



Public Comment Analysis

Date: April 27, 2011

Topic: Proposed Amendment to 2010-14 Five Year Capital Plan

Date of Panel Vote: April 28, 2011

Summary of Proposal

The Department of Education’s Five Year Capital Plan (the “Plan”) sets forth the funds allocated for the creation of new school buildings, and for major renovations to existing school buildings. The FY2010 – 2014 Plan was approved by the City Council in June 2009, with a total budget of \$11.3 billion. The Department of Education (“DOE”) committed to amending the Plan annually. In June 2010, the City Council approved the first amendment to the FY2010 – 2014 Plan, with a total budget of \$11.7 billion. The DOE has now issued a proposed 2011 annual amendment (the “Proposed Amendment”) to the Plan. The following chart summarizes the highlights of the current Plan and the Proposed Amendment:

	Current Adopted	Proposed Amended
Total Budget	\$11.7 billion	\$11.1 billion
Capacity	\$5.4 billion	\$4.6 billion
Capital Investment	\$6.3 billion	\$6.5 billion
Number of seats	30,377	28,866*

* Includes 2,314 seats funded for design only in this Plan.

Summary of Public Comments Received on the Proposed Amendment

Four (4) written comments were received. The following is a summary of the issues and alternatives raised in these comments:

1. Commenters suggested that the Charter/Partnership funding in the Plan should instead be used to reduce teacher layoffs.

2. Commenters suggested that money should be kept in our schools for our teachers and smaller class size, not for charter schools.
3. A commenter asserted that all funding should be taken away from Charter schools.

Analysis of Issues Raised and Significant Alternatives Proposed

The \$210 million funding for Charter/Partnership Program provides the Department with the ability to leverage private dollars to create additional quality educational opportunities for New York City public school students and parents. The Charter and Partnership facilities created through this program draw students primarily from within their local school districts, which can assist the Department in addressing areas of overcrowding. These capital dollars cannot be used to fund operational costs such as teacher salaries.

Changes Made to the Proposal

No changes have been made to this proposal as a result of the comments received.