

# PHASE I: Letter of Intent

Created Sunday, February 08, 2015  
Updated Tuesday, February 10, 2015

## Page 1

Applicant groups and Existing Education Corporations interested in submitting an application to establish Regents-authorized charter schools are asked to complete this brief information sheet. The Department will use this information to plan and coordinate peer review panels with appropriate expertise to evaluate all application materials.

Please indicate whether an Applicant Group or an Existing Education Corporation is submitting this Round 1 Letter of Intent.

Applicant Group LOI to establish a single, brand new charter school

## Proposed Charter School Name

(Please write out the formal and full name for the school you proposed, and include the words "charter" and "school" in the proposed name(s)).

School Name	Science and Technology Academy Charter School (STACS)
Grades Served (K-5, .6-8, 9-12, etc.) During Initial Term	k-5
Number of Students During Initial Term	300

Proposed or Current Board Chair and Public Contact information, including mailing address, phone number, and email address.

(The entire chart may not be visible on your screen. Use the "tab" key to move from column to column. The first column will remain static as you do so).

	First and Last Name	Best Phone Number (###-###-####)	Email Address
Proposed/Current Board Chair	Reginald Stroughn	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Public/Media Contact Person	Reginald Stroughn	516-443-0516	SciTechACS@gmail.com

If available, please provide the URL to the website established for the proposed school or existing education corporation.

www.scitechacs.org

Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner.

(See pages 45-46 of the application kit for definitions and guidance as only "substantial" partnerships should be listed here).

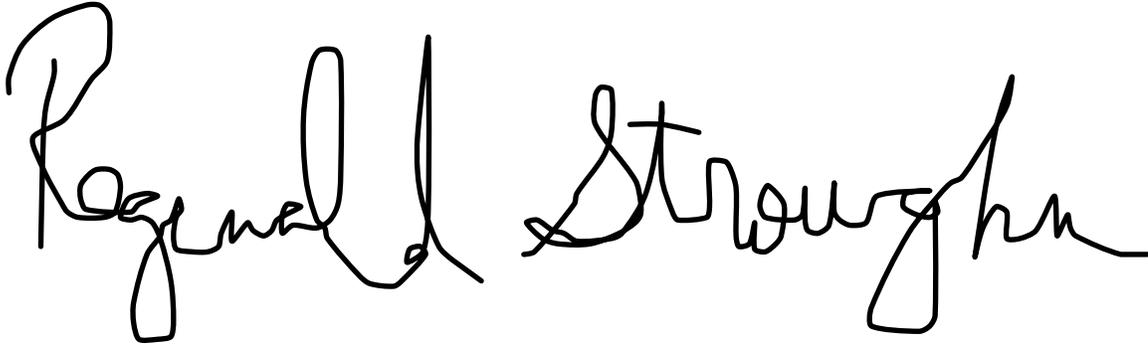
Proposed Management Company	N/A
Partner Organization 1	
Partner Organization 2	

Lead Applicant(s) Signature and Date

Use your PC mouse or your mobile device stylus to sign your name below.

Lead or Co-Applicant listed in section c above.

(Internet Explorer may not support this feature. Open the portal using Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond Stroughn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'n'.

Date Signed (Lead or Co-Applicant)

2015/02/09

Thank you for completing this survey so that the Department may plan its review panel accordingly.

## The Science and Technology Academy Charter School (STACS)

### I. Applicant Information

#### a. Applicant Information

Reginald Stroughn  
690 Jeffrey Drive Baldwin, New York 11510  
phone 516-443-0516; email: scitechacs@gmail.com

#### b. Media Contact

Reginald Stroughn  
phone 516-443-0516; email: scitechacs@gmail.com

#### c. Founding Group

Reginald Stroughn has had an exceptional pedagogical career. During his tenure with the department of education he held the following distinguished positions: Program Director, Assistant Principal of a Middle School, and a High School Principal. This outstanding career culminated with Mr. Reginald Stroughn being awarded by New York State the Principal of the Year Honor in 2008. Mr. Stroughn will provide overall academic and organizational advice to the school and principal as needed.

Jonathan Destine currently works as Director of Data, Technology, and Assessment at a charter school in Brooklyn, New York. His technological expertise consists of but is not limited to the following computer programs: ie. ATS, FAMIS, Galaxy, L2RPT and all other NYC DOE portals for organizational stability, data reporting, and other operational functions. Mr. Destine will function as lead for the technological education and advances for the Science and Technology Academy Charter School. Mr. Destine has recently completed all requirements for his school District Leadership Certification.

Dr. Abigail Lockett has worked for over the past 20 years in school business affairs. Her duties have included Business Administrator for Pupil Personnel Services, Teacher Integration Specialist, Manager of Business Operations, Charter School Consultant, Director of Finance & Operations, Data Administrator and Director of After-School Programming. Dr. Lockett will provide training and oversight in the areas of compliance and operations. Dr. Lockett is very enthusiastic and looks at this venture as an opportunity to give back to the community where she was reared (District 29).

#### d. Board of Trustees

Edgar M. Mera is a licensed certified Mathematics Teacher who is currently working as the Math Department Chair for a Charter School in Brooklyn. During his tenure, he has held the following positions – Grade Level Chairman, Teacher Mentor and Mathematics Teacher. Edgar will use his mathematical expertise in the planning and development of the Common Core State Standards Curriculum that will enhance students' mathematical intelligence at STACS.

Coleen P. Odle is a retired educator from New York City Public Schools after 30 years of service. Mrs. Odle has experience as an English teacher with a Master's degree in Reading Science, as Dean of Students, as a Curriculum Writer, and as a content advisory committee member for the New York State Teacher Certification

Examinations. Mrs. Odle is also mentioned in "Who's Who among Americas Teachers" in the year 2003. With this broad educational experience, Mrs. Odle will be able to assist in curriculum development and implementation that will enable STACS to maintain a rigorous Common Core Curriculum which will offer success in finding their place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century society.

Warren Ross is a veteran special education teacher with a license for both elementary and middle school. Mr. Ross also holds a Master of Arts in History degree as well as a license in Social Studies for New York State. Having coached basketball and other recreational activities, he will bring his vast experience in youth services and mentorship to the school. He also resides in District 29.

Mrs. Yvette Stanford-Scotland has been an ardent educator all of her professional career. She has been a special education teacher for the past 17 years with the New York City Board of Education. Her students won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1998-1999 elementary school science fair for District 17 in Brooklyn, New York. Mrs. Scotland was also honored by the community District 17 School Board as teacher of the year. Mrs. Scotland is currently enrolled in the Teacher Leadership Program with the Board of Education of New York City. Mrs. Scotland will be advising in the areas of Special Education and curriculum development.

## **II. Proposed Charter School Information (name, location, grades, partners)**

*The Science and Technology Academy Charter School (STACS)* will be located in District 29 in Queens, NYC. It is designed as a K-5 school that will give priority to English Language Learners (ELL). If approved, during the first five years of the charter, the school will service 300 students in grades K-5.

### **Science and Technology Academy Charter School (STACS)**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Grades Per Year	K and 1	K,1, and 2	K,1,2, and 3	K,1,2,3,and 4	K,1,2,3,4,and 5
# of Students per year	<b>100 Total</b> K = 50 1 <sup>st</sup> =50	<b>150 Total</b> K= 50 1 <sup>st</sup> = 50 2 <sup>nd</sup> =50	<b>200 Total</b> K=50 1 <sup>st</sup> =50 2 <sup>nd</sup> =50 3 <sup>rd</sup> = 50	<b>250 Total</b> K=50 1 <sup>st</sup> =50 2 <sup>nd</sup> =50 3 <sup>rd</sup> =50 4 <sup>th</sup> =50	<b>300 Total</b> K= 50 1 <sup>st</sup> =50 2 <sup>nd</sup> =50 3 <sup>rd</sup> =50 4 <sup>th</sup> =50 5 <sup>th</sup> =50

#### e. Mission Statement

Science and Technology Academy Charter School (STACS) will empower its students to be scholars, citizens and life-long learners who will flourish academically, socially, and emotionally. Through both academic rigor and experiences, students will be prepared for the educational and technological challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, as well as for college and career readiness.

#### f. School Overview

The *Science and Technology Academy Charter School* will welcome all students with priority given to English Language Learners (ELL). The percentage of special needs enrollees will reflect district norms. Cognizant that not all ELL students come prepared at the same level, the school will implement tiered individualized intervention strategies across the grades which will include but will not be limited to language development strategies, cooperative learning, and projects based learning. These research based strategies along with using the different modalities will provide essential support for all students and in particular for ELL's.

All students need to develop academic, social and emotional levels of competence that will prepare them to be productive members of society and contributors to the workforce; therefore, the school will implement a rigorous curriculum aligned to the Common Core State Standards, emphasizing English language development, mathematics, science, the arts, and humanities. Physical Education/Nutrition Education will be part of the daily regimen in our fight against childhood obesity – a raging problem in today's sedentary society. The school will enhance instruction through the use of technology. Technology education will emphasize not only computer literacy but also the connection between technology and the remedies for everyday problems encountered in daily use. Whiteboard and Smartboard technology, digital content and learning through activity will facilitate learning in flipped classrooms and will enhance opportunities to communicate and learn from others through digital content. In addition, the school will promote the development of social consciousness and civic responsibility. Students will have opportunities to participate in school and community-based service projects whose focus will be the development of student awareness of social and political issues and the relevance of these issues to their lives, their families and their community.

EngageNY, which is developed and maintained by the New York State Education Department (NYSED), will contribute lessons in ELA, Mathematics and Social Studies that develops and supports the delivery of essential concepts to engage students on key aspects of the New York State Board of Regents Reform Agenda. The agenda is infused with rigor and aligned to the New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS). Teacher and Leader Effectiveness (TLE), and Data-Driven Instruction (DDI), using the measure of student learning (MOSL) assessment will support educators in reaching college and career ready students. These lessons create real life experiences that will enhance communication skills and the development of academic language – language in real world contexts. This learning model will prepare students to collaborate in pairs, groups, and projects to create presentations. Science will be geared towards inquiry and process based skills that allows students to make a series of discoveries through the use of applications that will prepare students to investigate important issues in the world around them. The culture of Science and Technology Academy Charter School will create an atmosphere that is supportive of diverse cultural backgrounds while celebrating student's individuality.

The instructional program will focus on the development of higher-order thinking skills and problem solving. The school instructional program will avail itself of the cultural resources in New York City, Long Island and surrounding areas. These field trips, embedded in the curriculum, will be used to launch, enrich and reinforce units of study. These experiences will create the background knowledge that many immigrant

and disadvantaged students lack. These experiences, both inside and outside of the classroom, will reinforce habits for life-long learners.

The *Science and Technology Academy Charter School* will create a learning community that will be safe and nurturing - a place where boys and girls – in uniform - will receive instruction in gender specific classrooms beginning in Grade 3. Single gender classrooms will reduce distractions and thus promote the development of academic skills. Regularly scheduled school-wide events – both boys and girls - promoting proper social behavior will be a major part of the weekly activities. The program *I Civic*, championed by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, will promote good citizenship and an understanding of U.S. government at all levels. Further, character education will enhance and support the instructional program and promote the development of future leaders with an appreciation for all cultures. Emphasis will be given to the values needed to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a truly global society. Given the huge number of Spanish speakers both in the U.S. and worldwide, Spanish language instruction will begin in Kindergarten and continue through grade 5.

The *Science and Technology Academy Charter School* will embody a rigorous academic curriculum that will be taught by highly qualified teachers in an inclusive, supportive learning environment. The *Science and Technology Academy Charter School* will implement a differentiated instructional approach to support all students and in particular English Language Learners and students with special needs.

The instructional staff will be supported by a comprehensive professional development program. To combat the poor retention rate in charter schools, the *Science and Technology Academy Charter School* will align teacher salaries and benefits to the New York City school system. Professional development will be an outgrowth of self-assessment and reflection that promote collaboration and collegiality. The school will create a culture that supports teachers in fulfilling their goals by providing them with meaningful training, leadership opportunities, and experiences in innovative educational practices and strategies.

#### Extended Year

The students will receive an additional 20 days of instruction – Summer Bridge Program- during the month of July to provide enrichment and/or remediation as needed (beginning in Grade 2 and going through Grade 5). *Science and Technology Academy Charter School* will use this time for specific programs such as academic or enrichment activities, STEM electives, tutoring, citizenship and career experiences.

#### Extended Week

Saturday morning sessions will be devoted to remediation, enrichment and sports.

#### Extended Day

7:00 AM	Breakfast
7:45 AM	Daily Assembly
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Instructional Day/ Kdgn., Grade 1 Dismissal
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Enrichment/Remediation/School Based Clubs/Extra Curricular Activities – Grades 2,3,4,5

The school will support parents in exercising their responsibility by fostering a dynamic school-family partnership. To assist working parents, students will be welcomed for breakfast starting at 7:00 AM and will be served until 7:40. At 7:45 students will attend a General Assembly where students will be greeted by school leaders and their teachers with a smile, welcoming them and creating a positive tone for the day. This will be followed by *The Pledge of Allegiance* and the national anthem. School events, individual students and individual teachers will be highlighted and celebrated, reinforcing the positive tone.

g. Target Population

District 29 has a diverse student population: 67% African-American, 14% Hispanic, 2% Asian. Overall, students in this district scored poorly on both the ELA and Math standardized tests. District wide 76% of students in grades 3 through 8 scored below proficiency in ELA while 75% scored below proficiency in Math. Both ELL students and students with disabilities did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) in 2013-2014. 77% of students are eligible for free and/or reduced lunch.

**III. Enrollment and Retention of Students**

As per the law, students will be recruited from the District 29 community implementing the application and lottery system established by the State. District 29 is a diverse community with large, overcrowded schools. To attract students, founding members have made, and will continue to make announcements at the various church's, community centers, local businesses, and local political organizations in District 29. Further, the extended day, extended week, extended year and the academic rigor and varied educational experiences will attract most households especially where both parents work. Aggressive student retention strategies will be in place. These will include, but not be exclusive of monthly parent meetings, individual home visits when needed and phone calls by teachers and administrators. Responsibility for student achievement will be shared by all stakeholders, parents, teachers, administration and the community in a "It Takes A Village" atmosphere.

**IV. Public Outreach and Community Support**

To date, announcements have been made at many community based organizations in district 29. In addition, meetings are scheduled with District 29 officials and community leaders. We have encountered and anticipate eager and positive support from the community. The district 29 community not only welcomes this venture but also believes that this is crucial for the future of the children. Many Parents have been seeking an alternative to the public school setting. Science and Technology Academy Charter School has recognized and will fulfill this need.

**Founding Members**

Reginald Strouhn

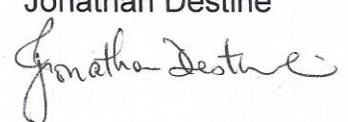
Date

February 9, 2015

Abigail Lockett

Jonathan Destine





	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	<b>TABLE 1: APPLICANT GROUP INFORMATION</b>							
2	*Minimum of 5 members must be designated as Trustees							
3	NAME OF APPLICANT GROUP MEMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	CURRENT EMPLOYMENT	RELEVANT EXPERIENCE, SKILLS, AND ROLE ON APPLICANT GROUP (Key Words)	PROPOSED ROLE (if any) (Trustee, Employee, Consultant, or No Continuing Role)	PROPOSED POSITION ON THE BOARD (e.g., officer, trustee, or constituent representative)	LENGTH OF INITIAL TERM	VOTING MEMBER (YES OR NO)
4								
5	Reginald Stroughn		Retired	Principal, Asst. Principal	Consultant	Officer	1 Year	Y
6	Jonathan Destine		Director of Data & Techno	Director, Technology	Trustee	Trustee	3 Years	Y
7	Abigail Smith-Lockett		Director-AfterSchool Prgm	Operations, Compliance	Trustee	Trustee	3 Years	Y
8	Coleen Odle		Retired	Dean, Reading Science	Consultant	Trustee	3 Years	Y
9	Edgar Mera		Math Department Chair	Math Specialist	Consultant	Constituent Rep.	3 Years	Y
10	Warren Ross		Middle School Teacher	Special Education	Trustee	Constituent Rep.	3 Years	Y
11	Yvette Standard Scotland		Special Education Teacher	Special Education	No Continuing Role	Constituent Rep.	3 Years	N