

DIRECTORY

OF THE NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOLS 2011-2012

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**Department of
Education**

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Translated versions of this Directory will be available on our website this spring:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/charters>

ستتوفر نسخ مترجمة من هذا الدليل على موقعنا الإلكتروني بحلول فصل الربيع:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/charters>

এই নির্দেশিকার অনূদিত সংস্করণ এই বসন্তে আমাদের ওয়েবসাইট
<http://schools.nyc.gov/charters> -এ পাওয়া যাবে।

本指南的翻譯版本將在今年春季刊登在我們的網站上:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/charters>

Au printemps, vous pourrez trouver des versions traduites de cet annuaire sur notre site internet à
<http://schools.nyc.gov/charters>

W ap jwenn kopi anyè sa a nan lòt lang sou sit wèb nou an pou prentan sa a:
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이 안내서의 번역본은 올 봄에 다음 웹사이트에서 검색하실 수 있습니다:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/charters>

Перевод Справочника будет помещён на вебсайте
<http://schools.nyc.gov/charters> весной этого года.

Las versiones traducidas de este Directorio estarán disponibles
en nuestro sitio web esta primavera: <http://schools.nyc.gov/charters>

اس ڈائریکٹری کی ترجمہ شدہ مطبوعات اس بہار میں ہماری ویب سائٹ پر دستیاب ہوگی:
<http://schools.nyc.gov/charters>



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Go Green!

In an effort to help create a cleaner and healthier New York City, please take only one copy of this Directory home with you. Remember that all of the information found in this publication can also be found online!

Visit www.nyc.gov/schools/charters

GETTING STARTED

As of September 2010, there are more than 120 public charter schools in New York City's five boroughs. Charter schools have the freedom to innovate in their classroom structures, curriculum, teaching methods, and other programs, with the goal of providing a high-quality education and new models for all public schools. Because of this, charter schools offer unique choices to parents as they look for the school that is the best fit for their child.

This guide provides information for parents and guardians who are considering enrolling their children in a New York City public charter school. You will find helpful information on public charter schools, how they operate, and how you can enroll your children. You will also find profiles of the New York City public charter schools currently operating in all five boroughs.

Please note that new charter schools are slated to open for the Fall of 2011 that are not included in this directory. Please check the charter school website for more information.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Each section of this guide will help you explore your choices and understand the things you'll need to think about when considering charter schools as an option for your child.

SECTION 1: LEARN ABOUT CHARTER SCHOOLS

Read about the charter school system;
learn about charter school services and characteristics.

SECTION 2: DISCOVER THE DIRECTORY

Get to know the directory and the contents of this book.

SECTION 3: APPLY TO A CHARTER SCHOOL

Find out about the application process and how to apply to schools.

SECTION 4: VISIT CHARTER SCHOOLS

Tips to help you plan for your next visit to a charter school.

SECTION 1: LEARN ABOUT CHARTER SCHOOLS

CHARTER SCHOOLS...

- are public schools that operate independently according to the terms of a five-year performance contract, or “charter.”
- are free and open to all students; they do not charge tuition.
- commit to meeting or exceeding specific goals for academic performance.
- are reviewed annually by their “authorizers” (state-sanctioned bodies with the power to create or renew charter schools).
- can be granted a renewal for up to five more years by their authorizers upon meeting or exceeding agreed-upon academic and operational goals. This process repeats itself in five-year cycles.

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS VERSUS NON-CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As part of the New York City public school system, charter schools share many characteristics with other public schools in the City. However, charter schools also offer many different options from the public schools in New York City for your child. A summary of these differences can be found in the chart below.

| SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS | NON-CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CHARTER SCHOOLS |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Open to all New York City students regardless of ability or income level. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Publicly-funded and must administer all City and State exams. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Must meet or exceed state and federal academic performance standards. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Must comply with federal and state teacher certification requirements. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Must meet New York State Board of Regents requirements and state laws for health, safety and student assessment. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Cannot discriminate in their admissions policies on any basis (ethnicity, gender, national origin, disability); they must accept all students who apply, and who they have seats for, regardless of students’ ability or income. | ✓ | ✓ |
| Operate independently because they are governed by not-for-profit boards of trustees. These boards are held accountable for ensuring that schools meet or exceed all academic and operational goals established in their charters. | | ✓ |
| Must undergo annual reviews and audits of finances and management by their authorizers. | | ✓ |
| Held strictly accountable by their authorizers for meeting academic goals. If they fail to do so, they risk losing their ability to operate. | | ✓ |
| Set their own discipline codes, some of which are strict. In rare cases, a child can be expelled for chronically failing to comply with school rules. | | ✓ |

SECTION 1: LEARN ABOUT CHARTER SCHOOLS

CHARTER SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

OPENING NEW SCHOOLS

Applying for a charter is a lengthy, detailed, and challenging process. Charter authorizers, such as the New York State Board of Regents, conduct a rigorous and thorough review of each applicant school. Applicants must explain in detail why the charter school is being created, who its primary students will be, where the school will be located, what it hopes to accomplish academically, and how it will accomplish these goals. Additionally, applicants must demonstrate the capacity to manage their schools efficiently, prepare for growth and expansion, and raise any necessary supplemental funding to support ongoing school operations.

SHARED BUILDING SPACE

More than 70 of the City's charter schools currently share space with other schools in DOE buildings. In shared buildings also known as campuses, schools and/or programs sharing space will each occupy one or more floors and share a cafeteria or gymnasium. For the most part, space-sharing arrangements among schools and/or programs are cooperative and offer an opportunity for co-existing schools to share best practices and collaborate on programs. For more information, ask an individual school about its campus culture and about the interaction among students and staff in different schools.

FUNDING

Every New York City charter school receives both state and local funding administered by the New York City Department of Education (DOE). In addition to a per pupil allocation, charters may receive state and federal grants, and they can raise funds from private sources as well. Charter schools do not receive any city, state, or federal funding for school buildings or facilities.

REGULATION

The Board of Regents and the State Education Department (SED) provide oversight of charter schools. Additionally, charter authorizing entities have the authority to oversee a school's academic, operational and financial records. Charter schools also receive the following regulation:

- Annual oversight and compliance visits by SED
- Annual mandatory School Report Cards
- Independent audits by a Certified Public Accountant

To find individual charter school Progress Reports, Annual School Report Cards, Learning Environment Survey, visit www.schools.nyc.gov/Accountability

SECTION 1: LEARN ABOUT CHARTER SCHOOLS

CHARTER SCHOOL SERVICES

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER (ELL) PROGRAMS

Charter schools must serve students with learning, behavioral, or physical disabilities and who are learning English as a second language. While every school must provide supports and programs for ELL students, a charter school may choose the type of programs it provides, which may include structured immersion, bilingual, or dual-language programs. Parents of special education students should ask about the range of services that a particular charter school provides.

TRANSPORTATION

Some charter schools provide private bus services while others choose to use the DOE pupil transportation options that are available to all public school students in New York City. These options for eligible students include full/partial Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) MetroCards or yellow bus service. Parents should contact a specific school for information.

CLASS SIZE

Most charter elementary schools have class sizes that range from 18 to 26 students per class. Charter middle and high schools tend to have larger class sizes, ranging from 22 to 29 students. Some charter schools have two teachers in each classroom which will create a smaller student to teacher ratio. Many charter school leaders believe instructional methods and learning environments are more important than maintaining a particular class size when it comes to student achievement.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Each New York charter school is permitted to hire a very small number of uncertified teachers (no more than 30 percent of its total teaching staff or five teachers, whichever number is less) who, for the most part, have prior teaching experience but have not yet completed the requirements for teacher certification. The law also permits charter school teachers who are certified in one area to teach in another subject area or level as long as they can demonstrate that they are “highly qualified” for each teaching assignment. In New York, a highly qualified teacher must: a) have a bachelor’s degree or higher; b) be deemed fit for the teaching assignment; and c) demonstrate subject matter competency for the subject. The New York City Charter Center helps charter school teachers meet certification requirements, maintain or extend valid certification, or obtain the applicable teaching certificate.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Many charter schools emphasize parent engagement and participation. Expectations for student, parent, and teacher participation are often outlined in a school’s application. This may include standards for dress, behavior, and involvement in school activities. It is not uncommon for a charter school to ask parents to read and sign a contract describing these standards and expectations.

Charter schools also recruit parents to serve on their boards, play an active role in school governance, and support fundraising efforts. Some schools have Parent Advisory Councils that allow parents to offer feedback on school policies and decisions. Other schools have created parent coordinator positions within the school structure to ensure regular, proactive communications with parents.

GRADUATION RATES

If you are looking for a high school, you can find any available graduation rates at <http://nyc.gov/schools/Accountability/DOEData/GraduationDropoutReports>

SECTION 1: LEARN ABOUT CHARTER SCHOOLS

CHARTER SCHOOL SERVICES (CONTINUED)

SCHOOL-BASED INQUIRIES

Parents should take questions or concerns to a principal or school leader. If they are not satisfied with the outcome, they can ask a school's Board of Trustees to address their concerns. Boards must provide advance notice of their monthly meetings, hold them in public, and abide by the Open Meetings Act with respect to public comment. Although the Board has responsibility for the overall operation of a school, day-to-day decisions around curriculum, instruction and hiring are generally made by the principal or school leader. Parents dissatisfied with responses to their complaints at the Board level can also take their complaint to the school's authorizer, and then to the State Education Department (SED).

WHY ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN A CHARTER SCHOOL?

Each charter school is independent so it is difficult to generalize about schools' curricula and teaching philosophies. However, here are some charter school characteristics that may help you decide whether a charter school would be a good fit for your child:

- Many charters hold longer school days and a longer school year; some even provide school on Saturdays. This allows schools to spend extra time making sure that students understand important concepts.
- Charter schools tend to have low student-teacher ratios, offering personal attention for your child.
- Most charter schools focus on preparing their students for the rigors of higher education and college.

SCHOOL SEARCH WEBSITE

The new School Search website is the first comprehensive map improvement in seven years and integrates the "Find A School," "High School Directory," and "School Map" sites. Visitors to the new site can search for charter schools by inputting the name of the school in the search bar. In the search results, visitors will find the option to find nearby subway and bus stops, driving directions, and school-level information including: address, currently served grades, school website, statistics, and more.

SCHOOL SEARCH WEBSITE

Visit the school search website and the Charter School Directory
to learn more about the charter schools you find interesting.

<http://schools.nyc.gov/schoolsearch>

SECTION 2: DISCOVER THE DIRECTORY

The charter school directory is divided into sections by borough. Each section includes the profile of every charter school located in that borough, in alphabetical order. Here are the explanations of the information you will find on each charter school page:

SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

A brief description, submitted by a school, that explains its mission and approach to learning.

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Located at the left side of each directory page, this section identifies the address, phone number, fax number and other important information.

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

Located at the bottom left corner of each directory page, this section highlights the charter school's community school district, whether or not the school shares its building with another school, the charter school authorizer and the year the school opened.

ENROLLMENT

This section is located at the top right side of the directory page. The information found under Enrollment focuses on the application deadline, current and expected grade span as well as current and proposed total enrollment. This section also contains the admissions officer's email address.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This section provides specific school requirements you should consider. Each school will list their dress code requirement, bus service and MetroCard offerings as well as their extended year and day programs. After-school and extracurricular programs are also noted here.

ACCOUNTABILITY DATA

This table provides English Language Arts (ELA) and Math scores for the years 2008, 2009, and 2010. The values found in the table are the percentages of students at or above proficient. For more information about charter school accountability data, please visit page iii of this directory.

CURRENT GRADES SERVED

The table at the top right corner of each directory page is a visual representation of the grades currently found in the school.

Shermer Charter School • 84S123

Shermer Charter School

We have a long standing tradition of educational merit and innovative programs specializing in research in science, the humanities, and music and fine arts. Our graduates leave our school as well-rounded knowledgeable and conscientious adults.

Elementary School Contact Information

School Leader: Principal Hughes
Address: 123 City Lane, New York, NY 10003
Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 222-222-2222
Website: www.shermerbulldogs elementary.org
Closest Transportation: Subway: U,V,X trains; Bus: M123 Bus to City Lane

Middle School Contact Information

School Leader: Principal Walsh
Address: 123 City Lane, New York, NY 10003
Phone: 555-555-5554
Fax: 222-222-2223
Website: www.shermerbulldogsMS.org
Closest Transportation: Subway: U,V,X trains; Bus: M123 Bus to City Lane

High School Contact Information

School Leader: Principal Bender
Address: 123 City Lane, New York, NY 10003
Phone: 555-555-5554
Fax: 222-222-2223
Website: www.shermerbulldogsHS.org
Closest Transportation: Subway: U,V,X trains; Bus: M123 Bus to City Lane

General School Information

Community School District: 5
Shared DOE Facility: Yes
Authorizer: NYC Department of Education
Opening Year: 1985

| Current Grades Served | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----|----|----|---|
| Pre | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| | | 10 | 11 | 12 | |

K-6, 10-12

Enrollment

School Application Deadline: April 1, 2011
Accepting Lottery Applications for Grades: K, 10
Currently Serving Grades: K-6, 10-12
Grades at Full Capacity: K-12
2010-11 Proposed Enrollment: 250
Enrollment at Full Capacity: 300
Admissions Officer's Email: ERooney@shermerbulldogs.org

Important Information

Uniform Dress Code: Yes
Offers Bus Service: Yes
Offers MetroCards: Yes
Extended Year: Yes, Saturday School Required
Extended Day: Yes, 7:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
After School Program: Tutoring
Extracurricular Activities: Gym, Art, Drama, Dance

Accountability Data

| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|---|------|------|------|
| ELA (students at or above proficient) | 50% | 60% | 70% |
| Math (students at or above proficient) | 50% | 60% | 70% |

SECTION 3: APPLY TO A CHARTER SCHOOL

ELIGIBILITY

If your child qualifies for admission to a New York City public school, he or she also qualifies for admission to a public charter school. Your child must be:

1. A resident of New York City;
2. Five years old by December 31 of the year he or she first enrolls, if enrolling in Kindergarten; or according to the individual school's policy.
3. Under 21 years old and cannot have received a high school diploma.

Every charter school has its own individual application and lottery. It is your right to apply to as many charter schools as you want. Contact each school individually to learn more about application procedures and deadlines.

ADMISSIONS PREFERENCES

Every charter school is required to give preference in admission to children residing in the community school district (CSD) in which the school is located. In addition, siblings of students who are already enrolled are also given preference. Charter schools may also give a preference for students at risk of academic failure. Some charter schools give preference to students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch; a number of charter schools set aside seats for students whose test scores demonstrate that they are struggling to succeed.

APPLICATION

Application rules, procedures, and deadlines for charter schools vary. Most charter schools accept applications for the following school year until April 1, and most schools conduct admissions lotteries during the second week of April. **You should contact each school individually to obtain an application.** You can do this by phone or in person and many schools also post applications on their websites.

While filling out an application, parents are not required to give information about their child's special education needs or whether he or she is an English Language Learner. Once a child has been accepted into a charter school, parents can expect questions from school officials that help them evaluate the student's needs.

LOTTERY

If the number of school applications exceeds the number of seats available in a specific grade, a charter school is required to hold a lottery or other random selection process. During a lottery, charter schools randomly draw student names until all seats are filled. Once all the seats are filled, students who are not accepted are added to a waiting list in the order their names are drawn. Parents are notified if their child has been admitted, or they are informed of the student's place on the waiting list. To ensure impartiality, charter schools sometimes invite public officials to oversee lotteries, or hire an auditing firm or outside legal entity to conduct the lottery.

ENROLLMENT

After your child has been accepted, you must notify your child's old school that you will be transferring him or her to a charter school. The charter school will send you any forms you need to fill out in order to complete the registration process. Necessary documents for registration include your child's birth certificate or passport; immunization records; and proof of address. Please keep in mind that enrollment procedures may vary among charter schools.

SECTION 4: VISIT CHARTER SCHOOLS

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB) AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

The No Child Left Behind Public School Choice program provides eligible students with the opportunity to take advantage of the many public school options in New York City. In accordance with No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), students who attend schools identified as Title I Schools in Need of Improvement (SINI) and Persistently Low Achieving (PLA) must be provided with the opportunity to request transfers to schools in good academic standing.

Eligible students have the opportunity to apply to local district-based schools, charter schools and other citywide options. To find out if your child is eligible for the NCLB Public School Choice program, please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/nclb> or call (718) 935-2439.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

Even before reviewing test performance or other academic indicators, you should first take the time to understand a particular school's philosophy and culture. There is no substitute for visiting a school. By talking with students, principals, teachers and parents, and asking questions about everything from academic goals to discipline policies, parents can make an informed decision about whether a school will be a good fit for their child. Below is a list of questions that might help inform your decision to apply to a given school:

| |
|---|
| 1. Is this school a good fit for my child's individual needs? |
| 2. What are the latest test scores on the state-wide examinations in English and Math? |
| 3. What innovative or exciting features does the school have? |
| 4. How are art, music, and extracurricular activities part of the school day? |
| 5. What organizations partner with the school? |
| 6. How much time is allotted to each subject? |
| 7. What strategies do you use to help children who are not performing on grade level? |
| 8. How long are the school day and the school year? |
| 9. How are children assessed, and how is their progress measured? |
| 10. What type of transportation services, if any, does the school provide? |
| 11. How can parents become involved in school decision-making? |
| 12. What is the role of the board of trustees, and how can a parent contact board members? |
| 13. What is the school's discipline policy? |
| 14. Does the charter school share space with another school or organization, and if so, what is the interaction with the other school like? |
| 15. Does the school offer an after-school program? |
| 16. What types of resources are available to English Language Learners and students with special needs? |
| 17. For elementary schools only: Where do your students go to middle school? |
| 18. For middle schools only: Where do your students go to high school? |
| 19. For high schools only: How many 9 th graders graduate? How many go to college? |
| 20. May I speak with 2-3 parents in the school? |
| 21. May I observe a classroom? |
| 22. How much time do students typically spend on homework? |

OPEN HOUSES

Most charter schools offer open houses in advance of the application period and lottery. Open houses, which are normally publicized on school Web sites, allow parents to tour a school, talk with staff, and learn more about the curriculum and programs offered by the school. Contact schools directly to determine their particular visiting policies.