



PHASE I: Letter of Intent

Created: 06/12/2015

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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 (operates no charter schools to date) or an Existing Education Corporation (operates a least one charter school) is submitting this Round 1 Letter of Intent.

Applicant Group LOI to establish a single, new charter school

Proposed Charter School Name

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

School Name	REACH Academy Charter School
Grades Served (K-5, .6-8, 9-12, etc.) During Initial Term	K-5
Max Number of Students During Initial Term	480

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	Dolores Prezyna	██████████	██████████
Public/Media Contact Person	Robin Nellis	██████████	██████████

List of Key Design Elements

(Integral to the school model, these elements should be reflected throughout the application)

1	1. Instructional Design – The Six Point Plan to Increasing Student Achievement model encapsulates an effective way to ensure high student achievement by allowing for continuous evaluation of student progress and requiring immediate modification to the students' learning plans as needed. The plan includes: Setting Up a Culture of High Expectations, Articulating the Curriculum, Ensuring Best Instructional Practices, Administering Common Assessments, Providing Research Based Interventions and Monitoring Progress.
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2	<p>2. Authentic Classroom Learning Environments – It's been clearly documented that student engagement increases when students are cognitively involved and thinking critically about the content. (Wilmington, 2007) Authenticity includes meaningful tasks that are real or have purpose, which increases student engagement. The classrooms at REACH Academy Charter School will be designed as "mini" real world familiar environments based upon developmentally appropriate themes. In order to bridge the gap for those in poverty, rich authentic language experiences and exposure to a wide range of books across a variety of genres are essential (Snow, C. and Shattuck, 2014) and will be evident throughout the school</p>
3	<p>3. Balanced Literacy Approach Literacy Focused - A basic belief at REACH Academy Charter is that students in poverty need an enormous amount of rich language experiences to bridge the gap that poverty creates. The students will engage in focused, rich literacy experiences throughout their school day. Using Fountas and Pinnell's model for Guided Reading and Phonic Lessons and Lucy Calkin's model for Reader's/Writer's Workshop as the basic literacy curriculum, students will receive a highly personalized approach in literacy instruction. The balanced literacy approach will provides a structure and support that will enable all students to acquire the knowledge, skills, habits and dispositions needed to meet or exceed standards in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Other components of a Balanced Literacy Model will also be incorporated such as independent reading, shared reading, books on tape, word study, vocabulary, shared writing, independent writing and research that students will work at daily.</p>
4	<p>4. Utilizing Technology to Enhance Instruction, Engagement and Learning - Technology will be used to foster student engagement through active learning tasks. Teachers will use technology based instructional methods that encourage students to actively engage with curriculum to increase students' overall school engagement. The many benefits of utilizing technology include; providing students with real-world problem solving opportunities, providing students with experimental methods for reaching a conclusion, and encouraging students to think about and discuss learning activities. Additionally REACH Academy Charter School will increase engagement through instructional methods that utilize technology by making use of visual displays (for comparing, constructing, dissecting and analyzing); creating opportunities where students have choices about how they interact with content; allowing for opportunities to collaborate both within the classroom and across classrooms, institutions or the world; and by using up-to-date real world news and information in teaching.</p>
5	(No response)
6	(No response)
7	(No response)
8	(No response)
9	(No response)
10	(No response)

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

www.reachacademycharter.webs.com / www.facebook.com/reachacademycharterschool

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.

(Refer to the application kit for definitions and guidance as only "substantial" partnerships should be listed here).

Proposed Management Company	Not Applicable
Partner Organization 1	Catholic Charities of Western New York
Partner Organization 2	(No response)

Proposed Board Chair Signature

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

A large, light gray rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature reads "Dolores Prezynd" in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The first letter 'D' is particularly large and loops around the start of the name.

Date

2016/02/27

Thank you for completing this form.

I. Applicant Group Information

- A. Applicant Group Names:** See Table 1 in Attachment 5b.
- B. Applicant Group Roles:** See Table 1 in Attachment 5b.
- C. Public Contact Information:** Robin Nellis **Email:** rlnellis77@gmail.com **Phone:** 724-601-9099
- D. Application History:** Three applications have been submitted in support of REACH Academy Charter School. The first application was presented in March, 2014 to SUNY. The application was then revamped to address the specific parameters required under SED’s RFP. The Applicant Group submitted an application to NYSED’s Charter School Office in Round 3 in November, 2014. Reviewers again offered valuable feedback and the Applicant Group modified the proposal, clearly detailing the uniquely engaging center based educational model. The 3rd application was submitted in August, 2015, when we were invited to the Capacity Interview Stage. Since questions regarding the center based model remained, the group refined the application to broaden the educational model. Although centers will still be present at times throughout the instructional day, it will not be the only mode of instructional delivery. The fourth application will be submitted in March, 2016.

II. Proposed Charter School Information

- A. Proposed School Name:** REACH Academy Charter School
- B. Proposed School Location:** City of Buffalo, New York
- C. Planned Grades and Enrollment in the 1st thru 5th Year of Operation**

Initial Term	School Year	Kindergarten	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade	Totals
Year 1	17-18	X	X					160
Year 2	18-19	X	X	X				240
Year 3	19-20	X	X	X	X			320
Year 4	20-21	X	X	X	X	X		400
Year 5	21-22	X	X	X	X	X	X	480

- D. Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization:** The Applicant Group is committed to the establishment of systems that fulfill the REACH Academy CS Mission and support the students, families and staff in overcoming the limitations often posed by poverty, disability and language barriers. A partnership has been secured between the school and Catholic Charities of Western New York. This partnership will bring the *Closing The Gap* program to the school, which connects families with providers of tutoring, mental health, and other support services including food and clothing. Also, the *Foster Grandparent Program* will make a difference in the lives of children by bringing adult volunteers into the classrooms of REACH Academy CS.

- E. Proposed School Mission:**

~Our Mission, Our Promise~

The Mission of the REACH Academy Charter School is to ensure the achievement of high academic standards for City of Buffalo students through a hands-on authentic learning environment. Scholars of REACH Academy Charter School will learn the value of Service, Leadership, Character and Citizenship, along with effective Communication Skills as evident in reading, writing, mathematical and technological competencies. REACH Academy Charter School will provide the tools for scholars to rise above the limitations often posed by poverty, disability and the struggle to achieve English Language Proficiency.

- F. School Overview:** To close the gap on poverty, REACH Academy CS will provide rich vocabulary and language experiences designed specifically to develop language abilities in vocabulary and background knowledge for students at-risk for academic failure. The development of strong literacy skills make up the basic foundation for all learning. Scholars at REACH Academy Charter School will develop strong communication skills, as evident in reading, writing, mathematical and technological competencies. While learning to read fluently and understand what is read are critical to academic success, it is not enough to bridge the gap for students in poverty. Building background knowledge and increasing vocabulary skills are essential to make up for the difference for students from impoverished homes (Snow K., 2013). REACH Academy CS will provide rich authentic opportunities for students to build the skills necessary to successfully compete in the 21st Century.

REACH Academy Key Design Elements

These design elements are what will make REACH Academy Charter School a dynamic school of the 21st Century. Each are woven into every aspect of the school's rigorous program and provides students the opportunity for critical and reflective thinking throughout their educational experience.

1. Instructional Design – *The Six Point Plan to Increasing Student Achievement* model encapsulates an effective way to ensure achievement by allowing for continuous evaluation of progress and requiring immediate modification to students' learning plans as needed. The plan includes: Setting Up a Culture of High Expectations, Articulating the Curriculum, Ensuring Best Instructional Practices, Administering Common Assessments, Providing Research Based Interventions and Monitoring Progress.

2. Authentic Classroom Learning Environments – It's been clearly documented that engagement increases when students are cognitively involved and thinking critically about the content. (Wilmington, 2007) Authenticity includes meaningful tasks that are real or have purpose, which increases student engagement. The classrooms at REACH Academy Charter School will be designed as "mini" real world familiar environments based upon developmentally appropriate themes. In order to bridge the gap for those in poverty, rich authentic language experiences and exposure to a wide range of books across genres are essential (Snow and Shattuck, 2014) and will be evident throughout the school.

3. Balanced Literacy Approach and Literacy Focused - A basic belief at REACH Academy CS is that students in poverty need an enormous amount of rich language experiences to bridge the gap that poverty creates. The students will engage in focused, rich literacy experiences throughout their school day. Using Fountas and Pinnell's model for Guided Reading and Phonic Lessons and Lucy Calkin's model for Reader's /Writer's Workshop as the basic literacy curriculum, students will receive a highly personalized approach in literacy instruction. The balanced literacy approach will provide structure and support that will enable all students to acquire the knowledge, skills, habits and dispositions needed to exceed standards in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Other components of a Balanced Literacy Model will also be incorporated such as independent reading, shared reading, books on tape, word study, vocabulary, shared writing, independent writing and research that students will work at daily.

4. Utilizing Technology to Enhance Instruction, Engagement and Learning - Technology will be used to foster student engagement through active learning tasks. Teachers will use technology based instructional methods that encourage students to actively engage with curriculum. The many benefits of utilizing technology include; providing students with real-world problem solving opportunities, providing students with experimental methods for reaching a conclusion, and encouraging students to think about and discuss learning activities. Additionally REACH Academy Charter School will increase engagement through instructional methods that utilize technology by making use of visual displays (for comparing, constructing, dissecting and analyzing); creating opportunities where students have choices about how they interact with content; allowing for opportunities to collaborate both within the classroom and across classrooms, institutions or the world; and by using up-to-date real world news and information in teaching.

G. Target Population/Community Served: The Targeted Population for REACH Academy Charter School is directed to the minority student coming from a depressed socio-economic background in the City of Buffalo. The location of the school will be on the East Side of Buffalo in either an area known as the Broadway-Fillmore District or in the city's Fruit Belt neighborhood. Both of these locations offer the challenge of lifting up an area with a high percentage of the population living below the poverty level and some of the lowest performing schools in the city. Buffalo Public Schools had a 79% free and reduced lunch rate in 2015. With either location, it is expected that the school will have a minority rate and an economically disadvantaged rate of more than 90%. The school curriculum is specifically designed to help reduce the poverty gap by providing rich language experiences designed to build background knowledge and vocabulary skills which have been shown to be delayed for students living in poverty (Haty and Risely, 2004.)

H. Replication of High Quality School Models: Not Applicable.

III.A. School's Plan to Attract and Recruit Students

A. Targeted Population: The Targeted Population is directed to the minority student coming from a depressed socio-economic background in Buffalo. Driven by our mission to *provide tools for scholars to rise above the limitations often posed by poverty*, our entire program is geared toward helping the struggling student who might not otherwise find success in a typical underperforming city school. The key design elements demonstrate a highly engaging, academically rigorous environment involving a unique instructional design, a balanced literacy approach and small group instruction that is differentiated and specific to student needs. Advertising in community newspapers, local radio, and television broadcasting events to promote the school will begin immediately upon approval. Brochures will be widely distributed anywhere parents might gather. Several Open Houses will be hosted months prior to opening.

B. Students with Disabilities: True to our mission, REACH Academy Charter School will recruit students with special needs by working with agencies that provide Preschool Programs, such as Bornhava and Baker Victory Services, for students with disabilities. Informational Sessions will be set up to specifically address how our program will meet the needs of students with special needs and for parents to tour and learn more about the services offered. Program Administrators, Social Workers, District CPSE Coordinators, Sp. Ed. Teachers, Parents and Students will all be invited to learn more about our school. Additionally, our recruitment brochures will specifically mention the special services offered and our philosophy on special education will be shared during Open Houses/Parent Information Nights.

C. English Language Learners: According to the New York State School Report Card, 14% of the students in Buffalo Public Schools were Limited English Proficient in 2014-2015. REACH Academy CS will visit ethnic community groups and offer presentations to their membership to invite prospective students to visit our school. Journey's End Refugee Services and Hope Refugee Center will be invited to tour our school. Printed promotional materials will be distributed both in English and in Spanish.

Students who are Eligible Applicants for the Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program: The very location of REACH Academy Charter School will be one of the biggest draws for students who are eligible for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program (FRLP). In 2014-2015, the Buffalo Public Schools had an average of 79% of the population that qualified for FRLP. However, according the 2013-2014 New York State Report Card Data, schools located within a 1.2 mile radius of our proposed school's location had an average of 88% FRLP rate. While recruiting for our school, we will emphasize the location of the school as we target the local impoverished neighborhood where we will be situated. Recruitment brochures will also be distributed to local homeless shelters, food pantries and public housing projects.

III.B. School's Plan to Retain Students

A. Targeted Population: In order to retain our targeted population, we will ensure students' success and maintain a high level of parent satisfaction.

~ We will actively seek high quality minority teachers who share similar background and cultural understanding and sensitivity with our students. Professional Development will include diversity training and acclimating teachers to what life is like for students living in poverty

~ REACH Academy Charter School will establish a *Back Pack Program* for Kindergarten and 1st Graders providing engaging literacy activities, toys and books to be sent home with students and rotated monthly.

~ Parents will be encouraged, but not required to volunteer in school and in the classroom.

~ Anonymous Parent Surveys will assess satisfaction and gather feedback for improvement.

~ Classes will be held in summer and over breaks for students to remediate academic weaknesses.

~ 2nd Grade students and up will be given planners to manage assignments, class work, notes.

B. Students with Disabilities: The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools offers several strategies for retaining students with disabilities. REACH Academy Charter School will have a culture of high expectations for all students. This will be done through constant communication of the message that all students are welcome and expected to succeed. We will provide a robust curriculum designed by effective

teachers who regularly monitor progress to formulate targeted and fluid interventions based on common formative assessment data. Having a structured Response to Intervention (RtI) model will ensure that teams of general and special education teachers meet students' needs as they arise, rather than waiting for students to fail. Classroom teachers will be a key participant in grade level teams that share in the accountability of all the students' success. By closely tracking success, we will ensure that required retention targets are met while demonstrating students' growth in their program.

C. English Language Learners: In order to retain our English Language Learners, the faculty and staff will integrate cultural traditions of ENL families throughout our school community. We will host an annual Cultural Night where all families in our school community are invited to share a special ethnic dish to be sampled by all. Cultural Night will also invite parents to share a special ethnic or cultural tradition or custom within the school community. Maps and flags will be displayed in a prominent place within the building to designate where our students are from. By creating a welcoming school environment that respects the cultural traditions and customs of our students and their families, we will build a strong sense of community within our building. The faculty and staff at REACH Academy Charter School will encourage the native language use at home and suggest that parents read and tell stories to their children in their native language which will also help their reading skills in English. Bilingual books will be available in the school library. One of our greatest challenges will be communicating with ENL parents. Creating a solid translation process will be paramount. We will offer staff training on how to communicate in simplified English on the phone when necessary. We will work with an agency such as The International Institute of Buffalo on providing Interpreter and Translation Services which they have available in more than 60 languages. Services will be provided for Parent Teacher Conferences and other events as needed, in order to effectively communicate with families.

D. Students who are Eligible for the Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program: Understanding our population is critical to meeting their needs. The school will incorporate flexibility to help our students reach success and to lessen the stress often found in families living in poverty. The school will open at least 30 minutes earlier (longer if necessary) every day to provide free supervision for students whose parents must drop them off early in order to get to work. No student will be expected to wait outside in the cold Buffalo temperatures waiting for the school to open. A free quality after school program will run from the end of the school day until 5:15 pm daily so students are not left home alone unsupervised. A School Uniform Policy will be instituted to reduce the burden of shopping for designer clothing and the competition among students often associated with having the most fashionable items. A Uniform Swap will be facilitated annually where parents can trade gently worn uniforms each year for the appropriate size needed. A washer and dryer and a shower will be located in the building for the rare occasion when some students need to discretely receive a shower and clean clothes. Extra uniforms, socks, belts and underwear will be made available for students whose families don't have the basic means to provide these essentials. The Social Worker will lead a Winter Coat Drive for those parents struggling to purchase quality warm clothing. Monthly Spaghetti Dinners and an annual Chicken BBQ will be hosted to share a meal together while building a strong sense of school community. Lastly, the Social Worker will pick up students who miss the bus and have no way of getting to school.

IV. Public Outreach and Community Support

A. Public Outreach: REACH Academy CS's plan for Public Outreach has employed a multi-faceted approach, beginning in December, 2013 and continuing beyond the date of this Letter of Intent. Over the past 26 months, Outreach has taken the form of Public Forums, Discussions with Community Leaders and Organizations, and both Social Media and traditional public awareness campaigns. Each event informed the community about our proposed charter school, the intended location, the targeted student population, the grades to be served and a description of our educational program. See Table 2: *Public Outreach Information* involving a detailed snapshot of all the outreach events. Types of outreach consist of: ***14 Public Forums** have been scheduled, advertised and completed to date and two additional forums are scheduled. All forums

featured a multi-media presentation, printed materials and one-on-one discussions with attendees. Those attending were also encouraged to complete a survey to assist the Applicant Group in tailoring the school's design to the needs of the community and families to be served.

B. Assessment of Family and Community Support: Participants at our community forums, respondents to our questionnaires and members of the community where members of the Board of Trustees and Applicant group have informally discussed the proposed charter school have offered several suggestions which have been included in this most recent draft of the charter, including an idea to offer computer literacy classes for parents as well as students. In trading e-mails with the Broadway Fillmore Alive Community Group, we have developed connections to other possible resources in the area. A discussion with a member of the Buffalo Board of Education led us to look at how we addressed African American history and culture in our curriculum. The REACH Academy Charter School's Facebook page has generated a large number of "likes", or positive responses. In the course of our discussions with families, community groups, teachers and others, we have shared the vision we have for REACH Academy Charter School, and more often than not, the response has been to ask how soon the school could be open and when would enrollment begin. The Applicant Group is convinced there will be family and community support for the opening of REACH Academy Charter School and high demand for the initial 160 openings. Specific statistical evidence is presented next to support the founders conclusions. Based on lengthy and diversified outreach spanning 27 months, the Applicant Group is confident enrollment targets can be met. Three hundred ninety-three surveys were collected at outreach events, with seventy-five percent stating they are likely to apply for enrollment at REACH Academy Charter School. Seventy-five percent of parents dissatisfied with their children's current school were residents of the Buffalo Public School District. The survey responses, Social Media interactions, (4,745 hits on the website alone) and one-on-one discussions with parents have produced a list of elements of the school's design that are of high or moderate importance to families looking for quality schools for their children. The Applicant Group used this input to develop the Key Design Elements of REACH Academy Charter School to incorporate what parents value: Small Class Sizes, Community Service Experiences, Quality Leadership Opportunities and Afterschool Programs are important to over ninety-five percent of respondents; a Positive Behavior System, the location of the school, a nutritious Breakfast and Lunch and Family and Community Activities are valued by greater than ninety three percent; and a school welcoming to all cultures with Learning Labs during school recesses are cited by over ninety percent. The design of REACH Academy Charter School will strongly align to what Buffalo parents want and will assure successful recruitment and enrollment. Since REACH Academy Charter School is to be located within the Buffalo district, the Applicant Group also looked at conditions that might foster a search by Buffalo parents for alternative placements from the home school. In recent years, there has been an increase in transfer requests for children attending low-performing schools. As of July, 2015, only 15 out of 56 Buffalo Public Schools were "in good standing."³ As parents compete to get their children into those 15 schools, wait lists have grown and nearly 2,000 transfer requests by parents for a School in Good Standing have gone unfulfilled. Charter school wait lists offer further evidence of demand for quality schools. In May of 2015, more than 1,100 children were waiting for Kindergarten openings and more than 500 are on first grade wait lists for local charter schools. Additionally, legislation was being considered at the state level that would have allowed the dismantling of the Buffalo Board of Education for Mayoral Oversight of the school system. In his letter to the governor, Buffalo Mayor, Byron W. Brown, argued that the Buffalo Public Schools have failed to show "substantive progress on behalf of 34,000 children." A conservative assessment of outreach efforts strongly supports the conclusion that Buffalo parents looking for a quality school will respond enthusiastically to REACH Academy Charter School's aggressive recruitment campaign, easily creating sufficient demand to meet enrollment targets throughout the five year charter term.

V. Proposed Board Chair Signature and Date



Dolores M. Prezyna – Proposed Board Chair

2/22/2016

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 None Continuing Role)	PROPOSED POSITION ON THE BOARD (e.g., officer, trustee, or constituent representative)	LENGTH OF INITIAL TERM	VOTING MEMBER (YES OR NO)
Dr. Dolores Prezyna	[REDACTED]	Adjunct Professor -SUNY Fredonia- Retired Principal Frontier Central School District	Academics, Board and Building Leadership and Supervision Literacy Specialist, Instructional Leadership, Teacher Evaluation, Union Negotiations, Evaluations	BOT Trustee	President	3-Years	Yes
Linda Marszalek	[REDACTED]	Building Administrator - Buffalo Public Schools	Educational Leadership, School Turnaround, Data Teams, Literacy and Academics, Curriculum Planning, Finance/Budget Planning, Instructional Improvement, Sp. Ed	Founder	N/A	N/A	N/A
Michael Olsen	[REDACTED]	Teacher- Buffalo Public Schools Information Technology Coordinator- Enterprise Charter School	Facility Planning, Design and Maintenance, Instructional Technology Implementation and Coach, Chief Information Officer, Computer Networking, Student Management Systems, Procurement Experience	Founder/ BOT Trustee	Vice President	1-Year	Yes
Christine Mann	[REDACTED]	Dent Neurologic Institute Director of Infusion, Purchasing and Contracting	Finance, Budget Oversight, Human Resources Experience, Contract Negotiations, Personnel Policy, Leadership, Operations, Marketing Specialist, Bi-Lingual/ German	BOT Trustee	Officer of the Board	2-Years	Yes
Leslie Scott	[REDACTED]	Assistant Federal Public Defender - United States Federal Public Defenders Office	Legal, Experience in Special Education and Criminal Law, Inner-City Youth Mentor, At-Risk Youth Advocate Community Leader and Minority Status	BOT Trustee	Board Secretary	1-Year	Yes

Ryan Caster		Certified Public Accountant - Freed Maxick CPAs, P.C	Financial Oversight, Budget Planning and Development, Procurement Procedures, Business Operations, Payroll, Benefits	BOT Trustee	Board Treasurer	2-Years	Yes
Parent Representative- TBA	TBA	TBA	Expected to Bring Parent Perspective to Governance and also a Liaison and Advocate to Individual Parents and Family Council	BOT Trustee	Officer of the Board	2-Years	Yes
Community Representative		Retired, Board Member of Citizen Action of New York, Member of PUSH Buffalo, Member of Clean Air Coalition for Health and Justice of Western New York	Brings Community Perspective to Governance and also a Connection to Community Partners and Advocates for the School. Current and Past member of several community organizations.	BOT Trustee	Officer of the Board	3-Years	Yes
Lisa Rogers		Co-Principal of Cantalician Center for Learning, Inc. People Incorporated	Educational Leadership Positive Behavior Intervention Specialist, Community Outreach, Youth Mentor, Special Education, CSE, IEP Development, Supervision	Founder/ Dean of Students/ Director of Operations	N/A	N/A	No
Robin Nellis		District Data Clerk Global Concepts Charter School	Student Management Systems, Board Clerk Experience, Community Outreach Office Supervision, Daily Building Operations, Records Management, Student Attendance, Data Clerk	Founder/ Intake Coordinator Board Clerk Chief Information Officer	N/A	N/A	No

Table 2: Public Outreach Information

Date(s) of Outreach	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
12/6/13	Create and make public the REACH Academy CS Website, E-mail Address, New Charter School Questionnaire and Public Contact Form. Website states; the school's mission for the school, grade levels, school's proposed location, programmatic information, contact information, questionnaire to solicit public input.	Website: Reachacademycharter.webs.com E-mail: reachacademycharter@gmail.com	Public at Large, Community Members, Community Organizations, Parents, School Districts, Daycare Centers, State Education Department.	Feedback obtained from visitors who filled out and submitted via the web the New School Questionnaire stated that it was important to provide a longer school day, school social worker/guidance counselor for wrap around services, transportation, welcoming environment for parents, intersession labs. Several respondents offered to assist in the writing of the charter application or serving as a member of the Board of Trustees.	The school has sought out an organization that provides an enormous amount a wrap-around support based services that is located in Buffalo. This has subsequently led to the partnership between Catholic Charities of Buffalo. Through the Closing the Gap Program, REACH Academy CS, will offer a site based Social Worker and Guidance Counselor will be charged with providing access of these services to our students, their families and the community.	To date, over 4,700 visits to the REACH Academy website have been recorded. 93% of visitors are from the Western NY area.
1/6/14	1st Community Stakeholder Letter	Greater Buffalo Area and Western New York Community	250 Area Community Leaders and Organizations	Phone inquiry from the Erie County Sheriff's Office telling us that we have their full support and that they would like to work closely with us after we open; offering safety programs and providing positive presence in our school.	Once the charter has been granted, the Sheriff's Office will be invited to provide student presentations throughout the school year.	N/A

Date(s) of Outreach	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
1/20/14	REACH Academy Charter School Trifold Flyer	Greater Buffalo Area and Western New York Community	Greater Buffalo Area and Western New York Community	On-going feedback was obtained in conjunction with our surveys both on the website and at community outreach events. See Community Forums for specific feedback obtained.	See Community Forums for specific actions taken on feedback.	Over 1,000 brochures distributed
2/8/14	Create and make public, the REACH Academy CS Facebook Page. The Facebook page states; the mission for the school, the school's proposed location, contact information, programmatic information and a questionnaire to solicit public input, email address and a link to the school's website.	Facebook Address: https://www.facebook.com/reachacademycharterschool	Community Members, Community Organizations, Parents, Schools, School Districts, Daycare Centers, State Education Department	Feedback obtained from visitors has resulted in increased attendance at public forums. Several community leaders have expressed their support to locate the school on the east side of Buffalo.	Given the high desirability by the public to locate a high quality elementary charter school on the east side of Buffalo, the founders and BOT have sought out and have identified at least 2 sites in which to locate the school.	To date, nearly 600 people have liked or shared posts that have placed on the site.
2/19/14	1st Press Release	City of Buffalo	Community Members, Community Organizations, Parents, Schools, School Districts and Daycare Centers	Televised news coverage of the schools intent to submit application to open REACH Academy Charter School. These stations include WIVB-TV, WKBW-TV, WGRZ-TV (3/20/2014), Buffalo News (4/2/2014) and Buffalo's Business First articles (2/19/2014).	N/A	N/A

Date(s)) of Out- reach	Description of the Outreach	Location of Out- reach	Target Stake- holder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
2/27/14 and 3/5/14	Two community forums were advertised at least 2 weeks prior to the events via the RACS website and Facebook page. Flyers were sent to over 30 preschool and daycare organizations serving children living in the community. Flyers were also sent to educational organizations that serve or assist children with disabilities, children of refugee families and children who are considered English as a New Language. The forums consisted of a PowerPoint presentation (translated in Spanish) conveying the school's mission, location, programmatic information, New School Questionnaire and contact information. A trifold brochure, with the preceding information, was distributed to all attendees.	Bethel Head Start 1424 Jefferson Ave Buffalo, New York 14208 Located on the East Side of Buffalo	Community Members, Community Organization, Parents, Schools, School Districts and Daycare Centers	Through the completion of surveys and oral feedback, attendees identified a strong need for the school to offer an extended school day/year, intersession labs, a uniform policy, hiring of local teachers (located in the City of Buffalo), quality and free afterschool activities, and a school that better supports students with disabilities.	RACS has built in the longer school day/year, intersession labs (offered during all breaks not just the summer), mandatory school uniforms (that can be purchased through the school at a substantial savings to parents), the recruitment of teachers through both nationwide and local postings, and working with local youth organizations to provide free quality academic activities to serve our after school program students. The school will employ a robust and rigorous curriculum that coupled with the setting of Individual Learning Plans, adherence to the students IEP and frequent communication with the students' parents/guardians will ensure that any student with disabilities is supported and provided with tools to be successful.	Approximately, 45 parents/guardians of children ages 4-5 on 2/27/14 and approximately, 38 parents/guardians of children ages 4-5 on 3/5/14
4/23/14	Public Hearing held by Home School District	Buffalo Board of Education 801 City Hall Buffalo, New York 14201	Buffalo Board of Education, Community Members, Parents, Employees of Buffalo Public Schools	Feedback and questions provided by the members of the Buffalo Board of Education; 1. Concerned the hiring of minorities within the school. 2. Was transportation being provided to the students? 3. Were any donations received from other charter schools?	RACS will conduct a local and nationwide search to seek out and recruit the best candidates that share similar cultural, ethnic and racial similarities of our students. RACS will work with Buffalo Public Schools and their transportation vendor to provide bussing for students. The founders and the BOT of RACS are committed to establishing the school on the east side of Buffalo for the betterment of the community at large.	Approximately, 100 community members including parents and 6 members of the Buffalo Board of Education were in attendance

Date(s) of Outreach	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
6/25/14	Local Educational Leaders: *Dr. James Mills	In-Person Interviews: Local restaurant.	Retired School Superintendent, Past President of the New York State Council for School Superintendents, Professor in Ed. Leadership at Niagara University	Suggestions Included: Don't just do things the same way they are being done in school districts. Think of new and better ways to accomplish the same goals but in a more effective manner.	Innovative systems were incorporated into the application to meet the same goals but in more functional and effective ways	1:1
8/1/14	*Mr. Don Ogilvie	Superintendent's Office - City Hall	Interim Superintendent Buffalo Public Schools, Retired District Superintendent Erie 1 BOCES	Discussion focused on effective school turn around strategies that are researched based.	Longer school day, longer school year, use of the 6 Point Plan for Increased Student Achievement were all incorporated into the school's design.	
11/2/14	*Mr. Kevin McDonald	District Superintendent's Office – GV BOCES	Current District Superintendent Genesee Valley BOCES	Learning needs to be authentic, purposeful and real. Engaging students is key to effective schools.	Highly engaging thematic units were put into the design of the school's instructional program.	
10/6/14	2nd Stakeholder Letter	City of Buffalo	150 Area Community Leaders and Organizations	Bethel Head Start and CAO Head Start both contacted us for information on our proposal. We were then invited to attend the Bethel Head Start Charter School Information Night. Fillmore Alive and Buffalo Reformed contacted us to discuss location/programs.	Further outreach opportunities were scheduled and an additional site location was identified in the application.	N/A

Date(s) of Outreach	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
11/19/14	2nd Press Release	City of Buffalo	Western New York Community	No responses received.		N/A
11/24/14	Outreach to Local Educational Leaders: *Mr. James Sampson	Phone Conversations	President Buffalo Board of Education	Discussion focused on moving forward after application denial.	We continued forward.	1:1
01/02/15	*William Mariani		Past President of Erie Community College,	Discussion focused on enlisting politicians support for the school.	We met with a local Senator for his support.	
12/05/14	*Dr. Stephen Phelps		Professor Emeritus, Buffalo State College, Literacy	Discussion focused on our educational model and suggestions on strengthening it.	We incorporated his suggestions for explicitly describing our educational model.	
1/4/15	Outreach to Catholic Charities of Buffalo: *Dennis Walczak CEO: Catholic Charities (CC) *Susan G. Seawood – Foster Grandparent Leader (CC) *Meichle Latham – Director of School Based Services (CC) *Darrel Slisz – Education and Workforce Development Supervisor (CC)	In-Person Meeting	Community /School Partner	Interest in partnering with Catholic Charities to provide wrap around services to our students.	Formalized partnership developed	6 Person Meeting

Date(s) of Outreach	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
1/7/15	Outreach to Western New York Americorp (The Service Collaborative of Western New York): - Melissa Schutte Director of A.B.L.E.	Phone Conversation	Community /School Partner	Although highly competitive, we learned that once the charter is approved, the school can then apply for the partnership with Americorp.	No action is taken and it is understood that no guarantees for a partnership with Americorp will be approved	1:1
1/29/15	Outreach to Bethel Head Start - Rev. Stenhouse, Executive Director and Sandra Billips, Head Start Family Partner	In-Person Meeting	Community /School Partner	Interest was expressed for a possible feeder school for students in preschool.	Charter Law does not allow for any preference given to students' other than siblings of current students, no action was taken.	1:1
1/30/15	Outreach to International Institute of Buffalo	Phone Conversation	Service Provider	Cost for translation services.	Cost of translation services included in the budget.	1:1
2/5/15	Forum was advertised 2 weeks prior to event via the website and Facebook. Flyers were sent to over 30 preschool/daycares serving children living in the community. Flyers were also sent to organizations that serve or assist children with disabilities, children of refugee families and children who are considered English as a New Language Learners. Forum consisted of a PowerPoint (also in Spanish), presentation conveying the proposed school's Mission, Location, Programmatic Information, New School Questionnaire, Contact Information.	Northwest Buffalo Community Center 155 Lawn Avenue Buffalo, New York 14207 (North and West Side of Buffalo)	Community Members, Community Organizations, Parents, Schools, School Districts and Daycare Centers	Through the completion of surveys and oral feedback, attendees identified a need for art and music to be taught on a regular basis. Attendees also commented on a need for consistency when dealing with behavioral discipline/awards.	At RACS, all students will receive Art, Music, Library, Physical Education and Technology. RACS has designed a Positive Behavioral Intervention System that lays out the positive or corrective consequence for all actions of its students. The rationale for all consequences/rewards will be provided to students and their parents at the commencement of each school year in the student handbook.	About 35 parents, guardians, and family members of school aged children

Date(s) of Outreach	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
3/20/15	Community Forum was advertised at least 2 weeks prior to event via the RACS website and Facebook page. Flyers were sent to over 30 preschool/daycare organizations serving children living in the community. Flyers were also sent to educational organizations that serve or assist children with disabilities, children of refugee families and children who are considered English as a New Language. Forum consisted of a PowerPoint (translated in Spanish), Oral presentation conveying the proposed school's Mission, Location, Programmatic Information, New School Questionnaire, Contact Information. A trifold brochure, which the preceding information, was distributed to all attendees.	Bethel Head Start 1424 Jefferson Avenue Buffalo, New York 14208 East Side	Community Members, Community Organizations, Parents, Schools, School Districts and Daycare Centers	Through the completion of surveys and verbal feedback, attendees identified a need for the school to use local organizations and companies to provide services and materials to satisfy the school's needs. Additionally, parents were interested in the observation areas that were to be built into the classroom design.	RACS will include local vendors and organizations in the RFP/ RFQ process. RACS will utilize the observation rooms as a tool for student and teacher observation and intervention as necessary and to encourage parental involvement.	Around 50 parents/ guardians of children ages 4-5
5-16-15 and 5-17-15	Walden Galleria Mall	1 Galleria Drive Cheektowaga, NY 14225 East of the City of Buffalo	Community Members, parents, guardians, etc. from the Greater Buffalo area.	Through the completion of surveys and oral feedback, attendees identified the desire to provide a quality school program for students with disabilities.	A quality program designed specifically to address the needs of students with disabilities by ensuring their academic success has been written into the charter application.	100 parents/ guardians of children ages 4-5, students, educators, and former educators stopped by for information. 90 surveys were completed.

Date(s) of Outreach	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
6/21/15	Community Forum was advertised at least 2 weeks prior to event via the RACS website and Facebook page. Flyers were sent to over 30 preschool/daycare organizations serving children living in the community. Flyers were also sent to educational organizations that serve or assist children with disabilities, children of refugee families and children who are considered English as a New Language. Forum consisted of a PowerPoint (translated in Spanish), Oral presentation conveying the proposed school's Mission, Location, Programmatic Information, New School Questionnaire, Contact Information. A trifold brochure, which the preceding information, was distributed to all attendees.	First Centennial Baptist Church Youth Service 299 High St, Buffalo, NY 14204 North/East Side	Community Members, Community Organizations, Parents, Schools, School Districts and Daycare Centers	Through the completion of surveys, attendees affirmed the strength of the school's educational program, facility location and design, the consistency of the environment and the partnering organizations. Parents repeatedly called for this school to become a community school as most of the children who reside on the east side are bussed out of the area to other schools.	The vision of the school is not only to become a high quality charter school, but a central place to sponsor community based functions such as sporting events, bake sales, cultural and ethnic celebrations. The school will also hold adult education classes.	97 parishioners attended the event. 29 surveys were completed by parents, guardians or family members of school aged children.
7/14/15	Outreach to Junior Achievement of Western New York (JA) Alycia Ivancie – Senior Education Manager	In-Person Meeting	Community School Partner	Discussion focused on the development of a partnership with JA	Partnership was memorialized.	3

Date(s) of Outreach	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
7/18/15	Community Forum was advertised at least 2 weeks prior to event via the RACS website and Facebook page. Flyers were sent to over 30 preschool/daycare organizations serving children living in the community. Flyers were also sent to educational organizations that serve or assist children with disabilities, children of refugee families and children who are considered English as a New Language. Forum consisted of a PowerPoint (translated in Spanish), Oral presentation conveying the proposed school's Mission, Location, Programmatic Information, New School Questionnaire, Contact Information. A trifold brochure, which the preceding information, was distributed to all attendees.	Vibe Fest Buffalo River Works 359 Ganson St, Buffalo, NY 14203 South Side	Community Members, Community Organizations, Parents, Schools, School Districts and Daycare Centers	Through the completion of surveys and verbal feedback, attendees affirmed the apparent strength of the school's educational program, facility location and design, the consistency of the environment and the partnering organizations. Several attendees brought up the need for a Bilingual speaking representative to be employed by the school.	The school will recruit, for all positions, any qualified person who is bilingual to apply for employment. As part of staff development, the school will offer staff training on how to communicate in simplified English on the phone when necessary. The International Institute of Buffalo will be contracted to provide Interpreter and Translation Services, which they have available in more than 60 languages.	82 persons stopped for information about the school. 23 parents, guardians or family members of school aged children completed a survey.

Date(s) of Outreach	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
8/8/15	Community Forum was advertised at least 2 weeks prior to event via the RACS website and Facebook page. Flyers were sent to over 30 preschool/daycare organizations serving children living in the community. Flyers were also sent to educational organizations that serve or assist children with disabilities, children of refugee families and children who are considered English as a New Language. Forum consisted of a PowerPoint (translated in Spanish), Oral presentation conveying the proposed school's Mission, Location, Programmatic Information, New School Questionnaire, Contact Information. A trifold brochure, which the preceding information, was distributed to all attendees.	Back to School Kickoff Edward Saunders Community Center 2777 Bailey Buffalo, NY 14215 East Side	Community Members, Community Organizations, Parents, Schools, School Districts and Daycare Centers	Through the completion of surveys and verbal feedback, attendees affirmed the apparent strength of the school's educational program, facility location and design, the consistency of the environment and the partnering organizations. Several parents inquired as to the infusion of African American History and Culture into the environment and curriculum of the school.	RACS will celebrate the many cultures of the students that are anticipated to be enrolled at RACS. The Social Studies course will have the cultures of our students infused into the curriculum. The front foyer of the school will display the flags of the countries from which its students originate from. The school will host an Annual Cultural Night where families will bring an ethnic dish to pass and share stories of their families history.	Approximately 150 families attended the event. 31 surveys were completed.

Date(s) of Outreach	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
10/7/15	Community Forum was advertised at least 2 weeks prior to event via the RACS website and Facebook page. Flyers were sent to over 30 preschool/daycare organizations serving children living in the community. Flyers were also sent to educational organizations that serve or assist children with disabilities, children of refugee families and children who are considered English as a New Language. Forum consisted of a PowerPoint (translated in Spanish), Oral presentation conveying the proposed school's Mission, Location, Programmatic Information, New School Questionnaire, Contact Information. A trifold brochure, which the preceding information, was distributed to all attendees.	The Community Volunteer Fair- Amherst Senior Center 370 John James Audubon Parkway Amherst, NY 14228	Community Members, Community Organizations, Parents, Schools, School Districts and Daycare Centers	Through the completion of surveys and verbal feedback, questions were raised as to the proposed location of the school. Parents wanted to know about transportation such as who was providing the bussing, was REACH going to have its own busses or emergency transportation and how long would a child have to wait for a change to take place if they needed to move.	Parents were informed that REACH Academy CS would contract through Buffalo Transportation Office (First Student) and that we would be required to follow the same policies and procedures as Buffalo Public School.	15 families with school age children attended the event. 14 surveys were completed.
12/28/15	Community Forum was advertised at least 2 weeks prior to event via the RACS website and Facebook page. Flyers were sent to over 30 preschool/daycare organizations serving children living in the community. Flyers were also sent to educational organizations that serve or assist children with disabilities, children of refugee families and children who are considered English as a New Language. Forum consisted of a PowerPoint (translated in Spanish), Oral presentation conveying the proposed school's Mission, Location, Programmatic Information, New School Questionnaire, Contact Information. A trifold brochure, which the preceding information, was distributed to all attendees.	Northwest Buffalo Community Center 155 Lawn Ave Buffalo, New York 14207	Community Members, Community Organizations, Parents, Schools, School Districts and Daycare Centers	Through the completion of surveys and verbal feedback, attendees affirmed the apparent strength of the school's educational program, facility location and design, the consistency of the environment and the partnering organizations. Parents and community members made inquiries as to Special Education Services.	Attendees were assured that RACS would provide Special Education Services for all enrolled students.	27 parents and community members attended the forum. 11 surveys were completed.

`Date(s) of Outreach	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
1/26/16	North Buffalo Community Center Community Forum was advertised at least 2 weeks prior to event via the RACS website and Facebook page. Flyers were sent to over 30 preschool/daycare organizations serving children living in the community. Flyers were also sent to educational organizations that serve or assist children with disabilities, children of refugee families and children who are considered English as a New Language. Forum consisted of a PowerPoint (translated in Spanish), Oral presentation conveying the proposed school's Mission, Location, Programmatic Information, New School Questionnaire, Contact Information. A trifold brochure, which the preceding information, was distributed to all attendees.	North Buffalo Community Center 203 Sanders Road Buffalo, New York 14216 North Buffalo	Community Members, Community Organizations, Parents, Schools, School Districts and Daycare Centers	Through the completion of surveys and verbal feedback, attendees expressed concern regarding transportation and hiring quality teachers who truly care about kids.	A careful recruitment plan involving an international search has been developed and incorporated into the charter application.	70 parents and community members stopped by for information -27 surveys were completed.

Date(s) of Outreach	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
2/24/16	Head Start Charter Information Night	Bethel Head Start 1424 Jefferson Ave Buffalo, New York 14208 Eastside of Buffalo	Community Members, Community Organizations, Parents, Schools, School Districts and Daycare Centers	Through the completion of surveys and oral feedback, attendees inquired about the incorporation of a strong literacy program and how the school would ensure individual student success.	Attendees confirmed the focus of the charter proposal involving a strong literacy focus that builds vocabulary and background knowledge is critical.	23 parents/ guardians of children ages 4-5 attended the forum.. 12 surveys were completed.
3/10/16 Scheduled	True Bethel Baptist Church – Bible Study Meeting	True Bethel Baptist Church 907 E Ferry St, Buffalo, NY 14211	Community Members, Community Organizations, Parents, Schools, School Districts and Daycare Centers	TBA	TBA	TBA

Date(s) of Outreach	Description of the Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
4/13/16 Scheduled	North Buffalo Community Center Community Forum will be advertised at least 2 weeks prior to event via the RACS website and Facebook page. Flyers will be sent to over 30 preschool/daycare organizations serving children living in the community. Flyers will also be sent to educational organizations that serve or assist children with disabilities, children of refugee families and children who are considered English as a New Language. Forum will consist of a PowerPoint (translated in Spanish), Oral presentation conveying the proposed school's Mission, Location, Programmatic Information, New School Questionnaire, Contact Information. A trifold brochure, which the preceding information, will be distributed to all attendees	North Buffalo Community Center 203 Sanders Road Buffalo, New York 14216 North Buffalo	Community Members, Community Organizations, Parents, Schools, School Districts and Daycare Centers	TBA	TBA	TBA
1/1/2017 - 8/1/2017 Anticipated	Door- to – Door - Grassroots Outreach <u>Enrollment Drive</u>	Neighborhood within 1 mile of proposed school location.	Families of school aged children	TBA	TBA	TBA

Attachment 2a: Initial Samples of Public Outreach

Provide **ONE** sample of evidence from **EACH** of the following categories that supports the applicant group's outreach attempts:

1. The REACH Academy Charter School Website, <http://www.reachacademycharter.webs.com> is one of the many methods used by the Founders and the proposed Board of Trustees to inform the community about the proposed charter school including its intended location, the target student population, the grades to be served, and a description of the educational program that is to be offered.

HOME CONTACT FORM NEW CHARTER QUESTIONNAIRE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CALENDAR LINKS PHOTO GALLERY

REACH Academy Charter School

REACH HIGHER

Charter Application Update
3/9/2015
To All Supporters, Community Members, Parents and Students-

The members of the Board of Trustees and the Founding Group of REACH Academy Charter School are aimed to submit a Letter of Intent, and upon its approval, a full application to open a new charter school in the City of Buffalo. Currently the group is actively reaching out to the Buffalo Community to solicit their input as to what is desired in a new school. If REACH Academy Charter School is granted the honor of receiving a charter, REACH Academy would open in August, 2017. Please stay tuned for the release of new information and public meeting dates.

We thank you for your continued support and ask you to fill out the NEW CHARTER QUESTIONNAIRE that can be found at the top and bottom of this page.

- Founders of REACH Academy Charter School

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Please come and join us to discuss the future of education at RACS.

What: Informational Meeting on REACH Academy

Where: 203 Sanders Road Buffalo, New York 14207

When: 1/26/15 4:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.

If you are unable to attend or would like us to contact you directly, please feel free to fill out the Contact Form. We will contact you within 48 hours.

School Background Information

REACH Academy Charter School will soon be a free, public charter school located in Buffalo's Willet Park District or Broadway-Filmora District and will serve families in all surrounding areas. REACH Academy Charter School is seeking approval of a five year charter under the authority of the New York State Education Department and the Board of Regents.

The school's scheduled opening is August 2017, with an initial offering of classes in Kindergarten through First Grade. At the end of its first charter, REACH Academy will be serving 480 students in grades K-5. True to its mission, REACH Academy will guide these scholars to achievement of high academic standards and to exhibit qualities of service, leadership, character and citizenship.

REACH Academy Charter School will offer a groundbreaking, hands-on educational program to families seeking creative preparation in all Common Core areas. Any and all public comment on this proposal and its impact on the educational options available to Buffalo area families is welcome.

We want all stakeholders, which include all families in the City of Buffalo and its surrounding suburbs, community members, and public officials to comment on this proposal. Please visit the [New Charter Questionnaire](#) page or click the link.

School Environment

- Small Class Sizes —20:1
- Extended School Day
- Extended Academic Calendar

5/1- We are proud to welcome JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF WESTERN NEW YORK to our proposed school. As a school partner, JAWNY will come to the school and teach students, as early as kindergarten, what is money, the value of money and how to be responsible with money.

3/1- THE FOUNDERS OF REACH ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL ARE PROUD TO WELCOME CATHOLIC CHARITIES TO OUR PROPOSED SCHOOL!

RACS will be partnering with Catholic Charities of Buffalo to provide access to services to all RACS schoolers and their families.

11/18- HERE IT IS!! THE FULL CHARTER APPLICATION. This application is a symbol of why each and everyone of us founders, teachers and supporters is in and believes in education! CLICK THE LINK ABOVE TO VIEW THE FULL APPLICATION!

11/18- NYSED Charter School Application is Submitted. Thank you to everyone for your support we could not have done it without your support!!!!

10/15- New updated REACH Academy Charter Information is available at most Buffalo Daycare centers and Universal Pre-K Programs.

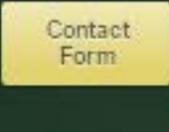
9/4- Students of Buffalo, good luck on your first day of school. REACH for your Potential.

5/1- Information on RACS can be found at most CAO and Bethel Headquarters in and around the city of Buffalo. Thank you for all of your interest.

3/12- Application Proposal is IN!!

3/3 - Great interview with [Broadway-Films Alive](#). Link to post is coming soon.

- Extended Academic Calendar
- School Environment created to foster the student's natural desire to explore his or her world around them
- Embedded Enrichment Classes that extend Music, Information Technology and the Visual Arts.
- Mandatory Student Uniforms
- Observation areas within each classroom to ensure that your child is receiving the absolute best educational experience.
- Use of Current Educational Technologies to to enhance classroom instruction and develop Technological Literacy.
- After-school enrichment through exploratory programs
- After-school athletic programs
- Physical Education in all grades.
- Evening family activities
- Intervention Labs hosted at RACS during school recesses.
- Transportation provided by Buffalo Public Schools for students who live in Buffalo. Suburban students would be transported by their home school district.
- Special Education Programs are available for students with a disability.
- English as a Second Language Programs are available.
- A PARTNERSHIP between Catholic Charities and REACH Academy will bring access to all programs held within the Catholic Charities scope of services to the school.



You may also offer input at reachacademycharter@gmail.com



- The Founder Group and members of the proposed Board of Trustees for REACH Academy Charter School has to date, held 16 public meetings/ outreach events in an attempt to inform the parents and families of school age children, members of the Buffalo Public Schools, community leaders and community organizations with ties to education that are located in the City of Buffalo where REACH Academy Charter School is to be located.



REACH ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

Town Hall Meeting Announcement

The founders of the proposed REACH Academy Charter School are seeking community feedback on the schools proposed location and program.

Where: Northwest Buffalo Community Center
Address: 155 Lawn Ave Buffalo NY 14207
When: February 5, 2015 runs from 6-8 PM

REACH Academy Charter School is seeking approval to be a free, public charter school located on Buffalo's East Side serving families in all surrounding areas. REACH Academy Charter School is seeking approval of its first five year charter under the authority of the New York State Board of Regents as recommended by the New York State Education Department's Charter School Office.

The school is scheduled to open in September, 2016, with an initial offering of classes in Kindergarten and First Grade. At the end of its first five year charter, REACH Academy will be serving 600 students in Grades K-5. True to its mission, REACH Academy will guide student scholars to the achievement of high academic standards who exhibit qualities of service, leadership, character and citizenship.

REACH Academy Charter School will offer a groundbreaking, hands-on educational program to families seeking creative preparation in the Common Core areas. Any and all public comments on this proposal and its impact on the educational options available to Buffalo area families are welcome. Visit reachacademycharter.weeb.com to learn more about the school and to offer a comment. You may also offer input at reachacademycharter@gmail.com.

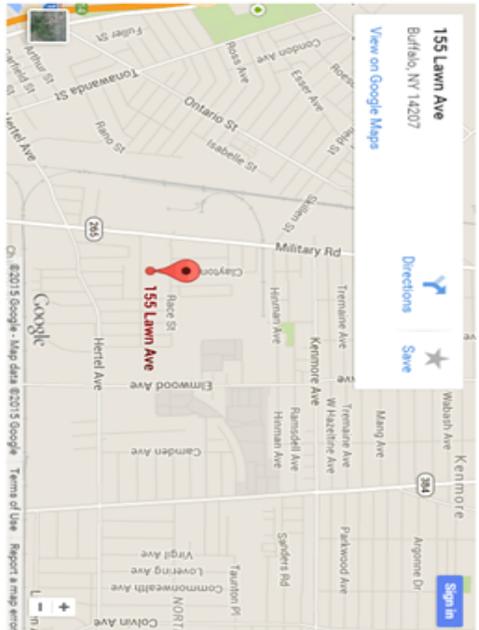
www.reachacademycharter.weeb.com
reachacademycharter@gmail.com

— Our Mission, Our Promise —
The mission of the REACH Academy Charter School is to ensure the achievement of high academic standards for City of Buffalo students through a rigorous, authentic learning environment. Supporters of the REACH Academy Charter School will learn the value of Service, Leadership, Character and Citizenship, along with effective Communication Skills as evident in reading, writing, mathematics and technological competencies. REACH Academy will provide the tools to advocate for those the indicators often posed by poverty, disability and the struggle to achieve English Language Proficiency.



REACH ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

NORTHWEST BUFFALO COMMUNITY CENTER



155 Lawn Ave
Buffalo, NY 14207
View on Google Maps

Directions Save

www.reachacademycharter.weeb.com
reachacademycharter@gmail.com

— Our Mission, Our Promise —
The mission of the REACH Academy Charter School is to ensure the achievement of high academic standards for City of Buffalo students through a rigorous, authentic learning environment. Supporters of the REACH Academy Charter School will learn the value of Service, Leadership, Character and Citizenship, along with effective Communication Skills as evident in reading, writing, mathematics and technological competencies. REACH Academy will provide the tools to advocate for those the indicators often posed by poverty, disability and the struggle to achieve English Language Proficiency.

3. Stakeholders in the community were given the opportunity to provide input into the design of the proposed charter school through several methods of communication. One method is through the use and submission of the online New School Questionnaire that is found on the school website. This form was also available in hard copy at each of our outreach events where attendees were encouraged to provide feedback on the proposed school.



REACH ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

REACH Academy Charter School (RACS) Community Engagement Survey

Please take a few moments to answer the questions below. While the New York State Board of Regents considers the application to authorize REACH Academy Charter School, the founders are very interested in your feedback and opinions. This will help guide us as we move forward in the development of our school.

1. Do you have children who attend or will soon attend elementary school?

YES NO

Name of School: _____

Grade (List all that apply): _____

2. Are you satisfied with school options you have for your child(ren)? YES NO

Please explain: _____

3. Please rate the following based on your level of interest:

	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW
Longer School Day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Longer School Year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uniform Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Education Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
English Language Learner Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attendance Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Worker/Counselor on Staff/By	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small Class Sizes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Retention and Length of Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After-School Program for Students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Service Opportunities for Students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open Door Policy for Parents	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Location of School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking to School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending Late Evening School Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family and Community Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Positive Behavior System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PLEASE TURN OVER

4. Would you consider sending your child(ren) to REACH Academy Charter School?

YES

NO

Maybe, but I need more information

5. I am a resident of the Buffalo Public School District and I support the opening of the REACH Academy Charter School.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO HEAR ABOUT REACH ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL AND COMPLETE THIS SURVEY. TO COMMENT FURTHER, VISIT

www.reachacademycharter.net/survey OR email us at reachacademycharter@gmail.com

4. Comments received from the impacted community or communities concerning the educational and programmatic needs of students were addressed.

The Founding Group and the proposed Board of Trustees recorded all data collected from the online New School Questionnaire, the hard copy New School Questionnaire, formal and informal conversations and posts to the proposed schools email and Facebook accounts in the spreadsheet below. This data was also outlined in Table 2- Public Outreach Information and how the public’s comments were addressed in the charter proposal.

REACH Academy Charter School - New School Survey Results

<u>Question Number</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer (Number of Respondents)</u>		
		<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	
<u>1</u>	<u>Do you have children who attend or will soon attend elementary school?</u>	67.25%	32.75%	
		<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>Respondent Remarks</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Are you satisfied with school options you have for your child (ren)?</u>	24.94%	75.06%	See Below
		<u>HIGH IMPORTANCE</u>	<u>MODERATE IMPORTANCE</u>	<u>LOW IMPORTANCE</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Please rate the following based on your level of interest.</u>			
3a	Longer School Day	53.15%	18.14%	9.82%
3b	Longer School Year	52.90%	14.86%	12.85%
3c	Uniform Policy	48.61%	31.99%	16.88%
3d	Special Education Services	49.62%	21.16%	6.80%
3e	English Language Proficiency Services	45.84%	19.90%	7.30%
3f	Afterschool Programs	81.36%	13.35%	3.53%
3g	Social Worker/Counselor on standy-by	66.25%	10.33%	2.02%
3h	Small Class Sizes	85.89%	13.10%	0.25%
3i	Nutritious Breakfast and Lunch Served	82.12%	6.30%	0.25%
3j	Leadership Program for Students	79.60%	10.83%	0.25%
3k	Community Service Opportunities Students	80.35%	15.87%	1.01%
3l	Open Door Policy for Parents	74.06%	12.85%	1.76%
3m	Location of School	70.78%	15.62%	2.02%
3n	Welcoming to all cultures	74.81%	16.88%	2.27%
3o	Learning Labs during school recesses.	76.32%	13.35%	1.51%
3p	Family and Community Activities.	76.07%	6.80%	1.26%
3q	Positive Behavior System	78.09%	15.62%	1.76%

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	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>Maybe, but I need more information</u>
<u>4</u> <u>Would you consider enrolling your child (ren) at REACH Academy Charter School?</u>	74.56%	15.62%	9.82%
<u>5</u> <u>I am a resident of the Buffalo Public School District and I support the opening of the REACH Academy Charter School.</u>	All respondent information is available upon request.		

<u>Summary of respondents remarks from Question 2:</u>			
1. Schools need to offer language courses (Spanish),			
2. Schools need to offer quality after school activities for students and families,			
3. Schools need to offer academic scholarships and assist parents and students with other scholarship resources,			
4. Schools need to offer Advanced Placement classes so students could graduate early,			
5. Schools need to raise the bar on meal options, Buffalo Public Schools need to raise test scores,			
6. Funding for Charter Schools needs to be addressed- not enough,			
7. Schools need to provide more support for struggling students to help them to succeed,			
8. Schools need more organization and better teachers,			
9. Schools don't do enough to prepare students for college,			
10. Schools and or classrooms are overcrowded,			
11. Schools need to provide students with homework every night.			
12. Schools are too diverse which leads to violence within the school,			
13. Schools need to have a welcoming and organized environment so students want to succeed,			
14. Schools need to implement a smaller class size, uniform policy, personal planning for students,			
15. Need more high performing school options for several locations in and around the City of Buffalo (ie. East Side),			
16. Schools need to be located in low crime areas,			
17. Schools need to infuse Black History into curriculum so that African American students know who they are and where they came from,			
18. Schools need to foster parent involvement within the school and classrooms,			
19. Schools need to provide real world experiences that show connections to what is being learned in the classroom,			
20. Parents have expressed they would like to send their child (ren) to a charter school but not enough exist or the lottery process is not fair,			
21. Classrooms and schools are too big and teachers are not able to take the time to help the lower students,			
22. Most Buffalo Schools are not meeting state requirements,			
23. Buffalo School busses are unsafe,			
24. Parents want better support for Special Education Students,			
25. Schools need to do a better job with English as a Second Language Students,			
26. Schools show disrespect to students, curriculum is out of date and have no accountability,			
27. Schools should offer parent/adult education opportunities.			
28. Schools need to offer internship programs for students,			
29. Schools need to offer programs for the gifted and talented,			
30. Families are leaving Buffalo for better schools for their child (ren),			
31. Parents feel that communication between the school and home is important- Buffalo Public and many charter school are not doing a good enough job in this area,			
32. Parents want an opportunity to provide input for school programs- school design. Ex Charter School students wish that more schools would teach life skills and organization as they find these features useful after graduation,			
33. Parents desire schools that have a wide variety of programs- such as athletics, languages other than english, music and art.,			
34. Parents that start work earlier than the start of school would like an early drop off option,			
35. Some parents have expressed that since BPS provides a free lunch for every student that some schools prevent students from bringing in a homemade lunch.			