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**From:** Joe Williams  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 17, 2010 1:59 PM  
**To:** Whitney Tilson; Charlie Ledley; Nelson Smith; John Petry; Boykin Curry  
**Cc:** Bill Phillips; Eva Moskowitz; Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Re: NYT: Charter Extension Denied

Don't hate the playah, hate the game. Word up. Yo.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Whitney Tilson  
**To:** Charlie Ledley  
**To:** Nelson Smith  
**To:** John Petry  
**To:** Boykin Curry  
**Cc:** Bill Phillips  
**Cc:** Eva Moskowitz  
**Cc:** Joe Williams  
**Cc:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** NYT: Charter Extension Denied  
**Sent:** Apr 17, 2010 1:31 PM

You have to read down the article to confirm what we all really know happened here (and now I really, REALLY hate Ravitch)...

<http://mobile.nytimes.com/2010/04/16/education/16sfcharter.xml>

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

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**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 1:55 PM  
**To:** White John; Keaney Maura  
**Subject:** Fw: nypost

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**From:** Cantor David  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Mon Apr 19 13:42:14 2010  
**Subject:** Re: nypost

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**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**To:** Cantor David  
**Sent:** Mon Apr 19 13:20:22 2010  
**Subject:** Re: nypost

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**From:** Cantor David  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Mon Apr 19 12:59:47 2010  
**Subject:** FW: nypost

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**From:** James Merriman |  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 10:26 AM  
**To:** Cantor David; Bradley Tusk  
**Subject:** RE: nypost

They haven't released the witness list and we are waiting on the fabled NYSUT report to drop to better understand what the hearing will look like.

Diane will testify first and then Macke Raymond after. I know suny and SED charter folks are also testifying. The focus seems to be on malfeasance and then, to some extent, the standard arguments against charters (creaming, for profits, privatization, etc.).

I would recommend waiting until the NYSUT report drops and some analysis is done before having JK talk with Adam in order to have a better sense of the frame.

We will organize parents in front of 250 bway and UFT has pulled a permit for a major rally supposedly of co-located parents at tip of city hall park (risers, megatron, sound system, etc.).

Not sure there is much else to relate at this point.

j.

---

James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

**NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER**

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**From:** Cantor David [<mailto:DCantor@schools.nyc.gov>]

**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 10:20 AM

**To:** Bradley Tusk; James Merriman

**Subject:** nypost

Adam Brodsky wants to have a background convo w Joel about Perkins hearing. What's the state of play around this?

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**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 4:36 PM  
**To:** 'joewilliams@dfer.org'  
**Subject:** Re: LIFO

Thanks. She was her most restrained today. We ready for Thursday?

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [williams](#)  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Mon Apr 19 16:31:42 2010  
**Subject:** LIFO

Nice job.

I am amazed that they still don't have better talking points on LIFO. Randi should be able to do better than "layoffs will hurt kids, so the question isn't which ones should be laid off."

I thought Andy's follow-up was great - that there's better ways than others to do it if you have to do it.

See you back in NYC.

Joe Williams  
Executive Director  
Democrats for Education Reform  
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4  
New York, NY 10036  
[www.dfer.org](http://www.dfer.org)

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**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2010 12:42 PM  
**To:** Whitney Tilson; Klein Joel I.; williams2@gmail.com; phillips  
**Subject:** RE: Eagle Academy

Not charter.

.....  
James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Whitney Tilson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2010 12:31 PM  
**To:** Joel I. Klein; williams ; James Merriman; phillips  
**Subject:** Eagle Academy

I'm at an event with Colin Powell and David Banks of Eagle Academy. Is it a charter? Is it a top-notch school?

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**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2010 6:52 AM  
**To:** merrimar  
**Subject:** DN

How you responding?

**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2010 8:31 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** DFER: Last Chance: Joe's Birthday Blow-Out/Reception for Rep. Jared Polis (D-Colorado)



Please join us for my 40th Birthday Celebration and a Special NYC Reception for Rep. Jared Polis (D-Colorado).

And if that isn't enough to get you there, DFER federal policy guru and occasional disc jockey Charlie Barone will be spinning his favorite tunes.

**When:** 4 to 6 p.m., April 24, 2010

**Where:** The Half King \* 505 W. 23rd St., New York, NY

RSVP by ordering your tickets at <http://www.actblue.com/page/joebdaypolis>.

BY CONTRIBUTING THROUGH THIS PAGE YOU WILL DESIGNATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION 50% TO FRIEND OF JARED POLIS, 25% TO JIM HIMES FOR CONGRESS, AND 25% TO PERRIELLO FOR CONGRESS.

Questions? Please email [joewilliams@dfer.org](mailto:joewilliams@dfer.org).

In the year since Congressman Polis was sworn in and assigned to the House Education and Labor committee, he has proven to be an extremely effective partner for reform. As the only member of Congress who has actually started his own charter school, Rep. Polis hit the ground running and emerged as a key voice in backing President Obama's school reform agenda.

Most noteworthy, Rep. Polis has led the way to help expand and replicate successful charter schools through the federal ALL Star act. This is the kind of pro-reform legislation that will be a game-changer once we get it passed.

Please join me to celebrate 40 wild and wacky years and to appropriately thank Rep. Polis for being a great friend, a valued charter champion and for his continued leadership on education reform issues.

Even if you can't attend, please consider supporting Rep. Polis' work by contributing through <http://www.actblue.com/page/joebdaypolis>.

This email was sent to [joeklein@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:joeklein@schools.nyc.gov).



**Unsubscribe me from this list**



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**From:** White John  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2010 6:33 PM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** RE: Important Education Update from the NYC Council

They're talking about class size mandates being figured into the SCA's school utilization formula. Yes, it would drive up utilization rates. But not dramatically.

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2010 2:30 PM  
**To:** White John  
**Subject:** RE: Important Education Update from the NYC Council

Will the proposed legislation from the city council (that is referenced below), if enacted, cause any issues?

.....

James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

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**From:** White John [mailto:JWhite8@schools.nyc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2010 2:20 PM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** RE: Important Education Update from the NYC Council

Thanks.

Not sure where you're headed re class size -- you mean in future legislation?

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2010 11:36 AM  
**To:** White John  
**Subject:** FW: Important Education Update from the NYC Council

Nice job yesterday. Any thoughts on the class size thing as it relates to charters?

.....

James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

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**From:** speakerquinn@council.nyc.gov [mailto:speakerquinn@council.nyc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2010 11:26 AM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** Important Education Update from the NYC Council

April 23, 2010

Dear New Yorker,

While we are all extremely upset at last month's vote by the MTA, we hope you will join us as we continue our fight to save student MetroCards.

You may recall, in response to the tremendous outcry in neighborhoods across the five boroughs, **the MTA decided to postpone a vote on its controversial plan to strip students of their free MetroCards.**

More than half a million students who receive free or discounted MetroCards - a vast majority - wouldn't be able to commute to school without them. The added cost of these students' transportation will break the budgets of many working families across the city, especially those who aren't earning a living wage.

**Keep the pressure on!**

- Call Governor Paterson at (212) 681-4580 and urge him to fully restore funding for student MetroCards.
- Tell Governor Paterson how important student MetroCards are to you at <http://bit.ly/NYSGovernor>.
- Let the MTA know how the loss of the student MetroCard program would affect you at [www.straphangers.org/testify](http://www.straphangers.org/testify).

Eliminating free student MetroCards could negatively impact attendance rates and graduation rates at many schools - especially among the low- to moderate-income students who make up the majority of our student population. A New York family with two school-age children would see the cost of mass transit rise by approximately \$2,300 a year. Our families simply cannot bear this cost. With your continued support, we can help save student MetroCards and prevent thousands of students from being stranded.

(For a full list of the MTA's service cuts and revisions, click [here](#).)

**Overcrowding and Class Size**

Finally, we wanted to let you know about an important hearing next week on the Blue Book, which the NYC Department of Education (DOE) uses to determine whether or not a school is overcrowded.

Currently, the DOE doesn't use state-mandated class size targets when measuring school capacity for grades 4 through 12. It also doesn't take into account the many music, art, science or other cluster or specialty rooms that have been converted into regular classrooms. As a result, the DOE often shows less overcrowding in schools than there actually is.

Next Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, our Education Committee will be holding a public hearing on a bill, **Intro. 155**, that would incorporate state-mandated class size targets into the DOE's calculations. Using state-mandated targets will lead to a more accurate assessment of school utilization and provide stakeholders the information we need to advocate for smaller class sizes.

The hearing will begin at 1 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. We invite all parents and advocates to attend. For more information about the bill and hearing, click on the link below:

<http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=97739&GUID=46142B66-6F3E-4D0C-B997-F7368D9167DA&Search>

Thank you so much for your continued advocacy and support. We promise to keep you updated on these and other critical issues affecting our students and schools.

Sincerely,  
Christine C. Quinn  
Speaker  
New York City Council

James Vacca  
Chair, Transportation Committee  
New York City Council

Robert Jackson  
Chair, Education Committee  
New York City Council

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**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2010 5:46 PM  
**To:** Emary Aronson; Geoffrey Canada; Jeffrey Litt; Klein Joel I.; Joseph H. Reich; Duffy Michael; Phoebe Boyer  
**Cc:** Christina Brown  
**Subject:** FW: New Visions Charter Proposal  
**Attachments:** one-page summary for potential charter evaluators.docx

Folks,

Bob Hughes of New Visions has asked me to write a letter of support for their I3 application to the feds. I am inclined to do so but wanted to make sure that before I do, I check with all to see if there is some reason I shouldn't.

The basic idea behind the application is to do 18 high school charter schools that would be both high performing and have a 95% attrition rate.

.....  
James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

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**From:** Bradley Tusk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2010 6:01 PM  
**To:** Diane Coffey  
**Cc:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Re: Ed Koch/NY Uprising PAC

Hi there. Joel and I spoke and that's what resulted in next week's donor lunch (now on Thursday).

On Tue, Apr 27, 2010 at 5:52 PM, Diane Coffey < > wrote:  
Joel...I know you cannot solicit -- it was the names you were to offer. So if you spoke to Bradley, I will talk to him.  
Thanks very much. Diane

---

**From:** Klein Joel I. [mailto:[JKlein@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2010 5:46 PM  
**To:** Diane Coffey  
**Subject:** RE: Ed Koch/NY Uprising PAC

Diane, I spoke to Bradley Tusk about this and he is prepared to discuss with you. For reasons that you can appreciate, I am not able to solicit funds for this.

---

**From:** Diane Coffey  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2010 5:44 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Ed Koch/NY Uprising PAC

Hi, Joel...

I am helping Ed out with the above effort as is Peter Solomon. Ed told me that you had mentioned to him that you thought you could identify some people who would be interested in supporting our effort financially. We need about \$250K in all and have \$75K now. It would be VERY helpful if you and I could have a chat. I am happy to call for this effort/furnish background etc.

I don't seem to have a number for you at hand although I have your email and hopefully this is correct. I am around tomorrow but if you could send me a note back, am more than pleased to call you. Thanks so much.

Keep up the great work!

xoxDiane

Diane M. Coffey  
Managing Director  
Peter J. Solomon Company  
520 Madison Avenue - 29th FL  
New York, NY 10022  
212-508-1605

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**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2010 5:47 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** DFER: States Are Racing Like Banshees (You heard us, banshees!)

Dear Education Reformer:

The Race to the Top Phase 2 application filing deadline is June 1st - only 33 days away. Many states, some that applied in did not, have begun to step up legislative, regulatory, and planning action in anticipation. States must send an intent to file Department of Education by May 4th

We have re-launched our Race to the Top deadline countdown clock at [www.dfer.org](http://www.dfer.org) and a series of state-specific Race to the Top Smarter analysis at <http://www.dfer.org/list/issues/racesmarter/>.

Here is the first of a series of weekly updates on state activity. Special thanks to our crack staff, especially Charlie Barone, and occasional DFER disc jockey:

**Arizona:** Despite coming in 40th out of 41 states in Phase 1, Governor Jan Brewer announced today that the state would re-apply. The state seems to be doubly challenged, as it is coming off a toxic legislative run in which it passed a law that encourages re-suspected legal immigrants and, in what can only be interpreted as a nod to tea partiers and Obama-hating birthers, a law that requires Presidential candidates to show proof of U.S. citizenship. The state says it will focus a large part of its efforts on Science, Engineering, and Mathematics, toward building the state's 21st century economic competitiveness.

Buena suerte.

[http://www.thegovmonitor.com/world\\_news/united\\_states/arizona-applies-for-second-round-race-to-the-top](http://www.thegovmonitor.com/world_news/united_states/arizona-applies-for-second-round-race-to-the-top)

**California:** Disheartened by a 27th place finish in Phase 1, the state almost decided not to apply in Phase 2 but, partly at the urging of Arne Duncan and team, is back in. The state will submit a Phase 2 application that focuses largely on three school districts: Long Beach, and Fresno. It's a creative approach. The tack seems to suggest the state will try to earn points through boldness rather than through LAUSD does have a larger school enrollment than about half of the fifty states. Long Beach has received national efforts to boost teacher effectiveness and L.A., under the leadership of Superintendent Ramon Cortines, has launched a number of efforts. The \$700 million in possible Phase 2 funds is no small consideration for the state given its dire budget situation.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-0428-lausd-20100428,0,7590412.story?page=1>

[http://www.dailynews.com/ci\\_14972606?source=most\\_email](http://www.dailynews.com/ci_14972606?source=most_email)

**Colorado:** A bill to strengthen teacher evaluation and reform tenure, sponsored by State Senator Mike Johnston (D-Denver), passed by the state legislature. Like other states that have competed well in the Great Teachers and Leaders category, the proposed teacher evaluation will focus at least 50% on student achievement. The bill has the support of Governor Ritter and a broad coalition of education reform groups, and business groups, but faces stiff opposition from teachers' unions.

Colorado finished 14th out of the 16 finalists so the Johnston bill would likely take Colorado from being marginally competitive to highly competitive. For our Race Smarter analysis of Colorado's Phase 1 application and prospects for Phase 2, click below.

[http://www.denverpost.com/ci\\_14953971](http://www.denverpost.com/ci_14953971)

<http://www.dfer.org/docs/CO%20Race%20Smarter%20Brief.pdf>

**Connecticut:** The state is racing against the clock to pass key reforms needed to be competitive in Phase 2 before the clo session on May 6th. The state ranked 25th out of the 41 states that applied in Phase 1, so without new laws and regulation the state would be among the 10-15 winners expected in RTT's second round. Just today, the co-chairs of of the Connecticut released the education reform bill SB 438. According to ConnCan, the bill creates a data system that links students to their to their training programs, creates alternative pathways for our most talented classroom teachers to become principals, ar school caps.ConnCan, however, expressed doubts that SB 438 can get the state over the RTT finish line, as it does not cor as evaluating teachers based in part on student achievement or more equitably funding charter schools.

<http://www.bristolpress.com/articles/2010/04/23/opinion/doc4bd23dbb43fbd191626908.txt>

<http://www.ctmirror.org/story/5346/race-top-33010>

[www.conncan.org](http://www.conncan.org)

**Florida:** After vetoing a teacher evaluation and tenure reform bill that would have improved the state's chances significant Crist appointed a working group to revise the state's plan. Members include the FEA President and the Teacher of the Year County, among several others. The group is slated to finish its work by the end of this week.

How Crist's bid as an independent for the open U.S. Senate seat will impact his policies and his ability to work across party state's chances for Phase 2 are as yet unclear. Florida lost the greatest number of points on the Great Teachers and Leade and his working group succeed in making its teacher and principal evaluation plan more robust, it will be difficult for Florid. vis a vis other states. For our full analysis, on the link to our FL Race Smarter brief below.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/04/28/charlie-crist-for-florida\\_n\\_555412.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/04/28/charlie-crist-for-florida_n_555412.html)

[http://blogs.orlandosentinel.com/news\\_education\\_edblog/2010/04/race-to-the-top-crist-appoints-working-school-folks-on-panel.html](http://blogs.orlandosentinel.com/news_education_edblog/2010/04/race-to-the-top-crist-appoints-working-school-folks-on-panel.html)

<http://www.dfer.org/docs/FL%20Race%20Smarter%20Brief.pdf>

**Georgia:** Although a merit pay proposal is for all intents and purposes dead, Phase 1 first runner-up Georgia is still racing clock to put into law a new teacher evaluation system before finalizing its Phase 2 application. While Georgia scored well ir questions about the reliability of that score predicting its Phase 2 success because the score was significantly inflated by or seemed to be a huge Georgia fan. For our Race Smarter analysis of Georgia, click below.

[http://blogs.ajc.com/get-schooled-blog/2010/04/28/house-education-vice-chair-votes-not-there-for-merit-bill/?cxntfid=blogs\\_get\\_schooled\\_blog](http://blogs.ajc.com/get-schooled-blog/2010/04/28/house-education-vice-chair-votes-not-there-for-merit-bill/?cxntfid=blogs_get_schooled_blog)

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/ap/busy-ga-lawmakers-near-sessions-end-92226619.html>

<http://www.dfer.org/docs/GA%20Race%20Smarter%20Brief.pdf>

**Indiana:** State Superintendent Bennett announced last week that the state would not apply for a Phase 2 grant. The state vehemently opposes key elements of the state's plan, including a provision to base teacher evaluations 51% on student ac other states have implemented similar provisions, including Phase 1 grantee Tennessee, whose state capital is about a 4 h Route 65 from Indianapolis. Bennett said he plans to pursue many of his proposed reforms anyway, without the Race to th could be a lose-lose for the teachers' union in the long run.

<http://tribstar.com/news/x563631563/Indiana-decides-not-to-apply-for-Race-to-the-Top-funds>

**Maine:** The state, which sat out Phase 1, is focused on developing a plan for evaluating teachers. Two plans are under cor Teacher Advancement Program) uses a combination of peer review and student achievement as a factors in evaluating and other, which would seem to be a path to failure in gaining a Phase 2 award, but which is currently in use in the state, woul inputs like "planning and preparation" and "classroom environment." The state's six-member RTT taskforce has set a May decision.

<http://www.pressherald.com/news/teacher-evaluation-task-force-gets-busy-2010-04-26.html>

**Maryland:** The state released a draft of its application which emphasized college and career readiness, a more robust teacher preparation and evaluation system, and its "Breakthrough Center" approach to turning around low-performing schools. Nancy Grasmick has proposed the state go above and beyond the new teacher evaluation law passed by the legislature last year with a regulation that would require teacher evaluations to be based at least 50% on student achievement gains, as were top schools.

Maryland did not apply in Phase 1, so its entry in June could shake up the competition, especially if Grasmick's proposals are adopted.

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/race-to-the-top>

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-teacher-evaluations-grasmick-20100427,0.6277719.4>

**Massachusetts:** AFT Massachusetts, the second largest teachers union in the state, will boycott the state application. In a Globe article, AFTM President Thomas Gosnell said "There is an attitude that teachers are responsible for what's happening in schools. Unions are responsible for students not achieving at the levels we like in those schools." Um, yeah. As quoted in the Wall Street Journal, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino said he was "fed up with opposition from the Boston Teachers Union." "I'm just tired of it," he said of the kids.

The state did pass some robust reforms prior to its Phase 1 application, and garnered 13th place. Could the state win with a strong Phase 2? We think so. Look for our Race Smarter brief on our web page on Monday.

[http://www.boston.com/news/education/k\\_12/articles/2010/04/15/mass\\_teachers\\_group\\_votes\\_to\\_boycott](http://www.boston.com/news/education/k_12/articles/2010/04/15/mass_teachers_group_votes_to_boycott)

**Minnesota:** Some really curious goings on in Minnesota over the last week or two. Hoping to move forward from a middle-of-the-road Phase 1 (20th out of 41) Governor Pawlenty has proposed a package of reforms that includes, similar to high-scoring states, rigorous teacher evaluation based on student achievement, expansion of alternative teacher certification, and tenure reform. The state teachers union for blocking change and for having undue influence over legislators, which the union denies. And at the Top hearing, union President Tom Doohar was seated at the same table as the legislators, rather than with other witnesses. He claimed they had never seen in the history of the MN legislature. Now there's real partnership at work.

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2010/04/20/doohar-education-pawlenty/>

**New York:** After failing to get its act together in time for the Round 1 deadline, the Legislature is considering whether or not to pass that is currently preventing new charter schools. Senate action on a cap lift bill is imminent, but resistance is expected in the House. The teachers union has historically had near veto power over pretty much everything. The State Education Department, after the press reports that their Round 1 application included thousands of dollars for "executive chairs" is expected to put together a Round 2 application, including controversial changes to teacher licensure requirements. But New York will not be competitive without legislative action.

**Ohio:** In the hope of securing a maximum number of MOUs with schools and districts, state officials have issued a funding guarantee that each school would get a minimum amount of money if the state earns a Phase 2 grant award. Each traditional school would be guaranteed \$25,000. The Ohio Alliance of Public Charter Schools has urged its members to support the state's proposal.

Ohio finished in 10th place in RTT Phase 1. Our Ohio Race Smarter Brief, touted in recent Ohio newspaper articles and edited by other things, that the state could face a more competitive environment in Phase 2. Click below to see the full brief. You can also read Executive Director Van Schoales' comments from a report on Ohio Public Radio at the link below.

[http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local\\_news/stories/2010/04/19/edmoney.html](http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/04/19/edmoney.html)

<http://www.ohio.com/editorial/opinions/92286954.html>

<http://www.dfer.org/docs/OH%20Race%20Smarter%20Brief.pdf>

[http://www.stateneews.org/story\\_page.cfm?ID=13910&year=2010&month=4](http://www.stateneews.org/story_page.cfm?ID=13910&year=2010&month=4)

**Rhode Island:** The Ocean state has spent the month of April building support for its Phase 2 application after a strong Phase 1 performance.

and a notable 2nd place in the Great Teachers and Leaders category. The challenge for the state will be to keep these elen strong as it builds support for Round 2. In a recent appearance on Rhode Island Public Radio, DFER federal policy director cautioned the state against watering down its strong provisions on teacher quality and suggested it should instead tout ne such as its recently passed groundbreaking state charter school law.

The state can add star power to its Phase 2 strengths: Time magazine just named Commissioner Deborah Gist as one of it influential people. For our RI Race Smarter brief, click on the link below.

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/Commissioner/RaceToTheTop/docs/Race%20to%20the%20Top%20Key%20Inform>

[http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1984685\\_1984745\\_1985480,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1984685_1984745_1985480,00.html)

<http://www.wrni.org/content/ri-prepares-round-two-race-top>

<http://www.wrni.org/content/ri-prepares-round-two-race-top>

<http://www.dfer.org/docs/RI%20Race%20Smarter%20Brief.pdf>

**Tennessee:** Turns out funds from the state's Phase 1 grant will be targeted heavily on poor communities, toward its goal gaps. Forty percent of funds sent to locals will go to metropolitan Nashville and Memphis.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100414/NEWS0201/4140368/Poorer-TN-schools-will-get-most-Race>

**Vermont:** The state announced that it would not be applying for a Phase 2 grant because it did not think it could make the policy and law to compete successfully. The lack of a state charter school law, and of any intent to enact one, was cited as state chose not to apply. Vermont is one of 10 states that did not apply in Phase 1.

[http://www.vpr.net/news\\_detail/87874/](http://www.vpr.net/news_detail/87874/)

**West Virginia:** After finishing near the bottom of the pack in Phase 1, ranking 36th out of 41 states, West Virginia is struggling to reform plan that would make it competitive in Phase 2. The state lost significant points due to the lack of a state charter school law. Sen. Erik Wells, (D-Kanawha) introduced a charter school bill in the 2010 legislative session, but teachers unions' threatened to oppose in the Fall elections any state legislator that voted for it. Instead, the state is proposing "charter innovation zones" though its unclear how these would differ from traditional public schools. None of the other policies by the state at present would seem to be of the bold and ambitious type that would jettison it into the top tier in Phase 2.

<http://www.statejournal.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storvid=78672>

<http://wvgazette.com/News/201004250234>

This email was sent to JKlein@schools.nyc.gov.



[Unsubscribe me from this list](#)

---

**From:** Joe Williams |  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2010 9:33 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Re: fyi

i won't say yes until the votes are cast and the ink is dry.

mulgrew and merryl are going apeshit. have no idea what is going to happen.

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010 at 9:31 AM, Klein Joel I. <[JKlein@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov)> wrote:

Yeah, working on it. we gonna be ok today?

---

**From:** Joe Williams  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2010 9:18 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Fwd: fyi

ugh

--

Joe Williams  
Executive Director  
Democrats for Education Reform  
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4  
New York, NY 10036  
[www.dfer.org](http://www.dfer.org)

--

Joe Williams  
Executive Director  
Democrats for Education Reform  
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4  
New York, NY 10036  
[www.dfer.org](http://www.dfer.org)

---

**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 01, 2010 12:25 AM  
**To:** 'joewilliams@dfer.org'  
**Subject:** Re: any idea when the brill piece is coming?

Ok, I agree. Really imp't to smoke them out now. Let's talk.

---

**From:** [williams](#)  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Sat May 01 00:23:00 2010  
**Subject:** Re: any idea when the brill piece is coming?  
i feel like we have them fighting on a number of fronts, and they are on defense. have to keep them there.

will call over the weekend.

On Sat, May 1, 2010 at 12:15 AM, Klein Joel I. <[JKlein@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov)> wrote:

Arne will help. What would be most effective?

---

**From:** [williams](#)  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 30 22:50:14 2010  
**Subject:** Re: any idea when the brill piece is coming?  
saw him a month ago and he said 3-4 weeks.

just was trying to imagine how all this stuff plays out in the next couple of weeks, the external pressures on each side, etc.

the kitchen is quickly getting hot in albany. will be an interesting couple days.

On Fri, Apr 30, 2010 at 10:46 PM, Klein Joel I. <[JKlein@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov)> wrote:

my guess is mid may -- why?

---

**From:** [williams](#)  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 30 22:23:44 2010  
**Subject:** any idea when the brill piece is coming?

--  
Joe Williams  
Executive Director  
Democrats for Education Reform  
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New York, NY 10036  
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--

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--

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[www.dfer.org](http://www.dfer.org)



---

**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Monday, May 03, 2010 9:31 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** RE: new Haven/NYT Ed

Yes.

---

James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

**NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER**  
111 Broadway, Suite 604, New York, NY 10006  
T: 212.437.8302 F: 212. 227.2763  
[www.nycCharterSchools.org](http://www.nycCharterSchools.org)

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---

**From:** Klein Joel I. [<mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 03, 2010 9:29 AM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** Re: new Haven/NYT Ed

Can I call u?

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Mon May 03 09:26:46 2010  
**Subject:** RE: new Haven/NYT Ed  
Yes, in the fray.

---

James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

**NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER**  
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[www.nycCharterSchools.org](http://www.nycCharterSchools.org)

It's about great public schools

---

**From:** Klein Joel I. [<mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 03, 2010 9:26 AM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** Re: new Haven/NYT Ed

Thanks, much appreciated. Have you been briefed on poss charter deal?

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Mon May 03 09:23:49 2010  
**Subject:** new Haven/NYT Ed

An example that the ideas you have pushed are bearing fruit and that having charters as one part of that plan is sound. I do not believe that it would have happened in NH without you having created in significant part the intellectual basis for the ideas, the people to implement them and the political and PR climate to make them possible to implement.

J.

.....  
James D. Merriman

Chief Executive Officer

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---

**From:** Christina Brown  
**Sent:** Monday, May 03, 2010 11:14 AM  
**To:** board  
**Cc:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** Cap Lift Bill  
**Attachments:** 100503 s7678 NYCCSC Support Memo.doc

Dear All:

As many of you know, Senate leadership on Friday introduced a cap lift bill, raising the cap to 460. We hope to get a vote on it today or tomorrow. The bill is a compromise but I think a good one. It's provisions in total do not harm the core autonomy of charter schools.

Besides lifting the cap on charter schools, it imposes some new requirements on them.

Most prominently, it allows the commissioner of education to impose mandatory preferences in a school's lottery for SPED and ELL students where the school, after its second year of operations, has SPED and ELL student percentages that are less than 50% of those in surrounding schools. The mandatory preferences would then kick in until the school reached 75% of the surrounding schools' average.

However, at the same, there are provisions that make it easier to serve these students: first, there is a multi-site allowance that allows the CMOs to integrate their schools and merge them under one board—in this way, the networks can better centralize resources to serve ELL/SPED students. Second, and important for independent one-offs, they can work formally with groups of charter schools to serve these children.

There are other provisions that require greater disclosure of conflicts of interest and some more reporting around SPED and ELL.

This bill is a compromise bill. It is not ideal in all respects certainly—no compromise initiative is by its very nature. However, it is a bill that we can live with and get behind. I'm attaching the memo of support we have issued this morning which enumerates and explains the details; the bill text is available [here](#).

We are mobilizing our 5,000 strong parent network to write and call State Senators; meanwhile the union is fully mobilizing its members against. Vince is in Albany monitoring the situation and we'll report to you as things happen.

James

.....  
James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

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## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

### S.7678 (Rules)

*AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the powers and duties of boards of cooperative educational services, to the operation and management of and enrollment at charter schools, and to increasing the cap on the total number of charter schools in the state to four hundred sixty.*

The New York City Charter School Center **SUPPORTS S.7678**, legislation to make certain amendments to the Education Law designed to improved oversight, transparency, and accountability of public charter schools, and other amendments needed to enable New York State to win the federal Race to the Top competition.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The federal Race to the Top (RTTT) competition could bring New York State up to \$700 million in funding for public education. By federal law, 50% of those funds would go to the State Education Department (SED) to implement programs proposed in the state application, and 50% would be granted to local schools based on their Title I student enrollment, pursuant to the federal statute.

In Round 1 of the RTTT competition, New York State came in 15<sup>th</sup> place, with only two states (Delaware and Tennessee) being awarded a grant. New York's application was deemed deficient in several areas, including:

- teacher quality, certification, development and tenure policies
- principal effectiveness and development
- the proposed longitudinal data system
- the overall state reform agenda
- the climate for charter schools, including the existence of a cap
- the a lack of support from the teachers' union and local districts for the application

S.7678 would address several of these issues, thus significantly improving New York's chance of winning a RTTT grant and enhancing the ability of charter schools to serve not only more special education and ELL students but to serve them well.

#### **PROVISIONS OF S.7678**

S.7678 provides as follows:

- Bill § 1:  
Allows charter schools to purchase services from BOCES, including services for children with special needs.
- Bill § 2:  
Requires that public charter schools publicize their board meetings, thus enhancing public access and awareness.
- Bill § 3:  
Clarifies that charters are issued for 5 operational years, thus providing greater accountability by giving authorizers more extensive information on the school's value prior to considering to re-authorize or close it.
- Bill § 4:  
Requires public charter school board members to disclose conflicts of interest consistent with provisions of the General Municipal Law, consistent with standards for traditional public schools.
- Bill § 5:  
Requires public charter schools to document steps taken to attract and retain special needs students as a criterion for renewal.
- Bill § 6:  
Raises the cap on public charter schools to 460, as required to maximize the points available to New York under the RTTT scoring metric.  
Establishes that a charter revoked or terminated shall no longer count against the cap removing any disincentive their might be to close schools.
- Bill § 7:  
Conforming language; providing that a charter shall last for 5 operational years, consistent with Bill § 3 above.
- Bill § 8:  
Allows a charter organization to oversee schools at multiple sites, while ensuring that each site count against the charter school cap, thus enhancing the ability of network schools to serve students with special education and ELL needs as well as streamlining governance. Providing further that if any of these schools has a collective bargaining agreement, such agreement shall apply to all the schools.
- Bill § 9 & 10:  
Allows charter schools to provide services for their special needs students on site, or via contract at another site, including at another charter school, thus enhancing the ability of charter schools to serve special education students, particularly those requiring more restrictive environments.
- Bill § 11:  
Conforming language; provides for the prohibition of conflicts of interest by public charter school board members, consistent with Bill § 4 above.
- Bill § 12:  
Permits the authorizing of a public charter school targeted to children with special needs or who are English language learners.  
Requires SED to create a uniform public charter school application available in the predominantly spoken language(s) of the neighborhood a school plans to serve.  
Requires in certain circumstances public charter schools to provide enrollment preferences to children with special needs and those who are English language learners.  
Requires SED to issue regulations to establish a transparent, equitable lottery admissions process that all public charter schools must follow

Requires that the time and place of a public charter school lottery be publicized consistent with the Public Officers Law, and be open to the public.

Bill § 13:

Requires that charter school annual reports to their authorizer be posted on the school and chartering entity's website.

Requires that charter school report cards be transmitted to the local newspaper of general circulation, and distributed at their board meetings.

Requires public charter schools to report on efforts taken in the past school year, and their plan for the coming school year, to attract and retain high-need students.

Bill § 14:

Requires the Board of Regents to report annually on the number of charter schools closed in the preceding year, and the reason for such closure.

Bill § 15:

Requires the Board of Regents to annually review and make available to school districts a report on best educational practices employed by public charter schools.

Bill § 16:

Allows local school districts to contract with educational management organizations (EMOs), via a competitive RFP, for the purpose of turning around persistently low-performing schools.

Provides that women and minority-owned businesses shall be actively involved in the EMO competitive bidding process.

Requires SED to develop a list of approved EMOs, and to make reasonable efforts to ensure that women and minority-owned businesses are included.

Prohibits EMO contracts that override or amend any collective bargaining agreement.

Bill § 17:

Severability clause.

Bill § 18:

Provides that this act shall take effective immediately, with exceptions.

## OUR RECOMMENDATION

With the Legislature contemplating a \$1 billion cut to public education funding in SFY 2010-11, it is imperative that the state do everything in its power to secure \$700 million Race to the Top funding that will flow to public schools throughout New York State. S.7678 can garner bi-partisan support for the kinds of education reforms that the Obama Administration is calling for in its RTTT program, and thus enhance our competitive position. In order for New York to win the Round 2 competition, it is imperative that the Legislature enact S.7678.

In addition, S.7678 also provides a series of reforms, which taken together, significantly enhance the ability of charter schools to serve students identified as special needs and students who are English Language Learners as well as imposing measures to ensure that more students in both categories will be admitted into and served in public charter schools. While the NYC Charter School Center continues to believe that the issue of enrollment and service of special education and ELL students was being addressed through voluntary action by schools and through administrative action by charter authorizers, these provisions are, on balance, positive and a reasonable and effective compromise on this much debated issue.

**Accordingly, the New York City Charter School Center strongly supports passage and enactment of S.7678 and urges your support for this important legislation.**

For more information, please contact Vince Marrone, Public Strategies, LLC, at 914.912.0526 or at [vmarrone@publicstrategiesllc.net](mailto:vmarrone@publicstrategiesllc.net)



---

**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Monday, May 03, 2010 12:42 PM  
**To:** White John  
**Subject:** Fw: For-profit

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Joe Williams  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Mon May 03 12:50:07 2010  
**Subject:** For-profit

NHA not pleased. Bill Phillips is talking with them.  
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

---

**From:** Joe Williams  
**Sent:** Monday, May 03, 2010 1:03 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Re: For-profit

focusing on tom carroll first.

On Mon, May 3, 2010 at 12:47 PM, Klein Joel I. <[JKlein@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov)> wrote:  
So we're hearing. Where u?

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Joe Williams  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Mon May 03 12:50:07 2010  
**Subject:** For-profit

NHA not pleased. Bill Phillips is talking with them.  
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

--

Joe Williams  
Executive Director  
Democrats for Education Reform  
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4  
New York, NY 10036  
[www.dfer.org](http://www.dfer.org)

---

**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Monday, May 03, 2010 4:53 PM  
**To:** Joe Williams; Joe Williams  
**Subject:** hard to believe -- from gotham schools

Chancellor of the Board of Regents Meryll Tisch said that Sampson's bill is "silent" on issues such as school co-location and neighborhood saturation (having too many charter schools in a particular neighborhood), which were key provisions of a bill that Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver backed several months ago.

"You cannot have a charter bill that does not address these issues," she said.

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Monday, May 03, 2010 4:55 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Re: hard to believe

Unbelievable; gobsmacked and so angry I could spit.  
James Merriman  
NYC Charter School Center  
111 Broadway, Suite 604  
NY, NY 10006

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Klein Joel I. <[JKlein@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov)>  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Mon May 03 16:53:17 2010  
**Subject:** hard to believe

From Gotham schools

Chancellor of the Board of Regents Merryl Tisch said that Sampson's bill is "silent" on issues such as school co-location and neighborhood saturation (having too many charter schools in a particular neighborhood), which were key provisions of a bill that Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver backed several months ago.

"You cannot have a charter bill that does not address these issues," she said.

---

**From:** Joe Williams  
**Sent:** Monday, May 03, 2010 9:48 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** Re: Congrats

Amen. Game on starting tomorrow.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**To:** Williams  
**Subject:** Congrats  
**Sent:** May 3, 2010 9:36 PM

Helluva victory.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 05, 2010 8:02 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** RE: NYT

Will loop kerri in to figure out precisely what to do.

.....

James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER  
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[www.nycCharterSchools.org](http://www.nycCharterSchools.org)

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Klein Joel I. [<mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 05, 2010 7:35 AM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** NYT

We should respond ti Murray re selective data. Hoxby, Credo.

---

**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2010 7:46 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** DFER: RTTT- American Federation of Teachers Endorses Colorado Teacher Effectiveness Bill



Ed Reform Amigos:

With about 26 days left before states must send in their Round 2 applications for the "Race To The Top" Stimulus Festivals, sprint toward the finish line with some serious reform developments.

We'll send our regular update on what states are doing in a couple of days, but we wanted to quickly highlight this morning development in Colorado. One of the first states out of the gate in the RTTT competition when it started a year ago, Colorado a few months but now seems to have gotten its second wind.

Later today, the Colorado House Education Committee will begin debate on an important bill that would improve the way we evaluate teachers and keep tenure, and would tie student academic growth to teacher evaluations. (You can read a copy of the original bill here: <http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2010A/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/EF2EBB67D47342CF872576A80027B078>)

What makes the bill noteworthy, aside the fact that it was introduced by Sen. Mike Johnston (one of our champs and a force of incredible momentum that has picked up around these groundbreaking changes. That momentum quickened yesterday when the American Federation of Teachers and its national president, Randi Weingarten, endorsed the bill.

Just like at the national level, the AFT represents far fewer teachers in Colorado than the Colorado Education Association, but the endorsement between Sen. Johnston's team and Weingarten's team served as a reminder that there are workable deals to be had out there and change doesn't have to be jeopardized.

This bill still has a long way to go, but things got even more interesting yesterday. Kudos to Johnston and Weingarten for putting their eye on reform.

You can read about the AFT endorsement in this Denver Post story: [http://www.denverpost.com/ci\\_15027253?source=hp](http://www.denverpost.com/ci_15027253?source=hp)  
Have a great day,  
Joe

This email was sent to [joewilliams@dfer.org](mailto:joewilliams@dfer.org).



**[Unsubscribe me from this list](#)**

---

**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2010 12:05 PM  
**To:** williams  
**Subject:** Re: Fwd: CI from Merryl

Thx, let me know.

---

**From:** Joe Williams  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Thu May 06 12:01:09 2010  
**Subject:** Fwd: CI from Merryl  
FYI- not sure what she is doing here.

----- Forwarded message -----  
**From:** **Joe Williams**  
**Date:** Thu, May 6, 2010 at 12:00 PM  
**Subject:** Re: CI from Merryl  
**To:** Whitney Tilson

watch your back. that's all. don't commit to anything.



--

Joe Williams  
Executive Director  
Democrats for Education Reform  
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New York, NY 10036  
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--

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Executive Director  
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New York, NY 10036  
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---

**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Friday, May 07, 2010 8:27 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** RE: NY 1

It is indeed. She went further than even I thought she would. I think it goes beyond personal relationships. I've come to see the book as some sort of weird expiation for her view that she committed original academic sin by getting into the tank with the right wing. I just wish she wouldn't breast beat herself on the backs of parents et al.

j.

.....  
James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER  
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T: 212.437.8302 F: 212. 227.2763  
[www.nycCharterSchools.org](http://www.nycCharterSchools.org)

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-----Original Message-----

From: Klein Joel I. [<mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 11:01 PM  
To: James Merriman  
Subject: NY 1

You handled it very well. She's so dishonest and platitudinous it's scary.

---

**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Friday, May 07, 2010 1:48 PM  
**To:** 'joewilliams@dfer.org'  
**Subject:** Re: brill piece

Will be online before

---

**From:** [williams](#)  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Fri May 07 12:48:59 2010  
**Subject:** brill piece  
is next sunday's times magazine.

--

Joe Williams  
Executive Director  
Democrats for Education Reform  
24 W. 46th St. Suite #4  
New York, NY 10036  
[www.dfer.org](http://www.dfer.org)

---

**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 09, 2010 8:49 AM  
**To:** merrimar  
Duffy Michael; '  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Re: my debate with Diane

My thanks as well James. Brilliant work. Sad that's it's so necessary.

---

**From:** Jeffrey Litt  
**To:** James Merriman ; Emary Aronson ; Geoffrey Canada ; Klein Joel I.; Joseph H. Reich ; Duffy Michael; Phoebe Boyer  
**Cc:** Christina Brown  
**Sent:** Sat May 08 22:31:17 2010  
**Subject:** RE: my debate with Diane

Hi,  
It's been nine years that I first met you James. You interviewed me along with my Board of Trustees for our first charter and approved my request to expand from K-4 to K-8. It is therefore fair to say that you were responsible for our birth and expansion.  
I have always been proud of our relationship and mutual respect, BUT, never more than now after watching the video. Your brilliance, along with the manner in which you articulate the facts, and most importantly, your obvious patience is just incredible.  
The attacks on charters will continue and the politicians will do what is politically expedient, but at the end of the day, NYC charters have James Merriman.  
Thank you for being such a powerful advocate and CEO.  
Regards,  
Jeff

*Jeff Litt  
Superintendent  
Icahn Charter Schools  
1506 Brook Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10457  
(718) 716-8105  
fax (718) 716-6716*

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Friday, May 07, 2010 5:12 PM  
**To:** Emary Aronson; Geoffrey Canada; Jeffrey Litt; Joel I. Klein; Joseph H. Reich; Michael Duffy; Phoebe Boyer  
**Cc:** Christina Brown  
**Subject:** my debate with Diane

All,

Yesterday, I debated Diane Ravitch on NY1. The link to our blog (which then links to NY1) is below. The reviews have been positive. She is a slippery one.

<http://www.nyccharterschools.org/meet/blog/503-one-on-one-with-diane-ravitch>

.....  
James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

**NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER**  
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---

**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2010 7:49 AM  
**To:** merriman  
**Subject:** Re: I hope you saw the parent quote

The times they are achanging, my friend.

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Tue May 11 07:44:35 2010  
**Subject:** I hope you saw the parent quote  
from a parent detractor in the Roch D&C article on mayoral c: something like: I came into the system knowing how to work it for my child and then something changed.

Good for her for being honest about what she doesn't like and I sympathize with her but it encapsulates much of the opposition.

---

**From:** Duffy Michael  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2010 5:20 PM  
**To:** Grant Christina  
**Subject:** FW: May Board of Regents Meeting

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Barbara Moscinski [<mailto:BMOSCINS@MAIL.NYSED.GOV>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2010 5:09 PM

**To:** [massey](#), [baker](#), [evans](#),  
[oneill](#), Rahsaan Graham;

[fehmidamkaci@yahoo.com](mailto:fehmidamkaci@yahoo.com)

**Cc:** [hernandez](#), [sheffield](#), [lopez](#),  
[hykes](#), [rui](#), Leslie Templeman; Tom Dunn;  
[merriman@nyccharterschools.org](mailto:merriman@nyccharterschools.org); [phillips](#),  
Duffy Michael; [Jonas.Chartock@suny.edu](mailto:Jonas.Chartock@suny.edu);

[castillo](#)

**Subject:** May Board of Regents Meeting

Hello all-

At its regularly scheduled meeting on May 17, the Board of Regents will be considering action on the following items:

**Charter Renewals:**

KIPP Academy Charter School (NYC)  
Manhattan Charter School (NYC)  
Opportunity Charter School (NYC)

**Charter Revisions:**

Charter School of Educational Excellence (Yonkers) Elmwood Village Charter School (Buffalo)  
International Leadership Charter School (NYC) Inwood Academy for Leadership Charter School (NYC) Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School (Syracuse)

The Board of Regents is scheduled to discuss these items and take action during the EMSC committee meeting (currently scheduled from 4pm-5pm); and to vote as a full Board on these items later in the day. Please see the Board of Regents website <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/> for the full agenda, times, meeting location, and meeting materials as they become available at the end of the week.

If you would like to attend the meeting in person:

Board of Regents meetings are held at the New York State Education Department building at 89 Washington Avenue in Albany.

The main entrance to the Education Building is at 89 Washington Avenue. Visitors are required to obtain a visitor's badge from the building guard in the lobby off the Washington Street main entrance.

Driving directions can be found at <http://usny.nysed.gov/contact/driving.html>.

There is on-street metered parking available around the building as well as public parking garages within walking distance of the building.

If you want to get a coffee or a snack - Better Bite and Dunkin' Donuts are at the corner of Washington Avenue and South Swan Streets.

All times on posted agendas are approximate. The Regents may take items out of turn from the agenda, and the day's schedule may change at any time.

-Sally

Barbara J. Moscinski  
Charter School Office  
NYSED - 462 EBA  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12234  
[BMoscins@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:BMoscins@mail.nysed.gov)  
518-474-1762  
518-474-3209



**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 8:46 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** DFER - You Are Invited To A Special Breakfast With Rep. George Miller



**Please join  
Democrats for Education Reform**

*For a breakfast honoring*

**Congressman George Miller**  
(CA-07)  
Chairman; Education & Labor  
Chairman; Democratic Policy Committee

Tuesday, May 18, 2010  
8:30 A.M.

**Loews Regency Hotel**  
540 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10065

Suggested Contribution  
\$2400 Sponsor  
\$1000 Guest

**Please go online to <http://www.actblue.com/page/dfer10feb> to contribute.**

**Or make checks payable to:**  
Friends of Congressman George Miller  
228 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Paid for by Democrats for Education Reform PAC and  
authorized by Friends of Congressman George Miller.

This email was sent to [joel@actblue.com](mailto:joel@actblue.com).



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**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 9:55 AM  
**To:** merriman  
**Subject:** Re: time frame?

Good

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**From:** James Merriman  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Thu May 13 09:49:53 2010  
**Subject:** RE: time frame?  
Good guess that. Will have something by tomorrow a.m. at latest.

.....

James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

**NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER**  
111 Broadway, Suite 604, New York, NY 10006  
T: 212.437.8302 F: 212. 227.2763  
[www.nycCharterSchools.org](http://www.nycCharterSchools.org)

It's about great public schools

---

**From:** Klein Joel I. [<mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 9:50 AM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** Re: time frame?

Guessing this comes to head in next 10 days

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Thu May 13 09:44:45 2010  
**Subject:** time frame?

.....

James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

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**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 11:02 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** DFER- Ed Reformer of the Month for May- Anthony Hardy Williams



# **Williams, Candidate for Pennsylvania Gov., Named Ed Reformer of the Month for May**

State Senator Tony Williams, who currently represents parts of Philadelphia and Delaware county, is an insurgent candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania and one of the country's most vocal advocates for educational change. With the May 18th primary fast approaching, Williams needs your help to finish strong.



Williams is a former businessman who now chairs the Senate's State Government Committee and is a member of the Education Committee. He is a popular legislator and consensus builder who happens to view education as the foremost civil rights challenge of our era. "Your zip code should not define the kind of education you're able to receive," he said recently. "I believe in all options. I believe in supporting charter schools, magnet, trade schools, home schooling, and I also believe in allowing for parental choice."

In one of the country's most diverse and populous states, and one with some profound educational challenges, traditional education interests are working hard to ensure that Williams' arguments don't see the light of day. As we approach the election, it is critical that we help him advance education equality by helping with this final push.

Please join us in supporting Williams' run for governor (and along the way sending a strong message about the importance of education reform) by contributing to his campaign today via DFER's ActBlue page:

<http://www.actblue.com/page/dfermay10>

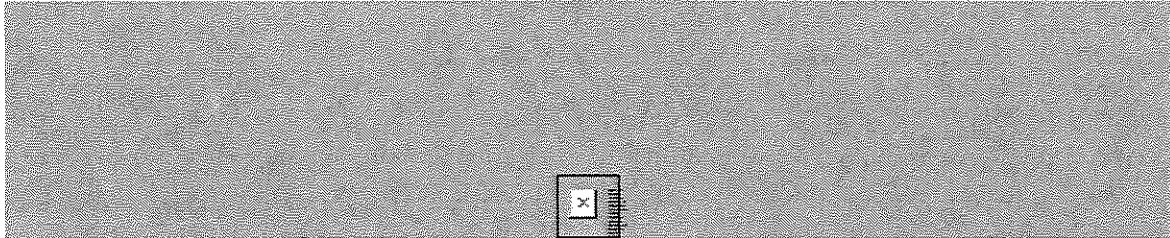
This email was sent to [Klein@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:Klein@schools.nyc.gov).



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**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 15, 2010 9:01 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** DFER - Race To The Top Play Of The Week (Year?) - Or, "Holy Crap, How About Them Coloradans!"



## Man Bites Edu-Dog In Colorado

The Race to the Top play of the month, and in all likelihood the year, is hands down the passage of Senator Mike Johnston's (D-Denver) teacher evaluation and tenure reform bill (SB 191), which was passed on the last day of Colorado's legislative session and signed into law by Governor Ritter on Thursday. The bill was quickly hailed as a national model, and for good reason. This should move the state from the middle of the Race to the Top pack – the state placed 14th out of 16 finalists – to the front.

Our incredible team at DFER-Colorado was instrumental to passage of the legislation, working closely with the bill sponsors and supporters to build a broad coalition to endorse the bill, develop public awareness and media outreach efforts, and lobby legislators. (Go Moira!)

The Colorado Education Association vehemently opposed by the bill. Ultimately, however, the list of supporters included statewide education and child advocacy organizations, Colorado's business community, community leaders, superintendents, local school boards, Colorado's current and three former Governors, the Commissioner of Education, the NAACP, the American Federation of Teachers (!), and, of course, individual teachers and principals who brought their compelling stories to the Capitol.

This is what progress looks like.

In addition to our fearless bill sponsors, **Senator Mike Johnston** and **Representative Christine Scanlan**, a shout out goes to four DFER-CO advisory committee members who were vital to passage of this legislation – **Speaker of the House Terrance Carroll** who shepherded this controversial bill through the House of Representatives, **Representative Karen Middleton** who serves on the House Education Committee, **Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien** who is at the helm of the state's Race to the Top bid, and **Elaine Gantz Berman** who is a member of the State Board of Education, which endorsed the bill.

Key components of SB 191:

## Are You Ready To Change The Politics Of Education?

Our list of politicians around the nation who are willing to say "enough is enough" is growing, and we need your help to keep the momentum building.

Please consider contributing to Democrats for Education Reform's [federal political action committee](#) today. Contributions help us continue to do our work and to support reform-minded change-agents running for office all over the country.

Also, visit our "[Education Reformer of the Month](#)" page and support our favorite education warriors.

## What DFER Stands For

- We support policies which stimulate the creation of new, accountable public schools and which simultaneously close down failing schools.
- We support mechanisms that allow parents to select excellent schools for their children, and where education dollars follow each child to their school.

- Teachers would be evaluated every year and students' academic progress would count for half the instructors' overall rating.

- Elementary- and high-school teachers would need three consecutive years of positive evaluations to earn tenure, which guarantees them an appeals process before they can be fired.

- Educators rated "ineffective" two years in a row would be stripped of tenure protection and revert to probationary status. They could earn back job protection after three straight years of satisfactory evaluations.

Keep on rocking in the free world, Colorado!

- We support governance structures which hold leaders responsible, while giving them the tools to effectuate change. We believe in empowering mayors to lead urban school districts, so that they can be held accountable by the electorate.

- We support policies that allow school principals and their school communities to select their teams of educators, holding them accountable for student performance but allowing them flexibility to exercise sound, professional judgment.

- We support clearly-articulated national standards and expectations for core subject areas, while allowing states and local districts to determine how best to make sure that all students are reaching those standards.

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---

**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2010 12:17 PM  
**To:** John King; Chartock, Jonas; Duffy Michael  
**Subject:** want you to know that NYT

Has copy of letter I sent you re accountability and audits as part of their story around accountability, audits and OSC jurisdiction fight over charter schools. Not sure when story is running or if it will be part of it.

.....  
James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

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It's about great public schools



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> From: tusk

> To: .keaney > Date: Sat, 15 May 2010 17:31:19 -0500 > Subject: Joel > >

Can we do the update mtg with Joel before Tuesday's event with Duncan? Joel presumably will get to talk to Arne before the event and want to make sure he plants the right thoughts in Arne's head and make sure we plant the right questions with reporters so Arne's comments help take some of the poison pills off the table.

**From:** Joe Williams [joewilliams@dfer.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2010 6:02 PM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** DFER: 'Race To The Top' Turns Into 'Race Against The Clock'

## 'Race To The Top' Turns Into 'Race Against The Clock'

Buckle up your seatbelts, there's turbulence ahead as we approach Memorial Day Weekend and the deadline for Round 2 of RTT. 'Race To The Top' hasn't done all that much to promote President Obama's progressive agenda of change for public education, and the coast, the likes of which this nation has never seen.

Special thanks to Charlie Barone, DFER's federal policy guru, spiritual advisor, and occasional disc jockey, for keeping such a steady hand on the wheel so that you don't have to!

In addition to big news about the landmark teacher evaluation and tenure law in Colorado covered in our previous email, there's also some good news about winning support, or at least less active opposition, from teachers unions, exciting but largely under-the-radar action in Oklahoma, Kentucky and West Virginia. Plus the usual Arizona and Texas nonsense and more...

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If things hold, this would leave only four states that sat out the race in both Rounds 1 and 2: Alaska, North Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. Only Alaska, North Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming would apply, and 40 plus D.C. actually did, so there could be one or two late-breaking changes. Stay tuned.

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[edweek](#)

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Could compelling arguments like these from the LA Times Editorial Board sway Round 2 RTT reviewers?:

"The [LAUSD] district has five times as many students as Delaware, one of the states that won in the first round of funding. LAUSD's goals: large proportions of students in poverty, attending low-performing schools and possessing limited knowledge of English. Promising reforms, such as the Public School Choice program that allows outside groups to bid to manage failing schools and charter schools. The money would do more to help a few school districts than if it were spread throughout the state, and it would be more effective."

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<http://educatedguess.org/blog/2010/05/13/nonstop-work-on-race-to-the-top/>

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<http://www.kentucky.com/2010/05/14/1264049/education-commissioner-asks-that.html>

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<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/08/AR2010050803299.html>

**Nevada:** The state has announced that is beginning to take seriously its 51st in the nation ranking on "students chance fo report. The state issued a blueprint (where have we heard that word before?) for reform that is admittedly vague, but whi concrete education reforms and a Round 2 RTT application. One area the blueprint does emphasize is expanding alternativ America. The state did not apply for RTT Round 1 because its firewall between student achievement and teacher evaluatio earlier this year after Senator Harry Reid, among others, chastised the state for its inertia.

<http://www.ivri.com/news/educators-want-to-race-to-the-top-93563264.html>

**New York:** Top New York officials reached a deal on teacher evaluation that may turn out to be better than current policie agreement would require 40% of teacher evaluations be based on student achievement. It also specifies that state standa the evaluation with local measures forming the other 20 percent (somehow non-standardized, and as yet non-existent, loc Stephen Sawchuk at Ed Week noted the New York is the only state thus far to approve a teacher evaluation plan in which :

teacher evaluations. The state legislature still must approve the deal.

All eyes now are on the Assembly to see if they follow the Senate's lead on raising the state charter school cap, the only deal with a bold, statewide reform effort.

[http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/teacherbeat/2010/05/the\\_magic\\_number\\_in\\_teacher\\_ev.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/teacherbeat/2010/05/the_magic_number_in_teacher_ev.html)

**Oklahoma:** Oklahoma placed 34th out of 41 applicants in Round 1. But it looks like the state may be going into Round 2 with a signed into law Senate Bill 509, which takes effect immediately and gives school administrators much greater authority to performing schools. A second bill, SB 2033, which would establish a more rigorous system of teacher evaluation, based in Committee. Earlier this year, the state removed caps on charter schools. Oklahoma could really shake up the Round 2 race to squeak by with a win in Round 2 based on its Round 1 rankings.

[http://www.tulsaworld.com/opinion/article.aspx?subjectid=261&articleid=20100509\\_261\\_G1\\_SBandS1767](http://www.tulsaworld.com/opinion/article.aspx?subjectid=261&articleid=20100509_261_G1_SBandS1767)

<http://newsok.com/oklahoma-capitol-briefs-law-to-aid-state-in-seeking-funds/article/3460616>

[http://www.tulsaworld.com/opinion/article.aspx?subjectid=65&articleid=20100514\\_65\\_A21\\_Oklaho262656](http://www.tulsaworld.com/opinion/article.aspx?subjectid=65&articleid=20100514_65_A21_Oklaho262656)

**Rhode Island:** State Superintendent Deborah Gist, fresh off of being named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential forums on the state's Round 2 application, garnering additional support from school districts and teachers. Although the state is close about whether they will support Rhode Island's application this time around, a deal announced yesterday with the AF to keep their jobs, albeit with new responsibilities and expectations, is widely seen as a step forward in healing wounds and

[http://www.projo.com/news/content/race\\_to\\_the\\_top\\_update\\_05-15-10\\_R6IGAPO\\_v23.3a9a9d3.html](http://www.projo.com/news/content/race_to_the_top_update_05-15-10_R6IGAPO_v23.3a9a9d3.html)

<http://www.pbn.com/detail/49906.html>

**Texas:** The wonders of "peer review." At a Texas school last week, it was revealed that a student was beat and kicked by student cell phone video of the tape surfaced. No one had reported the incident until the video surfaced weeks afterward. The student threatened her in any way before she beat him. The teacher has been suspended and it turned out she already had an out of "criminal mischief." Police have not yet filed criminal charges in the beating of the student. If teachers in poorly functioning schools, do we really think it's likely they will grade them critically on the quality of their instruction?

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083\\_162-20004788-504083.html](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083_162-20004788-504083.html)

**West Virginia:** The state began a special legislative session last Thursday to focus on passage of reforms that improve it showing. Among those items on the agenda: passing a state charter school authorizing law.

<http://www.wvmetronews.com/index.cfm?func=displayfullstory&storyid=36992>

This email was sent to JKlein@schools.nyc.gov.



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**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2010 6:30 PM  
**To:** Duffy Michael  
**Subject:** DFER: 'Race To The Top' Turns Into 'Race Against The Clock'

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**Maryland:** State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick and the state board are proposing a teacher evaluation system based at qualified teachers and principals who agree to work in low-performing schools. The Baltimore Teachers Union (an AFT affil NEA affiliate opposes it. Maryland did not submit an application in Round 1, so they are one of the biggest unknowns in the it comes to education reform Superintendent Grasmick, as the kids say, is no joke.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/08/AR2010050803299.html>

**Nevada:** The state has announced that is beginning to take seriously its 51st in the nation ranking on "students chance fo report. The state issued a blueprint (where have we heard that word before?) for reform that is admittedly vague, but whi concrete education reforms and a Round 2 RTT application. One area the blueprint does emphasize is expanding alternativ America. The state did not apply for RTT Round 1 because its firewall between student achievement and teacher evaluation earlier this year after Senator Harry Reid, among others, chastised the state for its inertia.

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/educators-want-to-race-to-the-top-93563264.html>

**New York:** Top New York officials reached a deal on teacher evaluation that may turn out to be better than current policie agreement would require 40% of teacher evaluations be based on student achievement. It also specifies that state standa the evaluation with local measures forming the other 20 percent (somehow non-standardized, and as yet non-existent, loc Stephen Sawchuk at Ed Week noted the New York is the only state thus far to approve a teacher evaluation plan in which :

teacher evaluations. The state legislature still must approve the deal.

All eyes now are on the Assembly to see if they follow the Senate's lead on raising the state charter school cap, the only cl with a bold, statewide reform effort.

[http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/teacherbeat/2010/05/the\\_magic\\_number\\_in\\_teacher\\_ev.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/teacherbeat/2010/05/the_magic_number_in_teacher_ev.html)

**Oklahoma:** Oklahoma placed 34th out of 41 applicants in Round 1. But it looks like the state may be going into Round 2 v signed into law Senate Bill 509, which takes effect immediately and gives school administrators much greater authority to performing schools. A second bill, SB 2033, which would establish a more rigorous system of teacher evaluation, based in Committee. Earleir this year, the state removed caps on charter schools. Oklahoma could really shake up the Round 2 race to squeak by with a win in Round 2 based on its Round 1 rankings.

[http://www.tulsaworld.com/opinion/article.aspx?subjectid=261&articleid=20100509\\_261\\_G1\\_SBand\\$1767](http://www.tulsaworld.com/opinion/article.aspx?subjectid=261&articleid=20100509_261_G1_SBand$1767)

<http://newsok.com/oklahoma-capitol-briefs-law-to-aid-state-in-seeking-funds/article/3460616>

[http://www.tulsaworld.com/opinion/article.aspx?subjectid=65&articleid=20100514\\_65\\_A21\\_Oklaho262656](http://www.tulsaworld.com/opinion/article.aspx?subjectid=65&articleid=20100514_65_A21_Oklaho262656)

**Rhode Island:** State Superintendent Deborah Gist, fresh off of being named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential forums on the state's Round 2 application, garnering additional support from school districts and teachers. Although the st close about whether they will support Rhode Island's application this time around, a deal announced yesterday with the AF to keep their jobs, albeit with new responsibilities and expectations, is widely seen as a step forward in healing wounds an

[http://www.projo.com/news/content/race\\_to\\_the\\_top\\_update\\_05-15-10\\_R6IGAPQ\\_v23.3a9a9d3.html](http://www.projo.com/news/content/race_to_the_top_update_05-15-10_R6IGAPQ_v23.3a9a9d3.html)

<http://www.pbn.com/detail/49906.html>

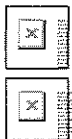
**Texas:** The wonders of "peer review." At a Texas school last week, it was revealed that a student was beat and kicked by student cell phone video of the tape surfaced. No one had reported the incident until the video surfaced weeks afterward. I threatened her in any way before she beat him. The teacher has been suspended and it turned out she already had an out of "criminal mischief." Police have not yet filed criminal charges in the beating of the student. If teachers in poorly functior students being beaten, do we really think it's likely they will grade them critically on the quality of their instruction?

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083\\_162-20004788-504083.html](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083_162-20004788-504083.html)

**West Virginia:** The state began a special legislative session last Thursday to focus on passage of reforms that improve it showing. Among those items on the agenda: passing a state charter school authorizing law.

<http://www.wvmetronews.com/index.cfm?func=displayfullstory&storyid=36992>

This email was sent to MDuffy12@schools.nyc.gov.



**[Unsubscribe me from this list](#)**

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**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2010 4:59 PM  
**To:** merriman  
**Subject:** Re: Center funding

Good, makes sense.

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Tue May 18 16:46:26 2010  
**Subject:** Center funding  
Good to see you today.

Just wanted to follow up on our mtg.

First, thanks for taking the time. Second, thanks for agreeing to talk to Gail. Third, just wanted to let you know that we are working on the final plan and want to have it in the hopper before asking you to reach out to her. Should be another two or three weeks.

J.

.....  
James D. Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

**NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER**  
111 Broadway, Suite 604, New York, NY 10006  
T: 212.437.8302 F: 212. 227.2763  
[www.nycCharterSchools.org](http://www.nycCharterSchools.org)

It's about great public schools



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**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2010 6:44 PM  
**To:** nerrimar  
**Subject:** Re: Bronx Charter School for Excellence

We're checking. Grimm handles.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** James Merriman  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Thu May 20 18:40:27 2010  
**Subject:** Fw: Bronx Charter School for Excellence

Asked jw about this this afternoon.  
James Merriman  
NYC Charter School Center  
111 Broadway, Suite 604  
NY, NY 10006

----- Forwarded Message

> **From:** Russ Carson  
> **Date:** Thu, 20 May 2010 17:42:38 -0400  
> **To:** "Klein Joel I." <[JKlein@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:JKlein@schools.nyc.gov)>  
> **Cc:** Joyce Frost  
> **Subject:** Bronx Charter School for Excellence  
>  
> Joel--I have been supporting Bronx Charter School for  
> Excellence, an elementary school in the Bronx for the past five years.  
> They have done a great job and are now faced with having to get more  
> real estate or limit the number of grades they can serve. They have  
> recently talked to Tim McNiff at the Archdiocese of New York about  
> leasing a building from Our Lady of Solace, a Catholic school located  
> within a mile of their current location, which closed about two years  
> ago. After receiving enthusiastic support from Tim, they have  
> discovered that the Buildings Department of the Archdiocese is in  
> negotiations with DOE to lease the school to DOE. Could you check and  
> see whether this is true and, if so, whether there is any opportunity  
> for BCSE to sublease any of the space in the building? They will  
> literally have to forego having a sixth grade class next year if they  
> can't get additional space. Thanks in advance for your help.  
>  
> Russ

----- End of Forwarded Message



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**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2010 9:01 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** RE: buffalo/ells

<http://www.nyccharterschools.org/meet/blog/519-buffalo-fails-ells-and-the-silence-is-deafening>

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**From:** Klein Joel I. [JKlein@schools.nyc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2010 8:59 AM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** buffalo/ells

Can u send me your blog on this, can't get on the center site

---

**From:** White John  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2010 9:46 AM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** RE: Solace

Grimm is good. You should come in and sit down with her.

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2010 9:32 AM  
**To:** White John  
**Subject:** RE: Solace

thanks. sorry to bother you with this. wil work to establish a relationship with Grimm who I don't know really at all.

---

**From:** White John [JWhite8@schools.nyc.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2010 7:59 AM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** Solace

We just heard about it and have yet to inspect it. I'll tell you what else we hear.

John C. White  
New York City Department of Education  
(212) 374-5580

---

**From:** Joe Williams  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 23, 2010 8:15 PM  
**To:** Micah Lasher; Bradley Tusk; hwolfson@cityhall.nyc.gov; Joe Williams; John White; Klein Joel I.; Bill Phillips; Ken Peterson; Cantor David; Stefan Friedman; Maura Keaney  
**Subject:** Re: From Andrew Cuomo's policy book, released today

Fantastic. He has come a long way in 4 weeks...

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

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**From:** Micah Lasher  
**Date:** Sun, 23 May 2010 19:25:48 -0400  
**To:** Bradley Tusk ; <hwolfson@cityhall.nyc.gov>; Joe Williams<joewilliams@dfer.org>; John White< ; <jklein@schools.nyc.gov>; Bill Phillips< >; Ken Peterson ; Cantor David<DCantor@schools.nyc.gov>; Stefan Friedman< ; Maura Keaney<  
**Subject:** From Andrew Cuomo's policy book, released today

#### **Win the Race to the Top in Education**

New York must be the leader when it comes to education reform. This starts with the increasing the charter school cap from 200 to 460. But increasing the cap won't result in more charter schools if we too tightly restrict where they can be located or how they can be approved. We believe that public review and consultation are important—especially when charter schools will be co-located with traditional public schools—but this cannot become a poison pill that prevents opening new charter schools.

As Governor, Andrew Cuomo will also oppose arbitrarily limiting the number of charter schools that can operate in a school district. And because SUNY has done a good job in approving and monitoring charter schools, we should continue to allow SUNY to have shared authority for approving charter schools with the Board of Regents—which to its credit has become more supportive of charter schools in recent years.

As a strong supporter of charter schools, Andrew Cuomo understands how important it is to retain high standards and strong accountability. Charter schools that fail to perform at the levels promised at the time the charter school application was granted should be closed. Andrew Cuomo also supports provisions that will require charter schools to increase their enrollment of special education and ELL students—so that they are comparable to levels of neighboring schools.

Finally, in order to win the race to the top in education means being committed to the four education reform principles that underlay the federal Race to the Top process: (1) a commitment to rigorous standards and assessments; (2) recruiting, preparing and supporting great teachers and school principals; (3) building instructional data systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals how they can improve their teaching practices; and (4) turning around struggling schools.

---

**From:** Klein Joel I.  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2010 11:10 AM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** RE:

yep

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**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2010 11:06 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:** RE:

had heard it was suny issue; but I think that is a non-insider's stand in for rfp.

---

**From:** Klein Joel I. [JKlein@schools.nyc.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2010 11:04 AM  
**To:** James Merriman  
**Subject:** RE:

Nothing concrete but odds are assembly passes something with some of the changes we agreed to and then the rfp process, u?

---

**From:** James Merriman  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2010 11:03 AM  
**To:** Klein Joel I.  
**Subject:**

what are we hearing?

---

**From:** Duffy Michael  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2010 5:34 PM  
**To:** 'James Merriman'  
**Subject:** can you send times

The week of June 7<sup>th</sup> that work for you for a meeting with Eric Nadelstern