



## Christie Administration Approves Five Charter School Applications

**For Immediate Release**

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**Trenton, NJ** – Continuing its commitment to increasing the number of high-quality public school options for students and parents, the Christie Administration today approved five charter applications submitted during its March application round. These schools will join the next round of possible applications to be approved in February 2015, which are eligible to open as early as September 2015.

"We continue to support charter schools as a public school option to ensure that every student in New Jersey has access to a high-quality education," said Acting Education Commissioner David Hespe. "The primary goal of the Department is to act in the best interests of New Jersey's students, and offering more opportunities to succeed through options such as charter schools reinforces our commitment to that goal."

In order for the schools to open next school year, they must first complete a "preparedness review" through the state Department of Education. This review determines whether schools have the academic and operational components to ensure successful academic programs, equitability, financial viability and organizational soundness. After a review of the applicants' information and the results of the on-site preparedness visit in June 2015, the Commissioner will render a final decision in July for charters to open their doors in September.

"All charter schools in New Jersey are held to high standards," said Acting Commissioner Hespe.

Over the past three years, the Department has increased its accountability for charter schools. Through a partnership with the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), the Department during that time has opened 20 new charter schools, and closed 12 charter schools for poor academic performance or organizational and fiscal issues.

There are currently 87 charter schools operational in New Jersey.

The approved charter applications are:

School	District(s)	Grades served (at scale)	Enrollment (at scale)
Bridgeton Public Charter School	Bridgeton	K-4	285 students
College Achieve Central Charter School	Plainfield, North Plainfield	K-9	1,013 students
Cresthaven Academy Charter School	Plainfield	K-3	300 students
Empowerment Academy Charter School	Jersey City	K-4	576 Students
International Academy of Atlantic City Charter School	Atlantic City, Pleasantville	K-6	698 students