

**BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT
MARTY MARKOWITZ
PRESENTS**

**THE BROOKLYN
PARENT
HELP
GUIDE**

**TO
PUBLIC EDUCATION
NEW YORK CITY**

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Dear Brooklyn
Parents/Guardians/Caregivers:

After consulting with numerous parents, grandparents, guardians and caregivers from all over Brooklyn, I am pleased to be able to bring you the first ever **BROOKLYN PARENT HELP GUIDE**.

The purpose of this guide is to provide instant access to both websites and phone numbers at the Department of Education that will help you find your way to the services you need. Whether it is enrollment information, how to transfer, how to find your zoned school, get safety or transportation services, or if you need to speak to someone about the many choices of programs available for your child—just turn to the page in this guide and you can instantly find the web page or call the person you need.

We created **THE BROOKLYN PARENT ACADEMY** to help provide free classes for parents, and this office is the first in the city to bring **Co-Location Workshops** to schools struggling with issues surrounding co-location. It is my belief that the more information parents have, the better our children will do! The better our children do, the better Brooklyn, New York City and the nation do.

Enjoy using the **BROOKLYN PARENT HELP GUIDE**. For the electronic version go to my website at: www.brooklyn-usa.org

Sincerely,

Marty Markowitz



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HOW TO REGISTER AT A NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL

Register at your zoned school. Find your zone at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/schoolsearch/Maps.aspx>

When you come to register YOU MUST BRING YOUR CHILD.

You must also bring:

Child's birth certificate or passport; Child's immunization records

Proof of residence, which will be verified by any two of the following:

- A residential utility bill (gas or electric) in the resident's name issued by National Grid, Con Edison, or the Long Island Power Authority; must be dated within the past 60 days
- Documentation or letter with letterhead from a federal, state, or local government agency, including the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), City Housing Authority, Human Resources Administration (HRA), the Administration for Children's Services (ACS), or an ACS subcontractor indicating the resident's name and address; must be dated within the past 60 days
- An original lease agreement, deed, or mortgage statement for the residence
- A current property tax bill for the residence
- A water bill for the residence; must be dated within the past 60 days
- Official payroll documentation from an employer such as a form submitted for tax withholding purposes or payroll receipt; a letter on the employer's letterhead will not be accepted; must be dated within the past 60 days
- Child's latest report card/transcript (if available)
- Child's Individual Education Program (IEP) and/or 504 Accommodation Plan (if applicable and available)

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

HERE IS HOW YOU FIND OUT ABOUT UNIVERSAL PRE-K AND PRE-K:

- In Pre-Kindergarten, children learn how to share, take turns and work in groups. They also develop skills that form the foundations for reading, writing and mathematics.
- All Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) programs are free of charge. Directories for Universal Pre-K and Pre-K can be found at: <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/PreK/Publications/default.htm>
- Programs can be half day (two and a half hours, morning or afternoon) or full day (six hours and twenty minutes).
- Brooklyn North Director of Pre-K: Virginia Lora, (718) 636-3206
- Brooklyn South Director of Pre-K: Ana Gomez (718) 390-1487

FOR QUESTIONS:

EARLY CHILDHOOD FIELD OFFICES:

For Districts: 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

Program Administrator

Teresa Caccavale

Tel #(718) 442-6123

tcaccav@schools.nyc.gov

300 Adelphi Street

2nd Floor

Brooklyn, NY 11205

For Districts: 23, 32

Sherry Copeland

Tel #(718) 642-5871

Fax #(718) 642-5707

scopeland@schools.nyc.gov

KINDERGARTEN/ELEMENTARY ADMISSIONS PROCESS

- The kindergarten admissions process is school-based.
- To find your zoned elementary school, go to: <http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolSearch/Maps.aspx> or call 311.
- Families must submit an application for kindergarten admission, even if they are applying to their zoned school.
- **Director of Elementary Enrollment, Gentian Falstrom, (212) 374-5482.**

ADMISSIONS PRIORITIES

Zoned schools give priority to students who live in that zone.

Schools will make assignments according to the following priorities, listed from highest to lowest:

1. Zoned students with a sibling who will be in grades 1-5 at the school in the current school year.
2. All other zoned students.
3. Students residing in the school's district but outside the school's zone, with a sibling who will be in grades 1-5 at the school in the current school year.
4. Student residing outside of the school's district with a sibling who will be in grades 1-5 at the school in the current school year.
5. All other students residing in the school's district but outside the school's zone.
6. All other students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMISSION

- **Zoned Schools** — The zoned school is determined by your home address. To find out if there is a zoned school in your neighborhood go to: <http://schools.nyc.gov/SchoolSearch/Maps.aspx>
- **Middle School Choice** — Students must submit an application to schools that participate in middle school choice. To view details about district middle school choice programs, visit the Publications page at <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/Middle/Publications/default.htm>

TYPES OF HIGH SCHOOLS IN NYC

HIGH SCHOOL DIRECTORY

This Directory provides detailed descriptions of over 400 New York City public high schools, including information and programs, extracurricular activities, and eligibility. <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/711714DC-8E1D-424E-B69F-696450B353A5/0/1084DOEF0B.pdf>

For the Brooklyn High School Directory: <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/E893FB25-573F-4571-B1EC-13E4EC6218CC/0/Brooklyn-Merged119v705192011.pdf>

Career and Technical Education Schools (CTE): Students receive instruction in an industry-related area like computer graphics, veterinary science, restaurant management, carpentry & nursing. Through these programs, students can earn the Regent's Diploma with a Technical Endorsement. <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/CTE/ParentsandStudents/default.htm>

Charter Schools are independent public schools, governed by their own not-for-profit boards of trustees. Students are admitted through a lottery. <http://schools.nyc.gov/community/planning/charters/default.htm>

Specialized High Schools: There are nine specialized high schools in New York City. At eight of these schools, admission is based on Specialized High Schools Admissions Test scores. Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts acceptance is by audition and a review of academic records. http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/734BB461-5872-44A6-8A3E-4899164E5F4F/0/SHSAT_2011_HandbookFinal.pdf

Transfer Schools are small, academically challenging high schools designed to reengage students who have dropped out or who have fallen behind. Guidance counselors at students' original high schools must contact each prospective school directly to set up an interview for admission. <http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/B581CC4F-678B-4884-B650-B107E0980E27/0/AWTG-Directory201112.pdf>

Parent high school support line, (718) 935-2009, general information.
Judith Butcher, (212) 374-6811

HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Every eligible student is assured entrance into one of the New York City public high schools.

To file an application and participate in the high school admissions process, a student must be an eighth or first-time ninth grader and a resident of New York City. Students can rank up to 12 programs (NOT required to list 12) on their application (some high schools have more than one program to which eighth graders may apply).

If a student wishes to attend his or her zoned high school, he or she must list the zoned programs of that high school as one of the choices on his or her application. All students must submit their high school applications by the deadline.

Specialized Admissions Round

Offers for Specialized High Schools are sent to students in February. Students who receive an offer are also notified if they were matched to one of the programs they listed on their application, and they can choose which offer to accept. If a student opts not to accept an offer from a Specialized High School, he/she forfeits the seat.

Main Round

This round is for all students including those who did not receive an offer to a specialized high school. Students will be notified about the program to which they have been matched.

Supplementary Round

If a student does not receive a match in the main round, he/she can select up to 12 new choices during the supplementary round. Students who are not able to be matched to one of their choices will be assigned to an available high school as near as possible to their homes. All students receive a high school match by the end of the supplementary round.

Appeals

Parents who want to appeal their child's high school match should meet with their child's guidance counselor to discuss the situation. The guidance counselor will provide and enter an appeal form.

NON-TRADITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

Career and Technical Education Schools (CTE): The DOE has created a number of high-quality educational options to support the needs of students aged 16 to 21 who have fallen behind academically and who are more than two years away from graduation. <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/CTE/default.htm>

Students receive instruction in an industry-related area like computer graphics, veterinary science, restaurant management, carpentry & nursing, among many others. They have the opportunity to graduate high school with industry-specific competencies. Through these programs, students can earn the Regent's Diploma with a Technical Endorsement.

Transfer high schools: See page 7 or <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/AlternativesHS/TransferHS/default.htm>

Young Adult Borough Centers: Eligible students are at least 17.5 years old, have been in school for four or more years, and have 17 or more credits. Students graduate with a diploma from their home school after they have earned all of their credits and passed all of the required exams. <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/AlternativesHS/YoungAdult/default.htm>

GED Preparation programs in the **Alternative District (District 79)** are available for students who wish to prepare for the General Education Development (GED) exam. Students who receive a passing score earn a High School Equivalency Diploma. <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/AlternativesHS/FullPtGED/default.htm>

Learning to Work programs offer in-depth job readiness and career exploration opportunities. <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/AlternativesHS/LearningtoWork/default.htm>

For further information about these options, email youthhelp@schools.nyc.gov or call (917) 521-3600.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHY WOULD A STUDENT WISH TO ENROLL IN A CTE SCHOOL?

Students enroll in CTE schools because they wish to learn “hands-on” career skills while earning a Regent’s Diploma. <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/CTE/ParentsandStudents/default.htm>

HOW DOES CTE PREPARE STUDENTS FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

Students who graduate from CTE schools may choose to continue their education at colleges and universities, go directly into the workforce, select technical training programs, apprenticeships, or schools that specialize in their chosen field of interest. <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/CTE/ParentsandStudents/default.htm>

HOW DOES A STUDENT FIND A CTE SCHOOL THAT FITS HIS OR HER INTERESTS?

Begin by speaking with your child’s guidance counselor at his/her school and consult the Directory of Public High Schools – <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/Publications/default.htm>

HOW DOES A STUDENT ENROLL IN A CTE SCHOOL?

Students apply to CTE schools via the standard High School Admissions Process. <http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/High/Publications/default.htm>

WHAT ARE THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A CTE STUDENT?

Pass five required Regents examinations or alternatives approved by the State Assessment Panel; Complete a minimum of 22 units of credit; Complete a minimum of 14.5 units of credit in academic core requirements; and complete a maximum of one unit of credit each in English, mathematics, science, economics, and government.

<http://schools.nyc.gov/ChoicesEnrollment/CTE/ParentsandStudents/default.htm> or contact: NDeLaRosa@schools.nyc.gov.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

By law all schools are required to provide all information in the language parents speak

English Language Learners (ELLs) are students who speak a language other than English at home and score below proficient on English assessments when they enter our school system.

Bilingual programs (Transitional Bilingual Education and Dual Language) are provided to strengthen students' native language development while they build their social and academic English skills.

English as a Second Language (ESL) programs use strategies for English language development with native language support. Students develop language and content knowledge in English. For more information on ELL programs: <http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/ELL/default.htm>

CONTACTS

Laura Rodriguez, Deputy Chancellor; LRodrig2@schools.nyc.gov

Angelica Infante, Executive Director, Office of ELLs
oeff@schools.nyc.gov

Jennifer Acosta, Special Assistant to Deputy Chancellor;
JAcosta6@schools.nyc.gov

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Division of Students with Disabilities (<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/ELL/default.htm>) supports the achievement of students who have disabilities in the New York City public schools.

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

A comprehensive guide for parents of students with disabilities. It details parents' roles, rights and the processes associated with Special Education identification, referral, and services. http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/0797E0DD-0BD0-4734-9D50-1F5453198287/0/Parent_Guide_English.pdf

DISTRICT 75 provides citywide educational, vocational, and behavior support programs for many students who are on the autism spectrum, have significant cognitive delays, are severely emotionally challenged, sensory impaired and/or multiply disabled. District 75 consists of 56 school organizations, home and hospital instruction and vision and hearing services.

Gary Hecht, Superintendent, D75 Citywide Programs; GHecht@schools.nyc.gov

ANSWERS FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES: Links and information about enrollment, transportation, graduation and other topics of special interest to families of students with disabilities.

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/ELL/FamilyResources/ELL+Programs.htm>

EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTION CENTERS: The Center's task is to inform parents of children with disabilities about their publicly funded options for supports and services for children age birth to age five. Contact: Karen Samet, Director, Early Childhood Direction at ksamet@ucpnyc.org

THE ASD NEST PROGRAM

The ASD Nest program is the New York City Department of Education's Integrated Co-Teaching program for higher functioning children with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). Nestled within supportive neighborhood schools, the ASD Nest program helps children with ASDs learn how to function well academically, behaviorally, and socially in school and in their community.

For further information about the ASD Nest program and administration processes please contact:

Nancy Frost or Diane Carnegie at

NFrost@schools.nyc.gov or **DCarnegie@schools.nyc.gov**
(718) 758-7665

NEST PROGRAMS IN BROOKLYN:

PS 32, K-5; PS 121, K-1; PS 222, K, 4-5; PS 244, K-3; PS 255, 1-2; PS 682, K-1; MS 447, 6-8; Millennium Brooklyn, 9th grade; IS 278 will open a program in September, 2012

CONTACTS:

Laura Rodriguez, Deputy Chancellor; **LRodrig2@schools.nyc.gov**

Lauren Katzman, Executive Director, Special Education

Lkatzman2@schools.nyc.gov

Jan McDonald, Executive Director, Committees on Special Education.

JMcDonald4@schools.nyc.gov

Jennifer Acosta, Special Assistant to Deputy Chancellor

JAcosta6@schools.nyc.gov. 52 Chambers Street, Room 220
New York, NY 10007 Tel: 212-374-6085

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCILS (CEC)

There are 12 Community Schools Districts in Brooklyn and each has an elected CEC

DISTRICT 13

CEC13@schools.nyc.gov
355 Park Pl.
Brooklyn, NY 11238
Rm. 216
P. — 718-636-3212
F. — 718-636-3238

DISTRICT 14

CEC14@schools.nyc.gov
215 Heyward St.
Brooklyn, NY 11206
Rm. 233B
P. — 718-302-7624
F. — 718-302-7606

DISTRICT 15

CEC15@schools.nyc.gov
131 Livingston St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Rm. 301
P. — 718-935-4267
F. — 718-935-4356

DISTRICT 16

CEC16@schools.nyc.gov
1010 Lafayette Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11221
Rm. 110
P. — 718-574-2813
F. — 718-453-1048

DISTRICT 17

CEC17@schools.nyc.gov
760 Prospect Place
Brooklyn, NY 11216
Rm. 103
P. — 718-467-3712 x100
F. — 718-221-4326

DISTRICT 18

CEC18@schools.nyc.gov
1106 E. 95th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11236
Rm. 112
P. — 718-566-6037
F. — 718-649-7074

DISTRICT 19

CEC19@schools.nyc.gov
574 Dumont Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11207
Rm. 213
P. — 718-342-3625
F. — 718-342-7964

DISTRICT 20

CEC20@schools.nyc.gov
415 89th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11209
Rm. 511
P. — 718-759-3921
F. — 718-759-3920

DISTRICT 21

CEC21@schools.nyc.gov
521 West Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11224
Rm. 351
P. — 718-714-2503
F. — 718-714-2615

DISTRICT 22

CEC22@schools.nyc.gov
5619 Flatlands Avenue
Brooklyn NY 11234
Rm. 115
P. — 718 968-6111
F. — 718-968-6256

DISTRICT 23

CEC23@schools.nyc.gov
1659-1665 St. Marks Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11233
Rm. 33
P. — 718-240-3654
F. — 718-385-3768

DISTRICT 32

CEC32@schools.nyc.gov
797 Bushwick Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11221
Rm. 303
P. — 718-574-1203
F. — 718-574-1245

COMMUNITY and HIGH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

DISTRICT 13

James Machen
355 Park Place
Brooklyn, NY 11238
P. — 718-636-3284

DISTRICT 14

James Quail
215 Heyward Street
Brooklyn, NY 11206
P. — 718-302-7638

DISTRICT 15

Anita Skop
131 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
P. — 718-935-4317

DISTRICT 16

Evelyn Santiago
1010 Lafayette Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11221
P. — 718-574-2834

DISTRICT 17

Rhonda Hurdle Taylor
1224 Park Place
Brooklyn, NY 11213
P. — 718-221-4372

DISTRICT 18

Beverly Wilkins
1106 East 95th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11236
P. — 718-566-6008

DISTRICT 19

Rose Marie Mills (Acting)
574 Dumont Avenue
Room 212
Brooklyn, NY 11207
P. — 718-342-3625

DISTRICT 20

Karina Costantino
415 89th Street, 4th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11209
P. — 718-759-4912

DISTRICT 21

Isabel DiMola
521 West Avenue
Rm 351
Brooklyn, NY 11224
P. — 718-714-2502

DISTRICT 22

Linda Waite
5619 Flatlands Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11234
P. — 718-968-6117

DISTRICT 23

Ainslie Cumberbatch
1665 St. Marks Avenue,
Brooklyn, NY 11233
P. — 718-240-3677

DISTRICT 32

Lillian Druck
797 Bushwick Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11221
P. — 718-574-1100
ext. 3040

BROOKLYN HS SUP

Karen Watts
5619 Flatlands Avenue
Rm. 120
Brooklyn, NY 11234
P. — 718-968-6110

DISTRICT FAMILY ADVOCATES

Parents should try and solve problems at the school first. If that fails, contact the District Family Advocate

DISTRICT 13

355 Park Place, Rm. 205
Brooklyn, NY 11238
Precious Jones-Walker
(718) 636-3234

DISTRICT 14

215 Heyward Street
Rm. 233B
Brooklyn, NY 11206
Pamela Payne
(718) 302-7689

DISTRICT 15

131 Livingston St.
Rm 301B
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Selena Williams
(718) 935-4263

DISTRICT 16

1010 Lafayette Avenue
Rm.135
Brooklyn, NY 11221
Camelia Brogdon-Cruz
(718) 574-2824

DISTRICT 17

1224 Park Place
Rm. 142
Brooklyn, NY 11213
DFA: Margot Sargeant
(718) 221-4372, ext. 546

DISTRICT 18

1106 East 95th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11236
Joanne Rubano
(718) 566-6005

DISTRICT 19

574 Dumont Avenue
Rm. 213
Brooklyn, NY 11207
Rosemary Roman
(718) 342-3625 x2130

DISTRICT 20

415 89th Street
Rm. 402
Brooklyn, NY 11209
William Chin
(718) 759-3944

DISTRICT FAMILY ADVOCATES

Parents should try and solve problems at the school first. If that fails, contact the District Family Advocate

DISTRICT 21

521 West Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11224
Lottie Dobson-Shannon
718-714-2505

DISTRICT 23

1665 St. Mark's Ave.
Rm. 125
Brooklyn, NY 11233
Page Best-Hardy
718-240-3650

DISTRICT 32

797 Bushwick Ave.
Rm. 300
Brooklyn, NY 11221
Alice Nieves
718-574-1100
Ext. 3002

BOROUGH ENROLLMENT OFFICES

Offices are open Mon. through Fri. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
If you have questions that are not answered at your school—go
to your local Enrollment Office

District: 17, 18, 22

1780 Ocean Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11230
718-935-2313

District: 20, 21

415 89th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209
718-935-2331

District: 19, 23, 32

1665 St. Mark's Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11233
718-935-2340

District: 13, 14, 15, 16

29 Fort Greene Place (BE12), Brooklyn, NY 11217
Please Note: General Education Only
718-935-2371

District: 13, 14, 15, 16

131 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Please Note: Special Education Only
718-935-4908

SCHOOL SAFETY

THE SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- School Climate and Culture
- Guidance and Counseling
- Student Suspensions
- School Safety
- Emergency Preparedness
- Crisis Intervention
- Graduation Requirements
- Attendance
- Students in Temporary Housing
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention
- Child Abuse Identification, Prevention and Intervention
- Professional Development
- School-CBO Partnerships

CONTACTS:

MARY MASON SIMPSON

Director, Office of School Safety & Positive Behavior Intervention
Supports

400 First Avenue New York, New York 10010

Tel: (212) 802-1654 Fax: (212) 802-1666

mmasonsimpson@schools.nyc.gov

RICHARD KURLANDER

Suspension Approval Officer

212-802-1608

rkurlan@schools.nyc.gov

ANTONIO PENA

D75 Safety Assistant (212) 802-1506

apena11@schools.nyc.gov

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

- The Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) provides service to over 600,000 NYC students attending both public and non-public schools.
- Services include stop-to-school busing, door-to-door busing, student MetroCards, and bus service for over 160,000 school field trips every year.

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING:

- Eligibility and Services
- Student MetroCards
- Transportation Safety

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Transportation/default.htm>

CONTACTS

- Office of Pupil Transportation 44-36 Vernon Blvd.
Long Island City, NY 11101
- Customer Service (718) 392-8855
- Email: PupilTransportationTeam@schools.nyc.gov

CHANCELLOR'S REGULATIONS

All parents should get to know the Chancellor's Regulations as you will often hear them referred to in many different situations. All of them can be found here:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/ChancellorsRegulations/default.htm>

Here are some individual pages for:
Parent Associations and the Schools

NUMBER: A-660

Sets forth the governance structure of parent associations and presidents' councils to ensure the rights of parents are clearly established.

Fundraising Activities and Collection of Money from Students

NUMBER: A-610

Defines fund raising activities and the parameters regarding fundraisers, including when they may be held, and sets forth internal controls for moneys collected and their expenditure

School and District Leadership Teams

NUMBER: A-655

Ensures the formation of School Leadership Teams (SLTs) in every New York City Public School and District Leadership Teams (DLTs) in every community school district. It also includes the central plan for school-based planning and shared decision making.

Student Discipline Procedures

NUMBER: A-443

Contains disciplinary procedures for all students, whether in general or special education, grades K-12.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

New York City's Charter Schools Office (CSO) develops and supports charter schools.

Charter schools receive public funds but are not run by the city's Department of Education. They may be started by any community resident. They must receive approval from either the state university system or the state Board of Regents.

Each charter school is governed by a not-for-profit board of trustees which may include educators, community members, and leaders from the private sector.

Charters are governed by an actual "Charter" document and parents should ask for a copy of the charter.

Charter Schools sign five year contracts on what achievement standards they will meet. They have freedom to establish their own policies, design their own educational program, and manage their human and financial resources.

For more information:

Charter law: <http://schools.nyc.gov/charterschools/law.text.htm>

State Board of Regents Charter School Office:

www.p12.nysed.gov/psc/

SUNY Charter Schools Institute: newyorkcharters.org

New York City Center for Charter School Excellence:

www.nycchartercenter.org

RESOURCES

GothamSchools is an independent news source about the New York City public schools: GothamSchools; gothamschools.org

InsideSchools: <http://insideschools.org/> Provides basic information and regular updates.

New York Charter Parents Association: New York Charter Parents Association is an independent parent led organization advocating for parent and student rights in charter schools. nycharterparents.org; (917) 340-8987

New York City Parents Union: New York City Parents Union (NYCPU) is an independent parent led education advocacy and social justice organization. www.nycparentsunion.org; (917) 340-8987

Class Size Matters: a non-profit, non-partisan clearinghouse for information on class size and the proven benefits of smaller classes. www.classsizematters.org/

Education Week Update: Non-profit news analysis across the country. www.edweek.org/newsletter/daily-update/2011/08/10/email/ewupdate.html

Advocates for Children: is the only citywide agency offering free individual case assistance to families and children who are experiencing problems in obtaining appropriate educational services for their children. This includes special education problems, school disciplinary issues, and general access to school services. **Monday - Thursday, 10am-4pm 1-866-427-6033 or www.advocatesforchildren.org**

Parent to Parent of NYS: is a statewide network that collaborates with families, people with disabilities, self advocates, government and providers to promote choice and community involvement for all New Yorkers with developmental disabilities and special health care needs. www.parenttoparentnys.org/index.html

RESOURCES

Coalition for Educational Justice: The NYC Coalition for Educational Justice (CEJ) is organizing a parent-led movement for educational equity and excellence in the city's public schools. www.nyccej.org/

Communities for Excellent Public Schools: A newly formed coalition supported by 24 local, state and national parent and community organizing groups across the country. CEPS has launched a national campaign calling for dramatic action to improve low performing schools by emphasizing parent, student and community engagement and research-based educational practices. www.ceps-ourschools.org/

EdVox: EdVox is “verus vox vocis,” real voices of the people. EdVox represents all the many voices often absent from discussions about education policy. <http://edvox.org>

Alliance for Quality Education: A New York state wide community-based organization fighting for high quality public education. It is a non-profit coalition of over 230 organizations of parents, children's advocates, schools, teachers, clergy, and others. www.aqeny.org/

ASD Horizon Program: This program model is designed to offer opportunities for those students who may otherwise be recommended for specialized educational programs to remain within a community school setting. For more information contact: Brooklyn: Candace Lee; clee@schools.nyc.gov

Make the Road New York (MRNY) MRNY helps Latino immigrants navigate New York City services and ensure that they have equitable access to education for their children, and legal assistance. www.maketheroadny.org/whoweare.php or contact the office Tel: (718) 418-7690

Hispanic Federation: To empower and advance the Hispanic community: 1-866 HF AYUDA (432-9832) or www.hispanicfederation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=36&Itemid=28

The New York Immigration Coalition: www.thenyic.org/about-ust