



NJDOE News

For More Information Contact the Public Information Office:

Richard Vespucci
Kathryn Forsyth, Director
609-292-1126

For Release: January 8, 2007

Commissioner Davy Announces 12 Charter School Renewals; Three Charter Schools Given Time to Develop and Implement Corrective Action

Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy has announced that she has renewed the charters for 12 charter schools for a second five-year term. Renewals effective through the 2011-12 school year have been approved for the following schools:

- Academy Charter High School, Lake Como, Monmouth County
- Camden's Promise Charter School, Camden, Camden County
- Classical Academy Charter School of Clifton, Clifton, Passaic County
- East Orange Community Charter School, East Orange, Essex County
- Englewood on the Palisades Charter School, Englewood, Bergen County
- Greater Brunswick Charter School, New Brunswick, Middlesex County
- Hoboken Charter School, Hoboken, Hudson County
- International Charter School of Trenton, Trenton, Mercer County
- PleasanTech Academy Charter School, Pleasantville, Atlantic County
- Red Bank Charter School, Red Bank, Monmouth County
- Teaneck Community Charter School, Teaneck, Bergen County
- Unity Charter School, Morristown, Morris County

"These schools have successfully passed a rigorous review of their academic programs and fiscal operations, as well as a review of academic performance of students," said Commissioner Davy. "By renewing their charters, we recognize their efforts to provide a quality education for students and their families, and expect them to continue their good work on behalf of the children they serve."

Davy noted that some of the schools were approved after they developed and began to implement improvement plans at the request of the Department of Education. Implementation of the improvement plans will continue to be monitored, she said, and staff from the Department of Education will be available to assist the schools and assess their progress in carrying them out.

Four of the newly renewed charter schools were granted permission to increase their enrollments over the next five years. Greater Brunswick Charter School, which has a maximum enrollment of 253 students in grades K-8, can expand its enrollment to 360 students by 2011-12. Hoboken Charter School, which currently has a maximum enrollment of 293 students in grades K-12, can expand its maximum enrollment to 298 students, beginning in the 2008-09 school year. PleasanTech Academy Charter School, which currently has a maximum enrollment of 570 students in grades K-8, can add a pre-kindergarten grade of a maximum of 45 students, beginning in the 2011-12 school year. Teaneck Community Charter School, which currently has a maximum enrollment of 240 students in grades K-8, can expand its maximum enrollment to 288 students, beginning with the 2007-08 school year.

During the renewal process, the Department of Education identified three charter schools for probationary status for 90 days, beginning December 29, 2006. The schools are the Emily Fisher Charter School of Advanced Studies in Trenton, Mercer County; the Jersey City Golden Door Charter School in Jersey City, Hudson County; and the Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology in Paterson, Passaic County. Each of the schools must take corrective actions to address the identified deficiencies.

Charter schools were established under a state law enacted in 1996 to expand public school choice and encourage school reform. A charter school is a type of public school that is given greater flexibility in curriculum and instruction. The law establishes charter schools as laboratories of innovation in education, where new practices can be developed and considered for implementation in schools throughout the state. Currently, nearly 16,000 students are enrolled in New Jersey's 53 operating charter schools. An additional three approved charter schools are in a planning year and are scheduled to open in September 2007.

More information about charter schools in New Jersey is available from the following link:

<http://www.state.nj.us/nided/chartsch/>