



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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To: Leaders and Board Chairs at NYS Board of Regents-Authorized Charter Schools<sup>†</sup>  
From: Cliff Chuang, Director, Charter School Office  
Date: October 13, 2011  
Subject: Regents-Authorized Charter Schools Update

I apologize for the long delay in direct communication to you, but I do have some updates to share that are relevant to Regents-authorized charter schools as a group.

- **We welcome 9 new charter schools to the Regents' portfolio of charter schools**, for a total of 44 charter schools. You can read about the nine new schools at: <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2011Meetings/September2011/911monthmat.html#P12>.
- **Regents-Authorized NYSED Charter School Office Liaisons.** In the attached document entitled *2011-2012 NYSED Charter School Office Liaisons*, please find a current listing of CSO staff members who serve as liaisons to your charter schools and description of the liaison role. Your liaison should be your first point of contact for questions and concerns. Please note that we are hoping to hire 4 to 5 new staff members in the next several months, so these assignments may shift. We will keep you posted.
- **Additional Updates to the Oversight Protocols:** <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/psc/OversightPlan.html>:
  - *Initial Charter Contract Template and Opening Procedures* for new charter schools opening in September 2011 and beyond.
  - *Monitoring Plan*, which summarizes the oversight and monitoring activities to be conducted by NYSED in its oversight and charter authorization role.
- **2011-2012 Site Visits.** In alignment with the updated Monitoring Plan, CSO staff will be visiting most of the 30 Regents-authorized charter schools this year, with 5 renewal visits planned for the fall, and a number of full and check-in site visits throughout the fall and spring. The 14 schools in their pre-opening planning period are slated for pre-opening visits in August 2012. Each school will be contact individually about visits for this year.
- **Performance Framework.** As previously noted, we have been working on developing clear guidance and standards for the performance of Regents-authorized charter schools to earn renewal. We plan to complete a draft of the framework for review and discussion within the next month, and will be presenting this information during the session for Regents-authorized charter schools and the New York Charter School Association conference on the afternoon of Friday, November 11, 2011: <http://www.nycsa.org/Events.aspx>.
- **Regents-Authorized Charter School Policy Advisory Group.** We continue our process of developing and revising our oversight policies and protocols. Last spring, I made a more general call for volunteers to participate in focus group discussions on these topics. I would like to focus this request for volunteers to policies that directly affect Regents-authorized charters. One of the first topics of discussion will be the above-mentioned Performance Framework. I anticipate that this group will meet (generally over conference call) upon request throughout the 2011-2012 school year to provide field-based input on policy development topics. If interested, please send Robin Clow ([rclow@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:rclow@mail.nysed.gov)) an email message with a subject line of "*Regents-Authorized Charter School Policy Advisory Group*" containing your contact information (email address and phone number) and a very brief experience history and statement about the perspective and insights you would add to state-level policymaking discussions.

As always, please feel free to contact us at [charterschools@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:charterschools@mail.nysed.gov) or 518-474-1762. For future reference, these update messages are posted at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/psc/DirectorsMessages.html>.

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<sup>†</sup> **Ongoing Request: Update Your SEDREF Information.** If the appropriate persons are not receiving this email, please check that your publicly-displayed information on NYSED's SEDREF system is accurate at [http://portal.nysed.gov/portal/pls/pref/SED.sed\\_inst\\_qry\\_vw\\$.startup](http://portal.nysed.gov/portal/pls/pref/SED.sed_inst_qry_vw$.startup). Instructions for updating this information can be found at <http://www.oms.nysed.gov/sedref/home.html>. Please copy [charterschools@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:charterschools@mail.nysed.gov) on any update requests. Thanks.