten through Grade 3 in 2014-15.

The State Department of Education and State Board of Education held public hearings and solicited public comments for each school in each district as part of the application process.

Currently, there are 18 state charter schools in operation in Connecticut serving 7,096 students representing 1.3% of public school students. In total, there are 1,151 public schools and programs serving 545,614 public school students in Connecticut.

In addition to the four state charter schools approved today, [the Path Academy](#), which was approved by the State Board of Education on June 5, 2013, is expected to open in September 2014 in Willimantic. State charters are granted for a period of up to five years.

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