

## **CEC15 Statement on Brooklyn Prospect Charter Application**

District 15 currently has no need for Charter schools as the law is written.

Historically and currently our schools are working well, utilizing progressive and innovative methodologies and resources to meet the needs of all of our students.

While we are seeking to enhance services to special education students through more ASD Nest, dyslexia-focused, and twice exceptional programs, at this time we know of no Charters that service these specific populations.

Additionally, while the District is always seeking additional seats to expand school options and provide increased Pre-K and Three-K seats for our burgeoning population in all areas of the district, we are categorically opposed to any incoming Charter school that plans to co-locate with existing district schools or take any existing DOE space.

We are also opposed to any Charter school that hires teachers who are not certified in accordance with Part 80 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. Furthermore, we vehemently oppose Charter outreach that "skims the cream" of high performing students and "pushes out" challenging students.

Finally, while we acknowledge and appreciate that Brooklyn Prospect is not planning to co-locate, CEC 15 is a body that represents the interests of District 15, and thus cannot support any policy that draws public funds and resources away from District 15 schools and public accountability. The bottom line is every student enrolled in a Charter school pulls funding from our District schools. Brooklyn Prospect's application for an elementary school seeks to draw District 15 resources without offering anything District 15 doesn't already have. Thus CEC15 cannot support Brooklyn Prospect's Charter Application.

*In summary, what's happening here is that Brooklyn Prospect Charter is asking permission from SUNY to form a Charter Management Organization (Prospect Schools, Inc.) in order to expand into Connecticut. Regardless of the Charter operator, there are fiscal transparency and governing accountability questions that CMOs are not required by law to answer. Furthermore, the CMO structure not only facilitates expansion out-of-state, but also here in District 15. Brooklyn Prospect Charter recently presented a plan to the CEC to build an elementary charter, potentially in Gowanus or Red Hook. The original concept of Charters was to fill a local need. As a CMO, Brooklyn Prospect Charter's growth is no longer dictated by local need, rather a network business model in search of a need. In our view, becoming a CMO is a step toward expansion of*

*Prospect Schools, Inc. in District 15, regardless of need and will undermine the surrounding District elementary schools in the process.*