

To: Charter School Leaders

From: New York City Charter School Center

Date: June 2016

Re: New provisions passed in the 2016-17 Legislative Session Affecting Charter Schools

At the end of 2016-17 Legislative Session, two new provisions affecting charter schools in New York City were passed and provide the following:

I. For a one-year period, charters may apply to transfer to a different authorizer

Charters in good standing will be allowed to apply to switch authorizers during the 2016-17 school year. This means that any NYC charter school can apply to transfer from their current authorizer to one of three authorizers: Board of Trustees of the State University of New York, the Board of Regents of the State Educational Department, or the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education. Charters will be able to apply to transfer until June 23, 2017. If an authorizer decides to accept a charter, the previous authorizer will provide, in a timely fashion, all information relevant to the charter as requested by the new authorizer. If a charter school transfers, all terms established in the original charter agreement will remain in effect until the scheduled expiration of the charter term (usually five years), but the new authorizer will oversee and supervise that charter school during the remainder of the term. Charter schools are eligible to transfer only if they are in compliance with all the requirements of the Charter Schools Act and are not in violation of any legal requirement, in probationary status, or slated for closure.

II. SUNY Charter Schools Committee regulatory power

Currently, the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York (SUNY) has delegated its authorizing duties to the Charter Schools Committee, a committee made up of SUNY trustees. In an amendment to SUNY's statute, the Charter Schools Committee may promulgate regulations "with respect to governance, structure and operations" for all the charter schools the Committee authorizes. This provision does not apply to the other two New York City authorizers: the Board of Regents of the State Educational Department or the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education.