



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Commissioner

August 30, 2012

Dear Prospective Charter School Applicants:

A major component of Governor Chris Christie's education reform agenda is to offer high-quality charter schools that provide choice and deliver strong student outcomes. As the Commissioner of Education, I am passionate about that mission and dedicated to expanding the number of high-quality charter school seats in the State of New Jersey.

Opening and starting a charter school is one of the most challenging endeavors a group of individuals will embark upon. The expedited application timeline is difficult to navigate for even the most experienced founding teams. Therefore, this expedited application round will **ONLY** be for experienced applicants/operators with demonstrable experience.

We invite applicants and operators with the knowledge and track record to open schools in communities with the highest levels of needs. While this application cycle will be fair and consistent with N.J.A.C. 6A:11-2.1, the Department will give preference for applicants who choose to serve the students in areas across the state that have been identified as either Priority and/or Focus Schools and demonstrate a commitment to generating improved results for at-risk students.

Thank you for your founding team's desire and dedication to provide New Jersey parents and students with an opportunity for a high quality educational choice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cerf", written in a cursive style.

Christopher D. Cerf
Commissioner