



Christie Administration Announces Approval of Three Charter Schools to Open in September

For Immediate Release

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Trenton, NJ – The New Jersey Department of Education today granted final approval for three charter schools to open in September for the 2016-17 school year.

“More New Jersey students and families will have access to high-quality public school options with the addition of these new charter schools,” said Education Commissioner David C. Hespe. “This Administration continues to demonstrate a steadfast commitment to providing better school choices and educational opportunities for parents and their children.”

In order to receive a charter, each charter school applicant team must meet the Department's rigorous multi-stage approval process. After receiving initial application approval, the Department conducts a preparedness visit and reviews the school's academic and operational components to ensure that the charter school applicant has the capacity to provide a high-quality educational program from the first day of school. The Department reviews this information to determine which applicants will receive their charters and open their doors in September.

With the opening of these three charter schools, there will be a total of 88 charter schools operating in New Jersey. This number reflects the recent consolidation of several charter schools operating in the same public school districts. The approved consolidations accommodate the transfer of students who would otherwise be subject to the random selection process, thus providing them with greater continuity in their educational experiences. Since 2010, the Department will have opened 42 new charter schools and closed 17 of the lowest-performing schools for poor academic performance or organizational and fiscal issues. In September, there will be 50,328 authorized charter school seats available to students in New Jersey.

Charter School (approved to open in September 2016)	District(s) Served	Year 1 Grades (enrollment projection)	Year 4 Grades (enrollment projection)
Cresthaven Academy Charter School	Plainfield	K (75 students)	K-3 (300 students)
Hudson Arts and Science Charter School	Kearny and Jersey City	K-5 (360 students)	K-8 (540 students)
Philip's Academy Charter School of Paterson	Paterson	K (54 students)	K-3 (189 students)