



TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: James N. Baldwin 

SUBJECT: Revision Recommendations for Charter Schools Authorized by the New York City Department of Education

DATE: March 31, 2022

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents approve the proposed revision to the charter of the following charter school authorized by the New York City Department of Education Chancellor pursuant to Article 56 of the Education Law (the New York Charter Schools Act)?

Imagine Me Leadership Charter School (Revision to change from an all-boys model in K through Grade 8 to an all-boys model in K through Grade 5 and a co-educational model in Grades 6-8).

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State statute.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the P-12 Education Committee and the Full Board for action at its April 2022 meeting.

Procedural History

The New York State Education Department (the Department) made the revision recommendations being presented to the Board of Regents for approval and issuance as required by Article 56 of the Education Law.

Background Information

The New York City Department of Education Chancellor, Board of Regents, and the Department are bound by Article 56 of the Education Law regarding the criteria that can be considered in decision making pertaining to charter school renewals and revisions.

Related Regents Items

Imagine Me Leadership Charter School

January 2010 Initial Charter

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2010Meetings/January2010/0110emsca14.htm>

January 2015 First Renewal

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/115p12a4.pdf>

March 2016 Second Renewal

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/316p12a5.pdf>

April 2019 Third Renewal & Revision to expand Grades served from K-5 to K-8

<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/419p12a4.pdf>

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents take the following action(s):

VOTED: That the Board of Regents finds that **Imagine Me Leadership Charter School**: (1) meets the requirements set out in Article 56 of the Education Law, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations; (2) the applicant can demonstrate the ability to operate the school in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; (3) granting the application is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes set out in subdivision two of Section twenty-eight hundred fifty of this article; and (4) granting the application would have a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school, and the Board of Regents therefore approves the charter revision of **Imagine Me Leadership Charter School** and amends the provisional charter accordingly.

Timetable for Implementation

The Regents action for the above-named charter school will become effective immediately.

Imagine Me Leadership Charter School Charter School

Table 1: Charter School Summary

Name of Charter School	Imagine Me Leadership Charter School
Board Chair	Janice Chen
District of Location	NYC CSD 19 ¹
Initial Commencement of Instruction	Fall 2010
Charter Term(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Charter: January 12, 2010 – January 11, 2015 • First Renewal: January 12, 2015 – June 30, 2016 • Second Renewal: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019 • Third Renewal: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2024
Facilities	818 Schenck Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207 – Private Space
Innovative and Noteworthy Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-boys model that utilizes research-based instructional strategies to meet the needs of boys • Extended day, extended year • Advanced math and science classes
Recommended Material Revisions	Change from an all-boys model in K through Grade 8 to an all-boys model K through Grade 5 and a co-educational model in Grades 6-8

The requested revisions will have no bearing on the number of students being served by this charter school, which will not change, nor will the revision impact the number of charters available for issuance in New York City or the State.

Approving this revision request will result in a significant educational benefit to the students expected to attend the charter school because the school has a strong record of outperforming schools in the CSD; this proposed revision will provide significant educational benefit to the girls who attend.

The Board of Regents granted an initial charter to Imagine Me Leadership Charter School (IMLCS) in January 2010. IMLCS commenced instruction in September 2010, initially serving 108 students in K through Grade 1. Imagine Me Leadership Charter School’s charter was subsequently renewed by the Board of Regents in 2015, 2016 and 2019 (with a revision to expand from K- Grade 5 to K-Grade 8).

The charter school’s Board of Trustees requests that the Board of Regents approve a material revision to the school’s charter to move from an all-boys model from K to Grade 8 to a model that also serves girls in Grade 6 through 8. There is demonstrated demand from families with middle school girls in the Community School District; current parents have been thoughtfully engaged around this and IMLCS reports that they are in favor of this change. The school has carefully started the process of adjusting the character and leadership strands of the model to be responsive to girls’ needs, as they have done for the needs of boys. This proposed change will not displace any boys currently enrolled in the school; rather, all open seats in the middle school will be available to applicants from both genders. The NYC DOE will work closely with Imagine Me to implement strategies towards a 50/50 percent enrollment of males and females in the middle school grades including, but not limited to, enrollment preferences.

¹ 25 percent of all students residing in this district attend charter schools.

Table 2: Current Grade Levels and Authorized Enrollment

	Year 1 2019 to 2020	Year 2 2020 to 2021	Year 3 2021 to 2022	Year 4 2022 to 2023	Year 5 2023 to 2024
Grade Configuration	K – Grade 6	K – Grade 7	K – Grade 8	K – Grade 8	K – Grade 8
Total Recommended Enrollment	270	315	360	360	360

Table 3: Elementary/Middle School Assessment Proficiency Outcomes

		ELA					Math				
		Imagine Me Leadership CS	NYC CSD 19	Differential to District	NYS	Differential to NYS	Imagine Me Leadership CS	NYC CSD 19	Differential to District	NYS	Differential to NYS
All Students	2014-2015	17%	17%	0	31%	-14	41%	23%	+18	43%	-2
	2015-2016	44%	25%	+19	39%	+5	71%	22%	+49	43%	+28
	2016-2017	63%	26%	+37	40%	+23	66%	26%	+40	45%	+21
	2017-2018	73%	31%	+42	45%	+28	72%	31%	+41	49%	+23
	2018-2019	67%	34%	+33	46%	+21	73%	35%	+38	50%	+23
SWD	2014-2015	4%	5%	-1	8%	-4	21%	11%	+10	16%	+5
	2015-2016	32%	6%	+26	11%	+21	36%	9%	+27	16%	+20
	2016-2017	33%	8%	+25	12%	+21	59%	13%	+46	18%	+41
	2017-2018	58%	12%	+46	18%	+40	64%	16%	+48	21%	+43
	2018-2019	57%	13%	+44	17%	+40	52%	18%	+34	22%	+30
ELL	2018-2019	67%	28%	+39	29%	+38	100%	30%	+70	36%	+64
ED	2014-2015	13%	16%	-3	21%	-8	40%	22%	+18	31%	+9
	2015-2016	44%	23%	+21	28%	+16	70%	20%	+50	31%	+39
	2016-2017	63%	25%	+38	29%	+34	66%	24%	+42	33%	+33
	2017-2018	73%	29%	+44	35%	+38	71%	29%	+42	38%	+33
	2018-2019	67%	32%	+35	36%	+31	70%	33%	+37	40%	+30

Table 4: Aggregate Enrollment: Reported vs Contracted

Imagine Me Leadership CS	Contracted Enrollment	Reported Enrollment	Percent of Contracted Enrollment
2016-2017	264	224	85%
2017-2018	264	229	87%
2018-2019	264	225	85%
2019-2020	270	229	85%
2020-2021	315	251	80%

Table 5: Subgroup Enrollment: Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners, and Economically Disadvantaged

	SWD			ELL			ED		
	Imagine Me Leadership CS	NYC CSD 19	Differential to District	Imagine Me Leadership CS	NYC CSD 19	Differential to District	Imagine Me Leadership CS	NYC CSD 19	Differential to District
2016-2017	17%	23%	-6	1%	15%	-14	94%	85%	+9
2017-2018	16%	23%	-7	3%	18%	-15	92%	90%	+2
2018-2019	15%	23%	-8	3%	18%	-15	82%	90%	-8
2019-2020	16%	23%	-7	2%	19%	-17	82%	91%	-9
2020-2021	14%	27%	-13	0%	18%	-18	79%	92%	-13

Table 5b: Student Demographics – Charter School Compared to District Schools within Set Radii*

2021-2022	Imagine Me Leadership CS	<0.5 Mile Radius	Variance	1 Mile Radius	Variance	2 Mile Radius	Variance
ELL	2%	7%	-5	8%	-6	9%	-7

*For Radii analysis, ELL enrollment only includes students currently classified as ELLs

Table 6: Student Retention - Aggregate and Subgroups

	All Students			SWD			ELL			ED		
	Imagine Me Leadership CS	NYC CSD 19	Differential to District	Imagine Me Leadership CS	NYC CSD 19	Differential to District	Imagine Me Leadership CS	NYC CSD 19	Differential to District	Imagine Me Leadership CS	NYC CSD 19	Differential to District
2016-2017	85%	83%	+2	81%	81%	0	.	.	.	84%	83%	+1
2017-2018	91%	83%	+8	89%	83%	+6	100%	85%	+15	91%	83%	+8
2018-2019	86%	82%	+4	90%	81%	+9	100%	85%	+15	86%	82%	+4
2019-2020	80%	83%	-3	79%	82%	-3	57%	85%	-28	81%	83%	-2
2020-2021	92%	76%	+16	97%	75%	+22	100%	73%	+27	91%	76%	+15

Summary of Public Comment

The required public hearing was held by the New York City Department of Education on March 1, 2022. One hundred sixty-eight people attended, and three people spoke regarding this revision. All were in favor of the revision. No one was opposed. No written comments were submitted.