



Governor Kathy Hochul Office of
the Governor NYS State Capitol
Building Albany, NY 12224

Governor Hochul:

January 8, 2025

We write this letter to you as the school leaders of 67 charter campuses across New York City. Together, we represent nearly 16,500 students and their families who are currently left behind by a glaring inequity stemming embedded in the State's now decade-old Facilities Access Law.

As you know, that 2014 law excluded privately located charter schools that grew to capacity or established grades prior to the 2014-15 school from receiving the same rental assistance funding every other school in the system gets.

Today, the students we represent are just a few of the 27,000 students across 75 total charter school campuses who are the only students out of the City's 959,000-student K-12 public school system that must carry the costs of the buildings they learn in.

Combined, the schools we represent are without nearly \$100 million in rental assistance, a staggering inequity that disproportionately impacts the predominantly Black and Latino working-class families we serve.

As our students continue to face disadvantages in their educational experience due to a lack of critical funding, we are calling on you to **fully fund rental assistance for all NYC public school students** by amending the Facilities Access Law and allocating just \$19 million in the FY26 Budget.

Every dollar we spend on rent is one less dollar we are able to invest in additional teachers, before and after-school programs, tutoring services, or even arts programming.



As school leaders, we are responsible for providing students a high-quality education and equipping their families with the resources they need to navigate the challenges of everyday life. To that end, to help empower us to meaningfully address the childcare and youth mental health crises, on top of learning loss spearheaded by the pandemic, it's critical we're given the resources we need to provide wraparound family support services.

Before-school and after-school care alone is essential for our working families. The demand for additional days and hours has an endless waitlist throughout each of our schools. Yet, many of us are unable to offer the full complement of before and after-school programming to New York families. As a working mother yourself and champion for childcare to support working families you know these programs are a lifeline for families.

Governor Hochul: Fund Rental Assistance for All NYC Students today to ensure ALL children in our beloved city have access to the resources and opportunities for a bright future.

Sincerely,

Katie-Lyn Santacruz, Head of School	Academy of the City Charter School
Denise Alexander, Executive Director	Access Bronx Charter School
Kirsys Gomez, Co-CEO	Amber Charter School East Harlem
Recy Dunn, CEO & Maryann Li, President	Ascend Public Charter Schools
Nicholas Tishuk, Executive Director	Bedford Stuyvesant New Beginnings Charter School
Yeime Valle, Executive Director	Brilla College Preparatory Charter School
Catherine Jackvony, Executive Director	Bronx Academy of Promise Charter School
Kathy Ortiz, Executive Director	Bronx Charter School for the Arts
Albania Ruiz and Sasha Wilson, Co-Directors	Bronx Community Charter School
Tresha Ward, CEO	Brooklyn Prospect Charter School
Susan Tenner, Executive Director	Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School

Drema Brown, Head of School	Children's Aid College Prep Charter School Head of School
Karen Johnson, CEO	Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School
Richard Berlin and Eve Colavito, Co-CEOs	DREAM (Formerly Harlem RBI)
Marina Cofield, CEO	East Harlem Tutorial Program
Susana Leon, CEO	Family Life Academy Charter School II
Kristan Norgrove, Executive Director	Global Community Charter School
Ira Victor, Executive Director	Grand Concourse Academy Charter School
Timberly Wilson, Executive Director	Great Oaks Foundation
Matthew Greenberg, Founder & Executive Director Growing Up	
Dr. Saskia Brown, Superintendent	Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II Charter School
Natasha Trivers, CEO	Harlem Prep Charter School
Christa L. Tilson, Chair & Geraldine B. Hunter,	Harriet Tubman Charter Schools

Vice-Chair	
Valerie Khaytina, Chief External Officer	Hebrew Charter School Center
Charles Capetanakis, Esq, Chair	Hellenic Classical Charter School
Lawshawn Robinson, Principal	Imagine Me Leadership Charter School

Dr. Elaine Ruiz Lopez, CEO and Founder	International Leadership Charter High School
Jenny Pichardo, COO	Inwood Academy for Leadership Charter School
Ronald Tabano, CEO & Principal and Ashish Kapadia, Executive Director	John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter Schools
Jane Martínez Dowling, Chief of External Affairs	KIPP Academy Charter School
Keveney McCrillis, Director of Communications and Strategic Projects	Leaders In Our Neighborhood Charter School
Dr. Adrian Manuel, Interim Executive Director	Merrick Academy - Queens Public Charter Schools
Jessica Nauiokas, Executive Director	Mott Haven Academy Charter School
Daniel R McCormick, Executive Director	Neighborhood Charter Schools
Dr. Sara Asmussen, Executive Director	New Dawn Charter High School
Dr. Karen Valbrun, Executive Director	New Heights Academy Charter School
Eugene Foley, President	New World Preparatory Charter School
Abeku Hayes, Principal	New York City Montessori Charter School
Dr. Bertrand Tchoumi, Principal & Mamadou Ba, Parent Coordinator	New York French American Charter Schools
Malik Russell, Executive Director	Nuasin Next Generation Charter School
Colin Healy, Principal	NYC Charter High School for Architecture, Engineering
Brian Ferguson, COO	Our World Neighborhood Charter Schools
Courtney Russell, COO	Pharos Academy Charter School
Sylvia Fairclough-Leslie	Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School

Evelyn Hey, Executive Director	South Bronx Charter School for International Culture
Dr. Laurie Midgette, Founding Principal-CEO	The Cultural Arts Academy at Spring Creek Charter
Casey Ash, Head of School	The Equity Project Charter School
Jai Nanda, Executive Director	Urban Dove Team Charter Schools
Franklin Headley, Principal	VOICE Charter School
Valerie Jacobson, Head of School	Williamsburg Charter High School