Resolution Regarding the Proposed Grade Expansion of Washington Heights Academy (06M366) from a K-5 to a K-8 School Beginning in 2013-2014

WHEREAS, in accordance with Education Law § 2590-h(2-a), on November 5, 2012 the Chancellor prepared and issued an educational impact statement ("EIS") concerning the grade expansion of Washington Heights Academy (06M366) from a K-5 school to a K-8 school beginning in 2013-2014; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Education Law § 2590-g(8), the Panel for Educational Policy (the "Panel") undertook a public review process for review and comment on the proposed grade expansion; and

WHEREAS, such review process included notice of the Proposal via the Department of Education's (the "Department's") internet website and circulation of the notice of the proposed grade expansion to all community superintendents, community district education councils, community boards, and school based management teams; and

WHEREAS, such notice further included: a) a description of the purpose and substance of the Proposal; b) information regarding where the full text of the proposed grade expansion could be obtained; c) the name, office, address, email, and telephone number of the Department representative from whom information concerning the proposed grade expansion could be obtained; d) the date, time, and place of any hearing on the Proposal; e) the date, time, and place of the meeting of the Panel at which the Panel was to vote on the proposed grade expansion; and f) information on how to submit written or oral comments regarding the proposed grade expansion; and

WHEREAS, such notice and public review process commenced on November 5, 2012, at least forty-five days in advance of the December 20, 2012 meeting of the Panel at which the proposed grade expansion came before the Panel for a vote; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Education Law 2590-h(2-a), the Chancellor held a joint public hearing on the proposed grade expansion with the District 2 Community Education Council and the impacted school leadership team, at which all interested parties had an opportunity to present comments or concerns on the proposed grade expansion; and

WHEREAS, following the public review and comment period, the Panel made available to the public, including via the Department's internet web site, an assessment of all public comments concerning the proposed grade expansion; and

WHEREAS, the assessment of public comments included a summary and analysis of the issues raised and any significant suggested alternatives; a statement of the reasons why any significant alternatives were not incorporated into the proposed grade expansion; a description of any changes to the proposed grade expansion as a result of the public comments; and

WHEREAS, the Chancellor recommends that the Panel approve the proposed grade expansion; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Panel to approve the proposed grade expansion; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Education Law § 2590-g, the Panel for Educational Policy hereby approves the grade expansion of Washington Heights Academy (06M366) from a K-5 school to a K-8 school beginning in 2013-2014.