

## **Frequently Asked Questions Related to the Closing of Urban Choice Charter School July 13, 2023**

*In accordance with Action Item #2 of the Closing Procedures Guide and Checklist for New York State Charter Schools Authorized by the Board of Regents, SED will post this FAQ on the SED website (Charter School Directory: Urban Choice Charter School page); and the school is required to disseminate the FAQ document to its stakeholders which may include posting on its website.*

The closure of a charter school can be very difficult for school stakeholders, particularly students, families, and school staff. This process can also adversely impact the community in which the school is located. The primary purpose of this list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is to answer critical, time-sensitive questions from parents and guardians of students currently enrolled in this charter school, as well as administrators, faculty and staff, and the public.

On Tuesday, April 18, 2023, the New York State Board of Regents voted to deny the charter renewal for Urban Choice Charter School (Urban Choice). As a result, the school's charter was terminated on its expiration date of July 1, 2023, which effectively closed the school on that date. The New York State Education Department will work with the school to protect the best interests of displaced families and staff with a focus on assisting successful transitions for all parties involved

### **1. Why is Urban Choice Charter School closed?**

The school is closed because at their April 18, 2023 meeting, the Board of Regents voted to deny the school's charter renewal application, also called "non-renewal," of the charter which means that the school's operations terminated on July 1, 2023.

Based on the review of evidence related to the school's educational, governance, implementation of its mission and key design elements, and enrollment record, the Board of Regents was unable to make all of the findings that it, as the chartering entity, was required by law to make in order to approve a charter renewal application.

The recommendation presented to the Regents can be found at: [\[Meeting Archives \] | Board of Regents \(nysed.gov\)](#).

The final voted language can be found in the P-12 Committee Report at: [Report of Regents P-12 Education Committee to The Board of Regents | Board of Regents \(nysed.gov\)](#)

### **2. When was the last day of instruction?**

The school officially closed on July 1, 2023. The last day of instruction at the school was June 22, 2023.

**3. How will I find a new school for my child next year?**

The New York State Education Department will coordinate with the school and the Rochester City School District to provide students enrolled at Urban Choice Charter School with as many enrollment alternatives as possible, including at other charter schools.

**4. How do I obtain a copy of my child's records?**

Copies of your child's records are available to you, upon request, at the school.

**5. Do I have to forward my child's records to her/his new school?**

Copies of your child's records will be forwarded, automatically, by Urban Choice Charter School upon your child's enrollment in another school.

**6. The school has indicated that it intends to enroll all students in other schools by July 31, 2023. What happens if I have not chosen a new school for my child by this date?**

It is in the best interest of families in this situation to make decisions as soon as possible following closure.

**Is the school financially stable?**

NYSED made no findings of fiscal issues. Please refer to the school's Renewal Report.

**7. Is there anything that can be done to prevent closure?**

Decisions of the Board of Regents are final and shall not be reviewable in any court or by any administrative body.

**8. Is anything being done to help employees of the school find new jobs?**

Unfortunately, this is not an area in which the Department can assist; however, the school has indicated it will offer support to staff members in finding their next position.

**9. Who can I contact with additional questions?**

The liaison at the New York State Education Department is Susan Gibbons. She may be reached at (518)-474-1762 or [susan.gibbons@nysed.gov](mailto:susan.gibbons@nysed.gov).

The trustee liaison is Mubarak Bashir and may be reached at [mubarakb81@gmail.com](mailto:mubarakb81@gmail.com).

The school liaison is Lynn McCarthy who may be reached at [lmccarthy@urbanchoicecharter.org](mailto:lmccarthy@urbanchoicecharter.org).