



PHASE I: Letter of Intent

Last updated: 06/23/2015

Basic Contact and Application Information

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	Bronx Charter School for Health Sciences
Grades Served (K-5, .6-8, 9-12, etc.) During Initial Term	6-12
Number of Students During Initial Term	96

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	Ana F. Garcia	[REDACTED]	msafgarcia@yahoo.com
Public/Media Contact Person	Ana F. Garcia	718-828-9854	msafgarcia@yahoo.com

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

www.bcshts.org

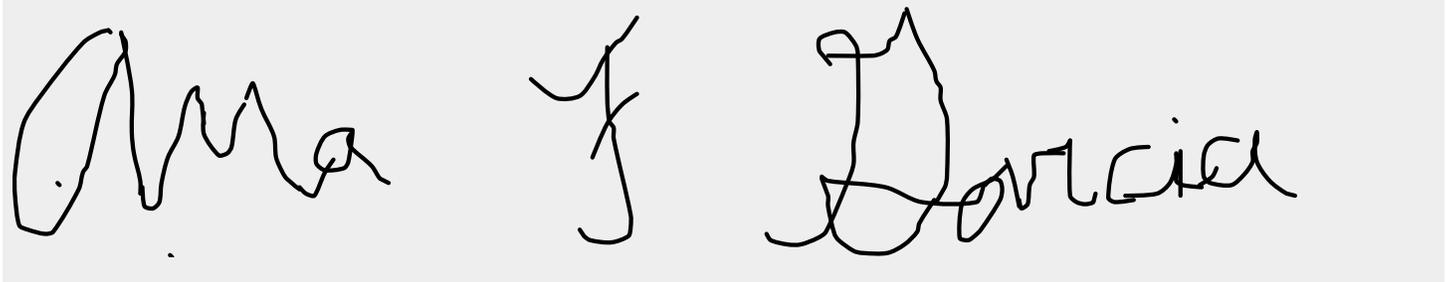
Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner.

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

Proposed Management Company	Charter School Business Management
Partner Organization 1	Big Picture Learning
Partner Organization 2	Mercy College

Proposed Board Chair Signature

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

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature reads "Maria J. Lorcica". The first name "Maria" is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'. The middle initial "J." is written with a large 'J' and a period. The last name "Lorcica" is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Date

2015/06/23

Thank you for completing this form.

Bronx Charter School for Health Sciences

I. Applicant Group Information

a-b. Please refer to Table 1. The proposed group members, board of trustees, and any school employees are composed of a unique group of educators, administrators, industry leaders, and community faith leaders and members. Founders Nana Atta Mensah, Ana Garcia and Osborne Sam started an initial conversation on how they could collaborate with other educators about the creation of an innovative charter school. This school would provide inner city students who are not making adequate progress in traditional public schools, and an avenue for transcending barriers to their learning. Since the initial conversation, the group has grown - in March 2014 other educators who share the same vision came on board. These include 2 non-practicing medical doctors who have worked as educators with inner city students and appreciate the challenges faced by students and the skills they need to attain to achieve their career and educational goals. The group met on Fridays to date and grew from the original three to include a CPA and attorney, a community business man, educators from Mercy College, Pace University, and Monroe College. The group also includes Science and Math teachers who are currently discussing working with the group to design the science and math curriculum for High School students who are working towards receiving college credits in High School.

c. Public Contact: Ana F. Garcia, 718-828-9854, msafgarcia@yahoo.com

d. Application History: The Applicant Group submitted an application for round 1 in February 2015 and is subsequently resubmitting an application to open Bronx Charter School for Health Sciences. *See Attachment 5(a): New Applicant and Prospective School Trustee Background Information.*

II. Proposed Charter School Information

a. Proposed School Name: Bronx Charter School for Health Sciences (BCSHS)

b. Proposed School Location: The school's proposed location is 2500 Halsey Avenue, Bronx, NY within Bronx CSD 10. Two other venues in CSD 10 have been identified and early negotiations with landlords have been initiated. We have plans to raise funds to renovate and rebuild the premises. We are currently in discussions with community groups, including churches, real estate firms and other community-based organizations to assist in our fundraising efforts. However, Bronx CSD 11 is also a proposed option for location.

c. Planned grades and enrollment:

Grade	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
6	100	100	100	100	100
7		80	80	80	80
8		20	90	90	90
9		25	80	95	95
10			25	60	100
11				40	70
+12				10	40
Total	100	225	375	475	575

**Table takes into account student attrition and account for students being promoted as a result of personalized learning and accelerated program*

d. Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s): **Charter School Business Management** will provide back office financial services. Our partner organizations are;

1. Big Picture Learning is a non-profit organization dedicated to a fundamental redesign of education which ensures that partner school implements vital changes in K-Adult education by generating and sustaining innovative, personalized learning environments that work in tandem with the real world of their greater community. **BPL** is associated with 70 small schools which have a graduation rate of 92%, and has been in the business of helping to create great schools since 1995. **BCSHS** has held talks with representatives of BPL, with the understanding that BCSHS will be a Big Picture Learning School. Representatives of BPL will be a significant part of the school's governance. BPL will facilitate the school's curriculum, educational philosophy and approaches, hiring faculty and offer continued

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support in professional development. BPL will also be directly responsible for coordinating Project based learning, Real Life Learning and assists with pairing students with professional mentors.

2. Mercy College - School of Health and Natural Sciences is dedicated to providing premier health and natural science undergraduate educational programs to equip students with the intellectual, technical and professional competencies they need to excel and advance as science specialists, health care providers, health promotion experts and science/health educators. BCSHS students will receive mentoring from Mercy College School of Health Science's faculty; they will gain college credits which will help them transition into college with college credits in required science fields. BCSHS will also have access to the laboratories of Mercy College School of Health Sciences.

3. Monroe College's Department of Nursing Monroe College is recognized as a leader in providing a focused, career-oriented, quality education that integrates classroom learning with real-world experience. BCSHS has a partnership with Monroe College's Department of Nursing which offers an LPN certificates, Associate, Bachelors and Masters Degrees in nursing. **MC's Department of Nursing** will offer the opportunity for our students to gain college credits in nursing, students who put in the necessary effort and declare that nursing is their chosen career path will have the opportunity to earn the LPN diploma in High School.

4. The Montefiore School of Nursing regarding having access to their science laboratories. Arrangements will include the ability of High School students of BCSHS to acquire college credits and professional certificates while in High School. The BCSHS is in discussion with Montefiore School of Nursing regarding mentorship from faculty and BCSHS access to internship and access to the school's science laboratories.

5. The Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University is a premier, research-intensive medical school dedicated to innovative biomedical investigation and to the development of ethical and compassionate physicians and scientists. BCSHS is currently working on a memorandum of understanding making the college of Medicine a partner organization which will allow our High School students to have mentors from the college. Mentorship with the College of medicine will be mainly for High School students who work towards and show an inclination to pursue careers as medical doctors.

6. 1199 SEIU FUNDS is one of the largest and most well organized unions in the country. The Funds was established in 1945 and has training and counseling program for unemployed immigrants. BCSHS is partnering with the fund in order that parents of students with social challenges can receive services which SEIU's training and counseling programs offer struggling immigrant families. It is our belief that assisting parents of students will improve parental involvement in the students' academic life and improve student retention.

7. Bronx River Alliance is an organization which works in close partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation to achieve the goal of restoring the Bronx River corridor so that it can be a healthy ecological, recreational, educational and economic resource for the communities through which the river runs. **BCSHS** is working on a partnership with the organization which will allow students to engage in real life learning regarding working on the restoration of the river with science teachers, and other members of the faculty and experts from the **Alliance**.

8. Bronx Zoo is one the largest metropolitan zoos in the world. It is also the largest in North America, with some 6,000 animals representing about 650 species from around the world. **BCSHS** is working a partnership with the Bronx Zoo which will allow students to work as interns at the zoo. Students will also receive mentorship from the Zoo's professionals and Project Based Learning which uses the animals at zoo as an essential component of instructional design.

9. Bronx Botanical Gardens retains its role as a museum of living plant collections arranged in gardens and landscapes. It offers comprehensive education programs in horticulture and plant science. **BCSHS** is working on a partnership with **BBG** in which our project based and real life learning curriculum will incorporate a study of plants in the garden by our students and faculty with guidance from professionals at **BBG**.

10. Blackboard: Blackboard is an educational technology company with big ideas that is transforming the face of education, with innovative technologies and solutions. **BCSHS** is in its discussions has reached an initial understanding with **BB** concerning providing educational technology for our school. **BB's** Learning Management systems such as **Blackboard Learn** will be crucial in helping BCSHS track students' academic progress and providing online platforms for instruction and learning

e. Proposed School Mission: The mission of BCSHS is to equip students with the knowledge and expertise to become leaders in our diverse community through rigorous education in science, technology and mathematics, affording society a generational supply of excellence in the health industry, while nurturing the development of diligence, integrity and grit in the learning community we serve. We will accomplish this mission by providing student-centered personalized, real world and project based learning with a strong focus on providing our students with skills which inculcate and spur a spirit of invention and innovation.

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f. School Overview: BCSHS is a proposed 6-12 Math and Science charter school which will also be a Big Picture Learning School. It will be located in either Bronx CSD 10 or CSD 11. Our Middle School will focus on building the foundational skills of students using personalized curriculums that are designed with the students' abilities, deficits, interests and ambitions as a driving force. Our High School will focus on college and career readiness with the ambitions, interest and mentoring of students a cornerstone in our drive to raise leaders in the Health Sciences. Our school's instructional design has the following themes; personalized learning, real world learning, the harnessing of available educational technology which gives students access to learning at their individual rates of progress and an accelerated program.

This will be enhanced through global learning which explores the interconnections between people and places around the world. This process of learning gives us the opportunity to look at the similarities and differences that exist around our world today and relate these to our own lives. At BCHS globalized learning will be a place to create relationships with schools across the nation and across the world, in order that students may compete globally.

The personalized learning approach will be supported by the use of online platforms to supplement the students' needs and make learning accessible to the students at all times. This digital approach to learning will also make it possible for all students to be tracked academically. In summary students will have curriculum that is tailored to meet their individual needs, academic aptitudes and interests and career ambitions, which will be available online so that learning will be supported by the educational software and hardware necessary for instruction to be readily accessible. The work of teachers as facilitators and professional mentors will provide students with real world learning with a focus on students' ambitions and interests. BCSHS school culture, which is underscored by core committed values, will provide a fun-filled, student-centered and skills-based learning environment for our students. Our collaborative and foundational building approaches to instruction will ensure that students develop critical thinking skills crucial for succeeding in BCSHS's math, science and technology oriented academic program and in the health sciences field.

Eligible students will be placed in the BCSHS Accelerated Program which will allow students the opportunity to work on attaining college credits, professional certificates and associate degrees while in High School.

Our School Culture and Committed Core Values are the schools nonnegotiable values and norms which will determine the school's culture and they are:

High Achievement for All - BCSHS is dedicated to teaching students to be involved, active learners who work hard, think critically and creatively, and communicate effectively. We emphasize high expectations for all students, and support them to reach their full potential in all aspects of achievement in order to prepare students for success in their lives.

Teamwork - our goals will be achieved in a spirit of collaboration and cooperation among all stakeholders. While we will celebrate the brilliance and talents of individuals, our school culture will be built around motivating all to work in co-operation as members of a team.

Perseverance – a spirit of not giving up in the face of failure or seeming insurmountable odds will be inculcated in all students, through sports activities, expeditionary learning and mentoring.

Although BCSHS will have a health, science and technology focus, it will also devote significant instructional time to core academic subjects to ensure student mastery of NYS Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS), and the acquisition of foundational skills necessary for academic success in High and middle school. BCSHS students will utilize hybrid curriculum in math, literacy, science and technology. The academic programs for BCSHS's middle school students will include literacy instruction in humanities geared at bringing them to reading levels which are appropriate for or above their grade levels. Targeted integrated instruction in mathematics, science and technology will ensure that students have on or above grade level skills in these topics and provide the foundations necessary for students to succeed at BCSHS's high school. In high school, BCHCS students will be exposed to rigorous Regents and college readiness preparatory work which is designed to enable students to complete Regents requirements. Students will also have the opportunity to take courses that prepare them to qualify for professional certifications in health professionals' fields such as nursing, paramedics and laboratory technology.

Several aspects of our school model will help us keep our promise to students that they will be successful. Students will attend BCSHS for an extended school day, from 2.45 pm to 4.00pm. In addition, the School will have small class sizes, no more than ten students per teacher. Drama, art and theater will be built into the curriculum to foster students' creativity. Instructional goals will be tied into class fieldtrips to demonstrate to students how certain educational concepts being studied are utilized to fulfill the daily needs of society. In addition, to fulfill our mission to train students for leadership in a health sciences profession, we plan to implement a mentorship

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program whereby students receive guidance and support from professionals working in a variety of health and sciences industries. Students will also be given access to extracurricular programs geared towards developing career path goals in the health sciences field and development of their leadership skills.

g. Target Population/Community Served: BCSHS intends to serve students in Bronx CSD 10 or 11; our proposed school will embrace diversity and cultural differences which is mirrored in Bronx CSD 10 and 11. We are interested in opening BCSHS in CSD 10 or 11 because the two districts reflects the racial, economic and language diversity, we seek in our abiding goal to train scholars who are able to succeed in a diverse and changing world as addressed through our globalized and expeditionary learning approaches. According to the 2012-13 New York State Education Department statistics, both CSD 10 and 11 has Blacks, Asians, and Hispanic and Caucasian populations with a majority of the population being comprised of Hispanic. Both districts have high percentages of their student populations qualifying for free- or reduced-priced lunch (FRL)¹; and a substantial percentage are English Language Learners (ELLs). In addition, about 17% of the population was designated as students with disabilities (SWD). With no doubt CSDs 10 and 11 are in need of an innovative 6-12 charter school which adheres to educational approaches on a school-wide basis that have been borne out by studies to have a transformative impact in the education of SWDs, ELLs, FRLs and other at risk populations. The statistics from the 2014 NYS Math and ELA assessment demonstrate that a profound achievement gap exists in this community to which we believe BCSHS can help in address. BCSHS would also serve as another quality choice for parents in areas that do not have a strong community charter school presence.

h. Replication of High Quality School Models: Not Applicable

III. Enrollment and Retention of SWD, ELLs and FRL students.

a. Enrollment: The school's strategy to recruit students includes establishing close relationships with feeder schools in the community. To this end, Bronx Charter School for Health Sciences has written to, spoken with and paid visits to guidance counselors, principals and parent coordinators in all elementary schools in the community. We also plan to visit and develop strong ties with ten churches in the community; flyers and posters for the school have been left with church leaders to remind church members about how they can enroll students using the school's website (www.bcschs.org) when the school receives its charter. A proposed school's outreach strategy has been developed through a partnership with Monroe College's MBA Marketing Class at King's Business College, which will also serve as a tool the school will use in its enrolment strategies.

b. Retention: BCSHS plans to hire teachers who are multi-certified (dual or tri- certified) to facilitate the implementation of a curriculum which cuts across different subject areas. It is our intention that the innovative project based, real life learning will result in students with disabilities, ELLs and FRL students being retained. BCSHS will make available incentives for teachers to improve their craft through studying to acquire more licenses in order that the cross-curriculum instructional content can be effectively facilitated by all teachers. Again, BCSHS will partner with Big Picture Learning to implement a Real World Learning, Projected based Learning, authentic assessment, Personalized and mentored learning. The effectiveness of BPL's approach with SWD, ELLs and other at risk populations has been underscored by the work of Hmelo & Silver, 2004, Scruggs, Matropien, Bakken & Brigham, 1993. The innovative educational approaches which are being used by BCSHS are designed to be effective retainers of the school's student population as well as of its faculty. This includes a healthy and nurturing school culture which will be created by the schools committed core values. Partnership with The Big Brother and Sister Organization will also ensure that all students at risk of dropping out of the school will have mentors to help them overcome social challenges they face which become obstacles to their ability to stay in

Method Public Outreach and Community Support

a. Outreach Efforts. Members of the applicant group shared information about BCSHS at a community town hall styled event on May 22nd 2015 in the Community Center at 1966 Newbold Ave, Bronx, NY 10472. The event saw invited members of the community fielding questions and completing questionnaires as part of a survey for parents in the community after a presentation from members of the applicant group. Members of the applicant group have also addressed the congregation of Olivet Gospel Church, under the leadership of

¹ It should be noted that the current FRL data for CSD 10 is not a true representation of the average aggregate percentages of FRL students in the district. If a school elects to become an overall free lunch school, then they consider 100% of their students as eligible for free lunch, when in fact the actual percentage of FRL children may be lower.

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Dr. McLeod on June 7th, 2015 and in all these events we fielded questions after making presentations, administered questionnaires and used the questions as the basis for analysis. The summary of the feedback from community amounted to a survey of three hundred parents from CSD 10/11. The survey clearly indicated that parents are happy with the possible opening of a 6-12 charter school which will be started, to prepare students for careers in the health education field with a strong focus on academic excellence and achievement. In the survey, 90% of parents responded positively towards enlisting their children in the charter school, 80% stated they would be ready to place their children on waiting list for 2017/2018. With conducting this survey we came to realize that parents would like their children to have the option of attending BCSHS. (Public Outreach Plan attached appendix 2) In addition, we have met with several elected officials representing CSD 10 and 11, including Andrew Cohen and Ydanis Rodriguez, Council member of districts 11 and 10 respectively. Both officials have shown a keen interest in having the school in their districts given the strategic mission of the school.

b. Parent Interest. A summary of the analysis from the survey conducted among three hundred parents from CSD 10 & 11 indicates that parents are happy about the possibility of a 6-12 Charter school which prepares students for careers in the health education field and focuses on academic excellence and achievement. Approximately 90% of responding parents indicated interest in enlisting children in school, 80% of responding parents were ready to place students on waiting list for 2017/2018 academic year, while another 50% responded that they will enlist students on a waiting list for 2018/2019 academic year

V. Proposed Board Chair Signature and Date

Ana F. Garcia



Proposed Board Chair

Date

TABLE 1: APPLICANT GROUP INFORMATION

*Minimum of 5 members must be designated as Trustees

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)
Ms. Ana Garcia	[REDACTED]	ESL/ELL/ELA Teacher, Antonia Pantoja Preparatory Academy(378 X08)	22 years experience as an educator , licensed administrator , more than 20 years experience as an educator, Literacy ESL/ELL Teacher High school & Middle School	Chairperson Board of trustees	Chairperson Board of trustees	2 years	Yes
			Instructional design to address challenges of ESLs & ELLs especially Hispanic students				
Dr. Hagan Brown	[REDACTED]	Teacher, New York City Public School, science and math teacher and adjunct professor Mercy College School of Health & Natural Science	20 years experience as a science educator , licensed administrator , biological scientist	Administrator	n/a	2years	No
			Non Practising medical doctor Yale trained- knows what it takes to guide and train student to be interested in sciences. Skills include in depth knowledge of the science and math curriculum K-12, and in depth and practical knowledge of challenges and barriers students face in learning and achieving in science and math				
			Posses New York State administrative and Superintendent's licenses.Dr. Brown will be responsible for instructional design of curriculum				
Ms Anita Chioke	[REDACTED]	Asistant Principal /Administrationfoundations Academy Brooklyn, NY	20 years experience as an educator with the New York Public School sytem has extensive experience as counsellor.	administrator	n/a	2 years	No
			A passionate educator and motivator, Ms Chioke has counselled and is familiar with societal challenges inner city students face				
			Ms Chioke will be responsible for supervising and coordinating mentorship programs, BCSHS relationships with with community organizations and partners. She will oversee planning of trips and globalized learning and expeditionary learning programs				
Martha Vaughn	[REDACTED]	Adjunct Associate Professor	Experience in business management, experience in the use of computers for education, 8 years experience as college professor	administratior	n/a	2 years	No
			Skills: Organization and implementation of administrative protocols necessary for daily running of a school. Human resources acquisition, hardware and software allocation for achieve educational technology goals of BSCHS				
Felix M. Sarpong	[REDACTED]	Dean/BRT/Emergency Officer	5 years experience as a Dean additional 12 years expence as Teacher in the NYC Public School system, specializes in enforcing adherence to school building policies	Member Board of Trustees	Board of Trustees	2 years	Yes
Osborne K Sam	[REDACTED]	Special Education teacher	2 years experience as Special Education teacher	Member Board of Trustees	Board of Trustees	2 years	Yes
Nana Atta Mensah	[REDACTED]	Para professional	Attendance Teacher License,6years experience as a paraprofessional	Member Board Of Trustees	Board of Trustees	2 years	Yes
Nilka M. Rivera	[REDACTED]	Site Director/Camp Director YMCA of Greater NY	Attendance Teacher License,6yeaorganizing after school activity for schools/partnership with community organization specializes in after school activities	Member, Board of Trustees	Board of Trustees	2 years	Yes

Eric Okyere Darko		attorney at law	13 years experience as an attorney	member, Board of Trustees	Board of trustees	2 years	Yes
Rev.Dr.Tyrone H. Robinson		Youth Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, New York, (community Church)	Pastor, Counsellor,	Member, Board of Trustees	Constituent representative Board of trustees	2 years	Yes
Michael Washington Thorpe		Community Business Owner	former Health worker and Community business owner over 23 years experience	Member, Board of Trustees	Constituent representative Board of trustees	2 years	Yes
Egbert Shillingford		Executive Director of Monroe College's Sports and Athletic Department	Mr. Shillingford manages the Sports Department of Monroe College, his skills include facility management. He has a business degree from Baruch College and holds a masters degree in Organizaional Leadership from Mercy College	Member, Board of Trustees	Board of Trustees	2 years	Yes
Dexter R. Chitiyo		Director of Accounting and Business Partnering - Bayer Pharmaceuticals, USA	Controlling financial transnactions, strategic contracting, legal, tax obligations, budgeting and supporting internal and external audit efficiency	Member, Board of Trustees	Board of Trustees	2 years	Yes
Kenneth I Daniel		Retired Science and Math Teacher	Curriculum design science and math, accelerated program ,modalities for hiring faculty and	Member Board of Trustees	Board of Trustees	2 years	Yes
Yocasta Matos		ESL/ELL/ELA teacher	many years experience as an educator , licensed administrator , an educator, Literacy ESL/ELL Teacher High school & Middle School	Member Board of Trustees	Board of Trustees	2 years	Yes