Resolution Regarding the Proposed Grade Expansion of Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (06M348) to a K-12 School Beginning in 2013-2014

WHEREAS, in accordance with Education Law § 2590-h(2-a), the Chancellor prepared an educational impact statement ("EIS"), published and filed on December 18, 2012, on the proposed grade expansion of Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (06M348) to a K-12 school beginning in 2013-2014 (the "Proposal"); 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 Proposal; 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 Proposal 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 Proposal could be obtained; c) the name, office, address, email, and telephone number of the Department representative from whom information concerning the Proposal 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 Proposal; and f) information on how to submit written or oral comments regarding the Proposal; and

WHEREAS, such notice and public review process commenced on December 18, 2012, at least forty-five days in advance of the March 20, 2013 meeting of the Panel at which the Proposal 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 Proposal and the impacted school leadership teams at which all interested parties had an opportunity to present comments or concerns on the Proposal, and to which the District 6 Community Education Council was invited; 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 Proposal; 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 Proposal; a description of any changes to the Proposal as a result of the public comments; and

WHEREAS, the Chancellor recommends that the Panel approve the Proposal; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Panel to approve the Proposal; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Education Law § 2590-g, the Panel for Educational Policy hereby approves the proposed grade expansion of Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (06M348) to a K-12 school beginning in 2013-2014.