
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Uncommon NYC Charter Schools Applying to Open a New Public Charter School in Brooklyn
Proposed School is in Response to Tremendous Demand for Seats at Uncommon NYC Charter Schools

February 12, 2016 – BROOKLYN, N.Y. – Uncommon NYC Charter Schools is a network of free, public charter schools in Brooklyn that close the achievement gap and prepare low-income students to graduate from college. Currently, Uncommon NYC Charter Schools serves over 6,700 K-12 students across 21 schools in Brooklyn, including both single-sex and co-educational schools. Our scholars are 95% Black & Latino, and over 80% come from low-income households. Uncommon NYC Charter Schools plans to open one new school that would serve the communities in Brooklyn. The proposal is in response to the overwhelming demand for seats in its schools and for more high-quality, college-preparatory public school choices in Brooklyn.

There are over 30,000 students and families on our waiting list hoping for a seat at one of our schools. To serve as many of these families as we can, Uncommon NYC Charter Schools is working to fill every available seat in our elementary and middle schools. Unfortunately, even with our commitment to backfilling, giving as many students a chance to enroll in our schools as possible, many of the families on our waiting lists still will never be offered a chance to attend the school of their choice.

In response to this need, Uncommon NYC Charter Schools will submit a proposal for a new school to the State University of New York (SUNY) Charter Schools Institute. If approved, the proposed school will open in 2018 serving grades K and 5. The school will ultimately grow to serve children in grades K-12.

“Having served Brooklyn families for the past 11 years, Uncommon NYC Charter Schools welcomes this opportunity to respond to the strong parent demand for our schools by opening a new free, public charter school,” said Tara Marlovits, Chief Operating Officer for Uncommon NYC Charter Schools.

Uncommon NYC Charter Schools is committed to serving all students, including English Language Learners and students who require special education services. Uncommon NYC Charter Schools is invested in building strong community partnerships and engaging community members as it opens new schools. As we develop the proposal for the new school, the voices of the community are very important to us. We know from experience that every neighborhood has its own needs and resources, and that each student and community is unique. For this reason, Uncommon NYC Charter

Schools invites members of the community to meet with us and share feedback about the proposed expansion and provide input on how a new school can best serve your community:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/USNYC>.

About Uncommon Schools

Uncommon Schools, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, currently operates 44 K-12 public charter schools in Brooklyn, Newark, Camden, Troy, Rochester and Boston. In Brooklyn, Uncommon Schools serves over 6,700 K-12 students across 21 schools, including both single-sex and co-educational schools. Our scholars are 95% Black & Latino, and over 80% come from low-income households.

We believe that all children, regardless of race or economic status, have the right to a great free, public education. Each of our schools shares in our mission to prepare all our students to enter, succeed in, and graduate from college. Students are randomly selected by public lottery in grades K and 5, and we maintain waiting lists through grade 8. We currently have schools in the Bedford Stuyvesant, Brownsville, Crown Heights, East Flatbush, Prospect Heights, Canarsie and Williamsburg neighborhoods within Brooklyn.

Uncommon Schools believes that in running a successful school, there are no 100% solutions. Rather, there is a series of 1% solutions that add up to success. Uncommon Schools uses a core set of approaches and practices, drawn from observations of high-performing schools to meet its mission of preparing students to succeed in high school, college, and beyond. Uncommon Schools has a demonstrated record of successful academic outcomes. At Uncommon Charter High School, each of the three graduating classes has earned a 100% college acceptance rate. In addition, 100% of Uncommon Schools' elementary schools in Brooklyn closed the achievement gap in Math on the 2015 NYS tests, and 83% closed the achievement gap in ELA.

As Uncommon Schools has grown and its schools have gotten better and better at closing the achievement gap for low-income students of color, its leaders have turned to the challenge of identifying and sharing the strategies that had proven most effective in classrooms. They have published seven books, delivered trainings to thousands of teachers and principals nationwide, and created online resources that are available free of charge. As part of Uncommon Schools' commitment to improving educational access and outcomes for all children across our city, we are partnering with the NYC DOE this year to train NYC Principals and Teachers from Districts 23 and 19.

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