

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
March 27, 2024

SUBJECT: Hope Operator Designation – Success Academy

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve Success Academy Charter Schools, Inc., as a Schools of Hope Operator

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1002.333(2), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 1002.333, Florida Statutes, authorizes high-impact charter school organizations to apply to the State Board of Education to be recognized and designated as a Schools of Hope Operator. To be eligible for the Hope Operator designation, a charter school organization must meet both of the following criteria:

- Be a non-profit organization with tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and
- Operate three or more public charter schools that serve student grades K-12 in Florida or other states with a record of serving students from low-income families.

Additionally, the charter school organization must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Awarded a United States Department of Education Charter School Program Grant for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools within the most recent three years;
- Receives funding through the National Fund of the Charter School Growth fund; or
- Is selected by a district school board as a school turnaround operator, pursuant to Section 1008.33, Florida Statutes.

Success Academy Charter Schools, Inc., is a nonprofit organization with tax exempt status that operates 53 schools in Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx. Seventy-eight percent of Success Academy students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. About 93 percent are children of color. And, for the sixth-straight year, 100 percent of its graduating seniors have been admitted to a four-year college or university. Additionally, Success Academy students have consistently outperformed their district school peers in New York City on New York’s standardized tests, with 80.3 percent of Success Academy students passing the English Language Arts portion of the test (compared with 51.7 percent districtwide) and 92.1 percent passing in math (compared to 49.9 percent districtwide).

Supporting Documentation Included: Application packet for Success Academy (under separate cover)

Facilitators/Presenters: Adam Emerson, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice; Eva Moskowitz, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Success Academy Charter Schools