



## Christie Administration Announces Public Charter School Decisions

**For Immediate Release**

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**Trenton, NJ** – The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is announcing decisions on new public charter school applications, charter renewals, amendment requests for expansions, and closures.

“All New Jersey public schools, which include charter schools, must be held to a high standard in order to ensure that all of our children receive the quality educational experiences they deserve,” said Acting Education Commissioner Kimberley Harrington. “These decisions reflect this Administration’s continued commitment to hold low-performing charter schools accountable, while expanding access for New Jersey families to high-quality charter schools.”

### Public Charter School Expansion Requests

Nine charter schools requested an expansion as part of their renewal that each charter school undergoes every five years, and the NJDOE granted seven of these requests. The NJDOE granted 15 additional charter school expansion requests through an amendment process that allows the school to expand outside of their renewal. (Charts that identify the approved expansions are below.)

“Many parents continue to choose to send their children to public charter schools, and we remain committed to being responsive to their calls for increased opportunities for their children,” said Acting Commissioner Harrington.

### Public Charter School Renewals

The NJDOE evaluates all charter schools every five years that are up for renewal on their academic performance, fiscal viability, and operational stability. Of the 22 charter schools up for renewal this year, the NJDOE renewed 21 schools. Due to continued low academic performance, the Camden Community Charter School was not renewed.

### New Public Charter School Applications

The NJDOE did not approve any of the four applicants who were invited to submit Phase Two applications to the NJDOE as part of the October Expedited Charter Application Round because they did not meet the requirements under the NJDOE’s rigorous approval process.

### Public Charter School Closures

The NJDOE is required to ensure that all New Jersey public schools, including charter schools, are offering students a quality education. Charter schools must demonstrate strong academic performance and are held accountable for student outcomes. The NJDOE is closing three low-performing charter schools located in Newark (Newark Prep Charter School; Merit Preparatory Charter School; and Paulo Freire Charter School) that were all on probation.

Since 2010, the Department has closed 20 of the lowest-performing charter schools for poor academic performance or organizational and fiscal issues.

### Approved Expansion Decisions (Renewal Process)

School Name	Year Opened	District or Region of Residence	2016-17 Grades and Approved Seats	Grades and Approved Seats with Expansion at Scale
Englewood on the Palisades Charter School	1998	Englewood	K-6, 252	K-8, 324

Hope Community Charter School	2013	Camden	K-4, 330	K-5, 330
Jersey City Global Charter School	2013	Jersey City	K-5, 480	K-6, 480
Jersey City Golden Door Charter School	1998	Jersey City	PK-8, 549	PK-8, 720
Philip's Academy Charter School	2013	Newark	K-8, 378	PK-12, 816
Paterson Arts and Science Charter School	2013	Paterson	K-8, 540	K-12, 897
Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology	2003	Paterson	K-12, 1,068	K-12, 1,584

**Approved Expansion Decisions (Amendment Process)**

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Year Opened</b>	<b>District or Region of Residence</b>	<b>2016-17 Grades and Approved Seats</b>	<b>Grades and Approved Seats with Expansion at Scale</b>
Central Jersey College Prep Charter School	2006	New Brunswick, North Brunswick, Franklin	K-2, 6-12, 480	K-12, 1,320
Environment Community Opportunity Charter School	2005	Camden	K-5, 330	K-7, 320
Great Oaks Legacy Charter School	2016	Newark	PK-12, 1,536	PK-12, 2,517
Hatikvah International Academy Charter School	2010	East Brunswick	K-7, 400	K-8, 500
Hope Academy Charter School	2001	Asbury Park	K-8, 207	K-8, 253
Hudson Arts and Science Charter School	2016	Jersey City, Kearny	K-5, 360	K-8, 1,021
John P. Holland Charter School	2011	Paterson	K-8, 201	PK-8, 576
M.E.T.S. Charter School	2011	Jersey City, Newark	6-12, 560	6-12, 960
Millville Public Charter School	2011	Millville	K-7, 313	K-10, 567

Pace Charter School of Hamilton	1999	Hamilton	K-5, 255	K-6, 405
Passaic Arts and Science Charter School	2011	Passaic	K-10, 860	K-12, 1,712
Philip's Academy Charter School of Paterson	2016	Paterson	K, 54	K-3, 285
Princeton Charter School	1997	Princeton	K-8, 348	K-8, 424
University Heights Charter School	2006	Newark	PK-8, 750	PK-8, 1,125
Vineland Public Charter School	2009	Vineland	PK-9, 452	PK-10, 576

*Updated May 4, 2017*