



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
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August 2, 2010

Dear New School Applicant:

I am delighted to share the *New York State Education Department 2010 Charter School Application Kit* with you. The Application Kit reflects the vision of the Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education and is representative of the work that you will now be seeing from the Department.

In March, I joined the Department to head the new Office of Innovative School Models. The Regents' day-to-day charter authorizing work sits in my new office. The Chancellor and Commissioner have set clear expectations for the Office of Innovative School Models – improve the Regents' charter authorizing work, set clear performance expectations for the State's public charter schools, and deepen our engagement and partnership with the field. The creation and release of the *New York State Education Department 2010 Charter School Application Kit* is in direct response to priorities set by the legislature and the expectations set by leadership at the Department.

I hope that you will notice the common sense, streamlined, and appropriate approach that the Department has taken in requesting new applications for public charter schools to be authorized by the Board of Regents. This application kit is tightly focused on determining the will, skill and capacity of a proposed school's founding board to launch and sustain a high-quality public charter school.

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) is the gold standard organization in quality school choice options. The *New York State Education Department 2010 Charter School Application Kit* is aligned with NACSA's Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing, and is reflective of best practices of quality charter school authorizers from across the country. In releasing this call for new school proposals, the Regents are signaling their commitment to quality authorizing.

I look forward to partnering with new and experienced individuals and school network operators here in New York State and across the country. Please send us great school proposals. Please join us in expanding quality education options for the students, families and communities in New York State.

Best,

Sally Bachofer



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COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

August 2, 2010

Dear New School Applicant:

The bold actions taken by the New York State Legislature, Governor and Board of Regents this spring signaled to the country that New York State is committed to providing high-quality public education to the students in our state; and to supporting the professional educators who build and staff our schools and systems. In May, the State Legislature passed three new laws setting expectations and supports for a statewide data system, teacher effectiveness, and for our State's public charter schools. Last week, the Secretary of Education announced that New York State advanced to the finalist round for the Race to the Top competition. We are gathering momentum behind the policy and direction set by our Chancellor and Board of Regents.

A key part of our strategy is to improve our existing schools and to open strong new schools. Thank you for your interest in creating a new, high-quality public charter school in New York State.

Through this newly developed *New York State Education Department 2010 Charter School Application Kit*, the Board of Regents is seeking motivated and talented individuals—including educators, parents, teachers, and community leaders—to start new, high-performing schools across our State. We invite those with the talent, track record, desire, and ability to form a successful school to participate in this process. We especially invite individuals and groups that respond thoughtfully to the priorities set by the Legislature in the 2010 Law.

Our State has excellent students, educators, parents, and communities. This new schools application process will allow us to grow our pool of great people who have the experience and resources to develop new public charter schools with innovative and successful educational models. The result will be increased, high-performing educational options for all students.

I hope that you will accept the challenge and join us in improving our quality choice options for students, families and communities in the State.

Sincerely,

David M. Steiner  
Commissioner