

GUIDE TO NYC CHARTER SCHOOLS



CHARTER SCHOOLS OFFER

- Accountability
- Academic Excellence
- Quality Schools
- High Standards
- Open Enrollment
- Public School Options

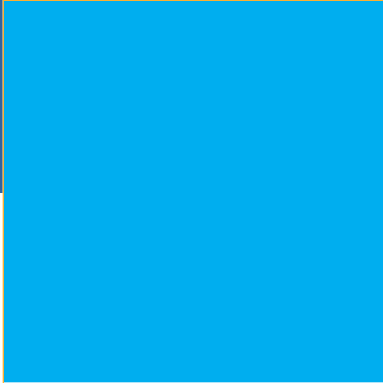


INNOVATION. ACCOUNTABILITY. EXCELLENCE.

“ Experience shows that the charter school model works. Charter schools provide new educational options for parents and children. The rigor and innovation of their programs provide a boost to all schools in our system and help to spur system-wide change. All of our schools can learn from charters. Charter schools bring the excitement of entrepreneurial energy and with that a healthy dose of competitiveness. ”

New York City Schools Chancellor Joel Klein

WHAT ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS?



Charter schools are independent public schools, governed by their own not-for-profit Board of Directors and managed according to the terms of a five-year contract or “charter.”

Charter schools were developed to help improve public education by offering students and their families a wonderful opportunity for a quality public education and an alternative to traditional public schools.

Charter schools are not private schools or voucher programs to enroll in private schools.

An estimated 50 new charter schools will be created in New York City in the next three to five years as part of the city’s *Children First* educational reform initiative to provide quality schools to help every child reach his or her full potential.

This guide describes the 32 current charter schools in New York City, and the 15-20 schools proposed to open in 2005, and serves to inform the public and to help parents determine if charter schools are suited to meet the needs of their children.



GOALS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS



Charter schools seek to provide a high-quality education in a safe environment that promotes academic achievement, respect for others and community values. Charter schools offer a flexible educational framework that combines innovative teaching approaches and the resources of public and private organizations to produce effective educational results. As charter schools are free from the centralized control of school districts, their school leaders can test new teaching concepts that, if proven effective, can positively influence the larger public school system.

If young people are to be prepared for the challenges of college, work and adulthood, they must develop academic skills and personal responsibility. Charter schools are focused on nurturing these skills and establishing high expectations for students and school staff, with a commitment to:

- Maintaining high academic standards
- Using student assessment data to drive instruction
- Promoting instructional leadership and excellence
- Encouraging parental choice and engagement
- Improving the overall quality of public education

BENEFITS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS



Charter schools are created by teachers, community leaders, parents and nonprofit organizations who share a vision of what they want the school to be: its mission, educational program and achievement standards.

What truly sets charter schools apart from traditional public schools is that they are held accountable to meet or exceed ambitious goals for student performance or they risk the revocation of their charter to operate. Simply put, if schools don't meet academic goals, they risk being closed. In return, charter schools enjoy greater freedom from state and local regulations for curriculum, staffing and budget, and have the autonomy and flexibility to tailor their educational programs to meet the specific needs of their students.

The benefits that a charter school can offer include:

- **Innovation:** Charter schools have the freedom and vision to introduce new ideas to public education, encourage innovative teaching methods and curricula, and bring the talent of educational entrepreneurs to the public school system.
- **Personalized Attention:** Charter schools use a variety of educational practices to benefit students, such as an extended school day and/or year, character development, team-teaching, hands-on instruction, parental engagement and a continual assessment of student performance.
- **Serving the underserved:** Many NYC charter schools are established in areas with predominantly African-American, Latino and English Language Learners (ELL). In fact, nearly 90 percent of the 8,000 students currently enrolled in New York City charter schools are African-American or Latino. Often, charter schools are the only free alternatives in the community to traditional public schools.
- **Free and open enrollment:** Charter schools are an integral part of the New York public school system and are open to all NYC students, regardless of income or ability. There are no tuition costs or admission tests required.
- **Enhanced Resources:** Often, charter schools are created in conjunction with a local college, museum, community organization or foundation willing to share its resources, programs and facilities for the school's benefit.
- **Educational Options:** Most importantly, charter schools offer students and their families a greater choice in public education, especially inner-city children at risk of academic failure. The purpose of this guide is to help students and their families in their school selection.



THE ROLE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS IN THE COMMUNITY

Charter school leaders actively seek parental and community involvement both to establish the school and to maintain its success. Parent representation is consistently strong and, in fact, some charter schools were created as a direct outgrowth of a concerned parent group. In addition, many charter schools are run in conjunction with a local community group that strengthens the ties between the school and the community it serves. As a result, charter schools can have a very positive and lasting impact on the local communities that host them.

CHARTER SCHOOLS RESULTS COMPARED TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

All New York City schools are working diligently to raise academic achievement and student performance. More research, analysis and data are needed on charter school performance in New York City, but the early indicators suggest that most charter schools are making great progress in the community school districts in which they operate.

Based on 2003-2004 grades 3-8 standardized tests, about 70 percent of the charter schools had a higher percentage of students who met or exceeded the New York State standards in English and Math compared to their community school district counterparts.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS & TESTING



In their mission to provide students a quality education, charter schools often set very high standards. These standards are incorporated directly into the school's charter and form the basis for the school's performance assessment. Charter schools are held accountable to attain these standards or risk losing their charter.

Although charter schools are independent from the public school system, they are public schools, and must comply with the following state and federal regulations for their charter to be approved:

- **State Academic Standards:** Charter schools must design an academic program that meets or exceeds the student performance standards of the New York State Board of Regents.
- **Testing:** Charter schools must administer all Regents exams and citywide tests as required at New York City public schools.
- **Accountability:** Charter schools must develop a comprehensive system of public accountability, including an annual "report card" that measures the school's academic and fiscal performance and progress towards meeting specific academic goals. Failure to attain these goals can result in the school's charter being revoked.
- **English Language Learners:** Charter schools must comply with federal law requiring that all students with limited English proficiency be given assistance that is "sufficient to provide an equal educational opportunity."
- **Special Needs:** Charter schools must comply with all federal laws and regulations in regard to serving students with disabilities and special needs.
- **Instructional Time:** Charter schools must develop a school calendar and day schedule that provides at least as much instruction time as is required at other public schools. In fact, most charter schools offer an extended school day and/or school year to provide more individualized attention to their students.
- **Basic Requirements:** Charter schools must meet the same requirements for health and safety, civil rights and student assessment as other New York City public schools.
- **Audits:** Charter schools must submit to an independent financial audit at least once annually.

CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS



Charter schools in New York City can be created through the following authorizing entities:

- 1) Chancellor of the New York City Board of Education
- 2) New York State Board of Regents
- and 3) State University of New York (SUNY) Board of Trustees.

Each authorizer has specific policies and school application procedures for approving a charter school. Preference is given to schools that demonstrate the capacity to provide for students identified as at risk of academic failure.

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Although the specific application procedures and deadlines vary for each charter school, students are selected for admission based on a random lottery of applicants. Returning students and siblings of enrolled students are given preference in the lottery.

Students not immediately accepted are placed on a waiting list. Families are notified if their child has been admitted and, if not, what place he or she holds on the waiting list.

Charter schools cannot discriminate against any student based on their academic ability, talent, income, race, disability or ethnic origin. (However, there are a handful of charter schools that serve a single gender.)

Most charter school application deadlines are mid-March to early-April for classes beginning in the 2005 school year.

Students can apply to as many charter schools as they like. Contact the charter school directly for specific application deadlines and procedures, or call the Center at 212.437.8300, or visit our Web site — www.nycchartercenter.org — for a complete list of schools.

SELECTING A CHARTER SCHOOL

There are currently 32 charter schools in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx, with another 15-20 proposed to open by September 2005. Use the map below to find the current charter school(s) in your area.

The school profiles on the following pages provide detailed contact information as well as a brief description of the school, which can include its mission, educational program, extended school day/year, neighborhoods served and other important criteria to help in your selection.



BRONX

1. Bronx Charter School for the Arts
2. Bronx Charter School for Better Learning
3. Bronx Charter School for Children
4. Bronx Charter School for Excellence
5. Bronx Lighthouse Charter School
6. Bronx Preparatory Charter School
7. Carl C. Icahn Charter School
8. Family Life Academy Charter School
9. Grand Concourse Academy Charter School
10. Harriet Tubman Charter School
11. KIPP Academy Charter School
12. ReadNet Bronx Academy Charter School

BROOKLYN

13. Beginning with Children Charter School
14. Brooklyn Charter School
15. Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School
16. Community Partnership Charter School
17. Excellence Charter School of Bedford-Stuyvesant
18. Explore Charter School
19. Williamsburg Charter School

MANHATTAN

20. Amber Charter School
21. Harlem Village Academy Charter School
22. Harbor Science and Arts Charter School
23. Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School
24. Harlem Day Charter School
25. KIPP S.T.A.R. College Prep Charter School
26. Opportunity Charter School
27. Sisulu Children's Academy/Harlem Public Charter School
28. Wildcat Academy Charter School

QUEENS

29. Merrick Academy/Queens Public Charter School
30. Our World Neighborhood Charter School
31. Peninsula Preparatory Academy Charter School
32. Renaissance Charter School

NEW SCHOOLS*

BROOKLYN

- Achievement First-Brooklyn I Charter School
- Achievement First-Brooklyn II Charter School
- City Collegiate-Williamsburg Charter School
- Hellenic Charter School
- KIPP A.M.P. Charter School
- KIPP Pinnacle Charter School
- The UFT Elementary Charter School

MANHATTAN

- Future Leaders Institute (FLI) Charter School
- Girls Preparatory Charter School
- Harlem Link Charter School
- HCZ Promise Academy II Charter School
- KIPP Infinity Charter School
- Leadership Village Academy Charter School
- Manhattan Charter School
- New Heights Academy Charter School

BRONX

1. BRONX CHARTER SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

The Bronx Charter School for the Arts uses arts education as a catalyst for academic and social success and was founded by Hunts Point area educators, parents and community residents. The Longfellow Avenue facility was custom-designed for the school's needs.

Address: 950 Longfellow Avenue, Bronx, NY 10474

Tel: 718-893-1042 / Fax: 718-893-7910

Website: www.bronxarts.net/index.php

Principal: Verta Maloney-McLetchie / Email: info@bronxarts.com

Grades Served as of 2005: K-4

Total Planned Grades: K-6

2. BRONX CHARTER SCHOOL FOR BETTER LEARNING

The Bronx Charter School for Better Learning uses the "Subordination of Teaching to Learning" method that evaluates student progress in every lesson. Teachers monitor how students use their time and focus on developing their skills in problem-solving, oral fluency, reading comprehension and expression.

Address: 3740 Baychester Avenue, (Annex) Bronx, NY 10466

Tel: 718-655-6660 / Fax: 718-655-5555

Website: www.bronxbetterlearning.org

Director: Shubert Jacobs / Email: sjacobs@bronxbetterlearning.org

Grades Served as of 2005: 1-3

Total Planned Grades: K-4

3. BRONX CHARTER SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

The Bronx Charter School for Children provides students strong reading, writing and mathematics skills, the ability to reason and integrated learning experiences. The curriculum balances basic skills with problem-solving and conceptual development. The school has two teachers per classroom, requires students to wear uniforms and an extended school day.

Address: 388 Willis Avenue, Bronx, NY 10455

Tel: 718-402-3300 / Fax: 718-402-3258

Website: www.tbcs.org

Principal: Karen Drezner / Email: kdrezner@tbcs.org

Grades Served as of 2005: K-2

Total Planned Grades: K-4

4. BRONX CHARTER SCHOOL FOR EXCELLENCE

The Bronx Charter School for Excellence prepares students to succeed by cultivating their intellectual, artistic, social, emotional and ethical development. The school uses a "back to basics" approach with subject-based teaching by experienced instructors, maintains a longer school day and year, requires uniforms and holds students to high behavioral standards.

Address: 1508 Webster Avenue, Bronx NY 10457

Tel: 718-294-7327 / Fax: 718-294-1497

Website: www.bronxexcellence.org

Principal: Marc Etienne / Email: metienne@bronxexcellence.org

Grades Served as of 2005: K-2

Total Planned Grades: K-4

5. BRONX LIGHTHOUSE CHARTER SCHOOL

The Bronx Lighthouse Charter School creates literate and competent scholars using the Core Knowledge Sequence method of building on what students have already learned. The school features small class sizes, an 8-hour school day and extended school year. Students and teachers stay together for two years to increase learning effectiveness.

Address: 977 Fox Street, Bronx, NY 10459

Tel: 718-860-4340 / Fax: 718-860-4125

Principal: Min Kim

Total Planned/Grades Served as of 2005: K-4

6. BRONX PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL

The Bronx Preparatory Charter School is a college prep middle and high school. Its mission is to prepare students for higher education, civic involvement and lifelong success through a structured, caring environment of high academic expectations. The school has an extended day and year and requires uniforms. All teachers use the same "lesson plan" format for consistency. Average daily attendance is 96 percent and re-enrollment is 95 percent.

Address: 3872 Third Avenue., Bronx, NY 10457

Tel: 718-294-0841 / Fax: 718-294-2381

Website: www.bronxprep.org

Principal: Fred Givens

Grades Served as of 2005: 5-10

Total Planned Grades: 5-12

7. CARL C. ICAHN CHARTER SCHOOL

The Carl C. Icahn Charter School uses the Core Knowledge model to provide students the skills and knowledge to succeed. An extended school day and year and reduced classroom size ensure individual attention and support. There is ongoing student assessment, with a daily "targeted assistance" program and Saturday Academy for tutoring. The school promotes family involvement and offers parent enrichment classes to promote education at home. A new building for grades 5-6 will open this fall and will eventually house grades 5-8.

Address: 1525 Brook Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457

Tel: 718-716-8105 / Fax: 718-716-6716

Principal: Jeffrey Litt

Grades Served as of 2005: K-6

Total Planned Grades: K-8

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8. FAMILY LIFE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

The Family Life Academy Charter School targets students with limited English proficiency in the South Bronx Highbridge community. The school offers an innovative model of its own design, English/Spanish Immersion, which combines phonics- and literature-based instruction and assumes full immersion in English instruction by the second grade. There is an added hour per day of instruction in Spanish language arts.

Address: 14 West 170th Street, Bronx, NY 10452
Tel: 718-410-8100 / Fax: 718-410-8800
Principal: Marilyn Calo / Email: flacs@yahoo.com
Total Planned/Grades Served as of 2005: K-5

9. GRAND CONCOURSE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

The Grand Concourse Academy Charter School provides a strong foundation in the “three R’s”—reading, writing, and arithmetic. The school engages students in challenging work such as conducting experiments, exploring cultures and history using primary documents, debating classical literature, analyzing great works of art, speaking a foreign language and appreciating music.

Address: 116-118 East 169th Street, Bronx, NY 10452
Tel: 718-590-1300 / Fax: 718-590-1065
Principal: Ira Victor / Email: ivictor@grandconcourseacademy.org
Grades Served as of 2005: K-3
Total Planned Grades: K-4

10. HARRIET TUBMAN CHARTER SCHOOL

The Harriet Tubman Charter School is committed to helping students develop and express their unique talents. The school holds intensive literacy workshops each day, keeps classroom sizes small, maintains high performance standards and requires children to wear uniforms. Monthly Family Academy workshops provide learning opportunities to the students’ parents and families.

Address: 3565 Third Avenue, Bronx, NY 10456
Tel: 718-537-9912 / Fax: 718-537-9858
Website: www.htcskids.org
Principal: Michele Pierce
Grades Served as of 2005: K-6
Total Planned Grades: K-8

11. KIPP ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

The KIPP Charter School model focuses on developing students’ basic learning skills, as well critical thinking and literacy. The school has an extended school day and year, including three weeks during the summer. Students also learn how to read music and play an instrument. Teachers, students, and parents adhere to the KIPP Commitment to Excellence for academic success.

Address: 250 East 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10451
Tel: 718-665-3555 / Fax: 718-585-7982
Principal: Quinton Vance / Email: qvance@kippony.org
Total Planned/Grades Served as of 2005: 5-8

12. READNET BRONX ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

ReadNet Bronx Academy Charter School is committed to meet or exceed New York State education standards. The school uses a computer-assisted process to promote language and math skills and practical problem-solving for science, social science and literature. The school has a renovated 7,200 sq. ft. facility with an adjacent garden in the heart of the South Bronx.

Address: 429 East 148th Street, Bronx, NY 10455
Tel: 718-292-3474 / Fax: 718-292-2904
Website: www.readnetschool.org
Principal: Juan Pena / Email: info@ReadNetSchool.org
Grades Served as of 2005: K-3
Total Planned Grades: K-8

BROOKLYN

13. BEGINNING WITH CHILDREN CHARTER SCHOOL

The Beginning with Children Charter School helps children in the Williamsburg section succeed by providing an education based on high standards, and by partnering with families and the community. The school uses continuous student assessment as a feedback for curriculum and staff development. Students are tested upon entry to provide the basis for individual and class-wide instruction.

Address: 11 Bartlett Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206
Tel: 718-388-8847 / Fax: 718-388-8936
Principal: Cynthia Bailey / Email: cbailey@bwccschool.org
Total Planned/Grades Served as of 2005: K-8

14. BROOKLYN CHARTER SCHOOL

The Brooklyn Charter School is the first charter school of the NYC Department of Education. It opened its doors to the Bedford-Stuyvesant community in Sept. 2000 with 78 students in kindergarten and first grade. The school currently serves a population of 165 students in grades K-5 and is one of the highest scoring charter schools in the state. The strength of the educational program is founded in the meaningful integration of balanced literacy, exploratory mathematics, inquiry-based science and project-based social studies. Educational instruction is enhanced by a deep commitment to student involvement in the fine arts, including music and dance.

Address: 545 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11206
Tel: 718-302-2085 / Fax: 718-302-2426
Principal: Omigbade Escayg
Total Planned/Grades Served as of 2005: K-5

15. BROOKLYN EXCELSIOR CHARTER SCHOOL

The Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School uses the Core Knowledge educational model and a character development component. Student performance is closely monitored through daily learning exercises, classroom assessments, state exams and national standardized assessments. The school encourages parental participation in school committees and the advisory board to the school's Board of Trustees.

Address: 856 Quincy Street, Brooklyn, NY 11221
Tel: 718-246-5681 / Fax: 718-246-5864

Principal: Alan Handel / Email:
47ahandel@heritageacademies.com

Grades Served as of 2005: K-5
Total Planned Grades: K-8

16. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CHARTER SCHOOL

The Community Partnership Charter School serves students from Fort Greene, Prospect Heights and Clinton Hill. Students learn to become self-directed, independent, lifelong learners. Basic skills are linked to analytical thinking and creative problem-solving through hands-on learning and real-world experiences, with an emphasis on literature and the arts, reading, math, science and social studies.

Address: 241 Emerson Place, Brooklyn, NY 11205
Tel: 718-399-1495 / Fax: 718-399-2149

Website: www.cpcsschool.org

Principal: Melanie Bryon

Grades Served as of 2005: K-5
Total Planned Grades: K-8

17. EXCELLENCE CHARTER SCHOOL OF BEDFORD-STUYVESANT

The Excellence Charter School of Bedford-Stuyvesant prepares boys for admission to college prep high schools and colleges. The school offers a structured learning environment and uses the "Core Knowledge" curriculum model with a focus on literacy. Student assessment includes in-house exams and standardized tests. The school has an extended school day and offers after-school tutoring.

Address: 600 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11216
Tel: 718-638-1830 / Fax: 718-638-2548

Website: www.excellencecharter.org

Principal: Jabali Sawicki / Email:
jsawicki@excellencecharter.org

Grades Served as of 2005: K-1
Total Planned Grades: K-8

18. EXPLORE CHARTER SCHOOL

Explore Charter School teaches in small groups, with individualized instruction to help students succeed. The school year is split into five terms of eight weeks with extended school days and mandatory uniforms. Ongoing

student assessment includes academic progress reports, parent-teacher conferences and daily student behavior logs.

Address: 15 Snyder Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226

Tel: 718-703-4484 / Fax: 718-703-8550

Website: www.explorecharterschool.org/

Principal: Morton Ballen / Email:
mballen@explorecharterschool.org

Grades Served as of 2005: K-5
Total Planned Grades: K-8

19. THE WILLIAMSBURG CHARTER SCHOOL

The Williamsburg Charter School has an extended school day and year and small classes overseen by two teachers in the 9th grade. Each student is assigned to 12-person "advisories" that meet regularly with teachers and stay with the same advisor for all four years. Students learn basic liberal arts, time management and study skills and participate in seminars examining different world regions.

Address: 424 Leonard Street, 4th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11222

Tel: 718-782-9830 EXT. 20 / Fax: 718-782-9834

Website: www.thewcs.org

Principal: Marsha Spampinato

Total Planned/Grades Served as of 2005: 9-12

MANHATTAN**20. AMBER CHARTER SCHOOL**

The Amber Charter School teaches from a pan-cultural perspective, using a project-based curriculum for students to achieve proficiency in all New York State learning standards. The school enables Spanish-dominant and English-dominant students to achieve full fluency in both languages. Second language teaching integrates language, content and culture in a standards-based thematic instruction.

Address: 220 East 106th Street, New York, NY 10029

Tel: 212-534-9667 / Fax: 212-534-6225

Website: <http://ambercharter.echalk.com>

Principal: Laura Acosta / Email:
lacosta@ambercharter.echalk.com

Total Planned/Grades Served as of 2005: K-5

21. HARLEM VILLAGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

Village Academy, in Harlem, provides a college preparatory curriculum and a strict code of conduct in a small, caring learning community. The school day runs 7:30am-4:30pm, with after-school enrichment and tutoring until 5:30pm. Village Academy features high-quality teachers, student uniforms, tutoring, Saturday programs, and an emphasis on respect, kindness and scholarship. Village Academy is accepting students who will be in 5th grade for the 2005-2006 school year.

Address: 413 East 120th Street, New York, NY 10035

Tel: 212-369-3319 EXT. 310 / Fax: 212-369-9616

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Principal: Nick Timpone / Email: enrollment@villageacademies.com
Grades Served as of 2005: 5-6
Total Planned Grades: 5-12

22. HARBOR SCIENCE AND ARTS CHARTER SCHOOL

The Harbor Science and Arts Charter School offers a creative curriculum, small class size, an extended school day and individual attention. The school serves the East Harlem and South Bronx communities and is located across the street from Central Park, which students use as a "science lab." The Boys & Girls Harbor, a youth organization, provides after-school programs, a health center and crisis counselors.

Address: 1 East 104th Street, Ste. 603, New York, NY 10029
Tel: 212-427-2244 EXT. 627 / Fax: 212-360-7429
Principal: Joanne Hunt / Email: jhunt@harborcharter.org
Total Planned/Grades Served as of 2005: 1-8

23. HARLEM CHILDREN'S ZONE PROMISE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School offers a college preparatory program focused on academic performance and professional development. The school provides small class size, extended school hours, a free after-school program and access to support services including medical and dental care, counseling, parenting classes and computer training.

Address: 35 East 125th Street, New York, NY 10035
Tel: 212-534-0700 / Fax: 212-289-0661
Website: www.hczpromiseacademy.org/home.asp?goto=home
Principal: Doreen Land / Email: dland@hczpromiseacademy.org
Grades Served as of 2005: K, 6
Total Planned Grades: K-12

24. HARLEM DAY CHARTER SCHOOL

The Harlem Day Charter School uses the Core Knowledge curriculum to teach students character development as well as language, science, math, social studies, the arts, and Spanish. The school has a modern facility with new classrooms, an outdoor playground and an indoor gym. Class size is small to ensure students get sufficient attention, and students are required to wear uniforms.

Address: 240 East 123rd Street, New York, NY 10035
Tel: 212-876-9953 / Fax: 212-876-9926
Website: www.harlemdaycharterschool.com
Principal: Gwen Stephens / Email: gstephens@harlemdaycharterschool.org
Grades Served as of 2005: K-4
Total Planned Grades: K-5

25. KIPP S.T.A.R. COLLEGE PREP CHARTER SCHOOL

The KIPP S.T.A.R. College Preparatory Charter School uses the Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP) model to help at-risk students achieve high academic success. There is an extended school day until 5pm, four hours of class on selected Saturdays and a mandatory summer session in July.

Address: 433 West 123rd Street, New York, NY 10027
Tel: 212-769-7615 / Fax: 212-769-7601
Principal: Maggie Runyan-Shefa / Email: mrunyan-shefa@kippstar.org
Grades Served as of 2005: 5-7
Total Planned Grades: 5-8

26. OPPORTUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

The Opportunity Charter School educates Harlem students in basic reading and math skills, expository writing and higher cognitive thinking. Each student has an individualized plan to achieve specific outcomes in a safe and supportive environment. Students gain experience in the workplace and community service, a clear awareness of their rights and responsibilities as citizens and an understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses.

Address: 222 West 134th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10030
Tel: 212-283-0670 / Fax: 212-283-1137
Co-Directors: Betty Marsella and Leonard Goldberg
Email: bmarsella@nycboe.net
Grades Served as of 2005: 6-8
Total Planned Grades: 6-12

27. SISULU CHILDREN'S ACADEMY/HARLEM PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

Sisulu Children's Academy/Harlem Public Charter School uses the Core Knowledge curriculum to encourage students to be critical thinkers and applies each child's natural abilities to teach reading and language skills. The school provides an after-school program three days a week and a Saturday academic enrichment program.

Address: 125 West 115th Street, New York, NY 10026 and 441 Manhattan Avenue, New York, NY 10026
Tel: 212-663-8216 / Fax: 212-866-5793
Principal: Norma Hurwitz
Grades Served as of 2005: K-6
Total Planned Grades: K-8

28. JOHN V. LINDSAY WILDCAT ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

The John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School is an ungraded high school that serves youth at risk of failure due to poor attendance, disruptive behavior, criminal activity or poor grades. The school offers small class size,

an extended school day, and individual instruction within a stable learning environment. Classes are conducted year-round and students must attend 215 days per year. Internship programs are also offered by the school.

Address: 17 Battery Place, New York, NY 10004

Tel: 212-209-6037 / Fax: 212-635-3874

Principal: Ron Tabano

Total Planned/Grades Served as of 2005: 8+12
(8+ are 8th graders who don't meet HS admission requirements and have been left back at least once.)

QUEENS

29. MERRICK ACADEMY/QUEENS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

The Merrick Academy/Queens Public Charter School offers an extended school day, small class size and personal attention. Students are required to wear uniforms and adhere to a behavior management plan that fosters social development and maturity. The curriculum is based on the Core Knowledge sequence and other research-proven instruction programs for reading, math, science, social studies and fine arts. The school also provides a Saturday academic enrichment program. The school is associated with various community organizations and partners to enhance community and school wide services. They include: Creative Community Consultants, Inc., which manages Merrick's after-school program; the Greater Queens Chapter of the Links, Inc., which provides a literacy program; Dance Street Crusade, which offers a Saturday fine arts program for children and adults; and, Begin Program, which runs a career-training program.

Address: 207-01 Jamaica Avenue,
Queens Village, NY 11428

Tel: 718-479-3753 / Fax: 718-479-8108

Principal: Alma L. Alston / Email: aalston@victoryschools.com

Grades Served as of 2005: K-6

Total Planned Grades: K-8

30. OUR WORLD NEIGHBORHOOD CHARTER SCHOOL

The Our World Neighborhood Charter School provides students in Long Island City, Astoria and Woodside a liberal arts education within an environment of cultural diversity. Students receive an integrated study of history, geography, literature, social studies, science, math, the arts and technology. The school, housed in the historic Kaufman-Astoria complex, is an outgrowth of the Astoria Parents Network, and it endorses active learning and parent involvement.

Address: 36-12 35th Avenue, Astoria, NY 11106

Tel: 718-392-3405 / Fax: 718-392-2840

Website: www.owncs.org

Principal: Brian Ferguson / Email: bferguson@owncs.org

Grades Served as of 2005: K-7

Total Planned Grades: K-8

31. PENINSULA PREPARATORY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

The Peninsula Preparatory Academy Charter School, Far Rockaway's only charter school, uses the Core Knowledge curriculum and other research-proven teaching programs for reading, math, science and social studies. Students are also exposed to music, dance and theatre. The academy has an extended school day and requires a uniform dress code.

Address: 1110 Foam Place, Far Rockaway, NY 11691

Tel: 718-471-7220 / Fax: 718-471-7135

Principal: Gwendolyn S. McEvilley

Grades Served as of 2005: K-2

Total Planned Grades: K-5

32. RENAISSANCE CHARTER SCHOOL

The Renaissance Charter School offers a stimulating environment in a small, family-like atmosphere. The school uses a three-tiered model: Core Curriculum, Project-Based Learning and Community Involvement. Instructors team-teach, classes are arranged in clusters and students stay with the same teachers for several years. Traditional subjects such as math, science, language and social studies are related to the study of the history, culture and people of New York.

Address: 35-59 81st Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Tel: 718-803-0060 / Fax: 718-803-3785

Website: www.trcs.org

Principal: Monte Joffe

Total Planned/Grades Served as of 2005: K-12

GUIDE TO NYC CHARTER SCHOOLS

NEW SCHOOLS OPENING IN 2005

BROOKLYN

ACHIEVEMENT FIRST-BROOKLYN I CHARTER SCHOOL*

Address: Brooklyn
Contact Person: Diahann Billings-Burford
Email: diahannbillings@achievementfirst.org
Tel: 212-844-3555 / **Fax:** 212-227-6698
Website: www.achievementfirst.org
Grades Served as of 2005: K-1
Total Planned Grades: K-12

ACHIEVEMENT FIRST-BROOKLYN II CHARTER SCHOOL*

Address: Brooklyn
Contact Person: Diahann Billings-Burford
Email: diahannbillings@achievementfirst.org
Tel: 212-844-3555 / **Fax:** 212-227-6698
Website: www.achievementfirst.org
Grades Served as of 2005: K,1,5
Total Planned Grades: K-12

CITY COLLEGIATE WILLIAMSBURG CHARTER SCHOOL*

Address: Williamsburg Brooklyn
Tel: 212-844-3584 / **Fax:** 212-227-6698
Website: www.uncommonschoools.org
Principal: Julie Trott / **Email:** Julie_trott@ksg05.harvard.edu
For Student Enrollment Information:
John Park 212-844-3584
Grades Served as of 2005: grade 5
Total Planned Grades: 5-12

HELLENIC CHARTER SCHOOL

Address: Park Slope, Brooklyn
Tel: 212-437-8360 / **Fax:** 212-227-2763
Principal: Joseph Martucci
Grades Served as of 2005: K-3
Total Planned Grades: K-8

KIPP A.M.P. CHARTER SCHOOL*

Address: Brooklyn
Tel: 917-309-0799 / **Fax:** 646-349-5990
Website: www.kipp.org
Principal: Ky Adderley / **Email:** kadderley@kipp.org
Grades Served as of 2005: 5th grade
Total Planned Grades: 5-8

KIPP PINNACLE CHARTER SCHOOL*

Address: Brooklyn
Tel: 646-286-1235 / **Fax:** 718-585-7982
Website: www.kipp.org
Principal: John-Michael Chiaravalloti
Email: jchiaravalloti@kipp.org
Grades Served as of 2005: 5th grade
Total Planned Grades: 5-8

THE UFT ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL*

By drawing on the expertise of teachers and the union, this United Federation of Teachers school will promote educational excellence, professionalism and collaboration.

Address: East New York, Brooklyn
Contact Person: Randi Weingarten
Email: charterschool@uft.org
Telephone: 212-510-6464 / **Fax:** 212-331-6315
Grades Served as of 2005: K-1
Total Planned Grades: K-5

* In development. Pending approval by State.
Please go to www.nycchartercenter.org for updates on charter school additions and approvals.

NEW SCHOOLS OPENING IN 2005

MANHATTAN

FUTURE LEADERS INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL*

Address: 134 West 122nd Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10027
Tel: 212-678-2868 / **Fax:** 212-678-2749
Website: www.futureleadersinstitute.org
Principal: Gianna Cassetta
Total Planned/Served Grades as of 2005: K-8
Accepting Applications: K-6

GIRLS PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL

Address: Lower East Side
Tel: 212.851-2705 / **Fax:** 212.851.2705
Website: www.girlsprep.org
Principal: Nakia Haskins / **Email:** nhaskins@girlsprep.org
Student Enrollment Information:
 Visit <http://girlsprep.org/parents.html>
Grades Served as of 2005: K-1
Total Planned Grades: K-8

HARLEM LINK CHARTER SCHOOL

Address: Harlem
Tel: 646-472-7998
Website: www.harlemlink.org
School Leaders: Steven Evangelista and Margaret Ryan
Grades Served as of 2005: K-1
Total Planned Grades: K-8

HARLEM CHILDREN'S ZONE PROMISE ACADEMY II*

Address: Harlem
Tel: 212-534-0700 / **Fax:** 212-289-0661
Website: www.hczpromiseacademy.org
Leader: Doreen Land / **Email:** dland@harlemchildrenszone.org
Grades Served as of 2005: K-1
Total Planned Grades: K-12

KIPP INFINITY CHARTER SCHOOL*

Address: Upper Manhattan
Tel: 917-455-4770
Website: www.kippny.org
Principal: Joseph Negron / **Email:** jnegrn@kipp.org
Grades Served as of 2005: 5th grade
Total Planned Grades: 5-8

LEADERSHIP VILLAGE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

Address: East Harlem
Tel: 212-369-3319 / **Fax:** 212-369-6916
Website: www.villageacademies.org
Contact: Dr. Deborah Kenny / **Email:** enrollment@villageacademies.org
Student Enrollment Information:
 Contact Tammy Pizzari at 212-369-3319 ext. 310
Grades Served as of 2005: 5th grade
Total Planned Grades: 5-12

MANHATTAN CHARTER SCHOOL

Address: Manhattan
Tel: 212-364-8730 / **Fax:** 212-499-4281
Principal: Pedro Santana
Email: dconniff@appliedcap.com
Grades Served as of 2005: K-1
Total Planned Grades: K-5

NEW HEIGHTS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL*

Address: Washington Heights
Tel: 646-281-1410
Principal: Stacy Winitz / **Email:** NewHeightsACS@aol.com
Grades Served as of 2005: 5th and 9th grades
Total Planned Grades: 5-12

* In development. Pending approval by State.
 Please go to www.nycchartercenter.org for updates
 on charter school additions and approvals.

ABOUT THE NYC CENTER FOR CHARTER SCHOOL EXCELLENCE

The New York City Center for Charter School Excellence is an independent, not-for-profit organization, launched in 2004 as a partnership between New York City and the philanthropic community, with generous support from The Robertson Foundation, the Robin Hood Foundation, The Pumpkin Foundation and The Clark Foundation.

The Charter Center believes that every child has a fundamental right to a quality education, regardless of his or her background or economic status, and strives to make charter schools an innovative and proven alternative for providing this quality education.

The goal of the Charter Center is to identify and promote effective charter school models of excellence for academic and operational success, and to create high performing, quality charter schools with an unrelenting commitment to student achievement. The Charter Center supports the growth and development of New York City charter schools by being a resource and facilitator for:

- New charter school leadership development
- Charter school quality assurance
- Start-up and technical assistance
- Fundraising grants and grant resource information
- Shared best practices and successful operational/management information
- Networking between charter schools and allied organizations to increase support
- Real estate and facility support
- Student performance evaluation, assessment and data management
- Support systems to ensure continued growth through successful charter school operations
- Advocate for effective charter school models and systemic education reform
- A source of charter school information for students, families and the community

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Charter Center wishes to acknowledge the support and leadership of its Board of Directors:

Joseph H. Reich, Chairman, Co-Founder
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CHARTER CENTER STAFF

The Charter Center also wants to acknowledge our staff:

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Chief Executive Officer

Matt Candler
Chief Operating Officer

Jessica Naviokas
Director of School Development

Florence Adu
Director of Facilities and Real Estate

Tony López
VP for Leadership and Resource Development

Jeff Maclin
VP Communications

MISSION:

The mission of the New York City Center for Charter School Excellence is to stimulate the supply of high-quality charter schools and support ongoing student excellence in all NYC charter schools, impacting the effectiveness of public education. As an independent nonprofit, the Charter Center is an advocate, bridge and catalyst for the achievement of academic and operational success and sustainability of all NYC charter schools for each young person.

CONTACT US:

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