



# THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JOEL I. KLEIN, *Chancellor*

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OFFICE OF NEW SCHOOLS  
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October 7, 2005

Ms. Shelia Evans-Tranum  
Associate Commissioner  
New York State Education Department  
55 Hanson Place, Room 400  
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Re: Ross Global Charter School

Dear Commissioner Evans-Tranum:

It is my pleasure to send to you an approved application for the Ross Global Charter School.

On September 1, 2005, the New York City Department of Education ("NYCDOE") received the attached proposal from Jennifer Chidsey, the lead applicant for Ross Global Charter School. The NYCDOE conducted a rigorous and comprehensive review of this application. This review included a detailed analysis of the proposed school's education program, business plan, and governance structure by a panel of NYCDOE staff as well as charter school experts. Furthermore, the participation of a representative from the State Education Department provided important insight and consistency to our deliberations.

Based on the analysis of the proposal and requested modifications, the NYCDOE finds that:

- a. This proposed charter school meets the requirements set out in The New York Charter Schools Act (Article 56 of the New York State Consolidated Education Law), and other applicable laws, rules and regulations;
- b. The applicant has demonstrated the ability to operate the proposed charter school in an educationally and fiscally sound manner; and that
- c. Granting the application is likely to improve student learning and achievement and materially further the purposes of §2850(2) of Article 56.

On October 7, 2005, Chancellor Klein approved this application and delivered to Jennifer Chidsey a signed proposed charter agreement. Jennifer Chidsey signed this proposed charter agreement and pursuant to §2852(4) of the Charter Schools Act, the NYCDOE is submitting to the State Board of Regents, for final approval and issuance, a copy of Ross Global Charter School proposed charter agreement and the approved school's application.

Subject to the instructions from your Office, two copies are being sent to Lisa Long and six copies to Carol Wallace. Thank you for your attention to this matter and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions in this regard.

Sincerely,

Mashea M. Ashton  
Executive Director, Office of Charter Schools

# THE EAST HAMPTON STAR



SHINES FOR ALL

## ROSS SCHOOL To Open Charter in City

*January 19, 2006*

By Amanda Angel

The Ross Global Academy, a new charter school based on the curriculum at the Ross School in East Hampton, secured one of the last four slots for charter schools from the New York State Board of Regents on Jan. 10. The school is scheduled to open this fall in Lower Manhattan.

The news that the nonprofit Ross Institute could open a charter school came the same day, Jan. 10, that the Ross School agreed to a plan to consolidate with the Morriss Center School in Bridgehampton. The Ross Global Academy will be another collaboration, this one with the New York University Steinhardt School of Education.

The academy was one of six schools vying for the last four available approvals in New York City from the Board of Regents, which, due to state legislation, could authorize the creation of 50 charter schools only. Joel I. Klein, the New York City schools chancellor, has recommended that the 50-charter school cap be removed.

The new charter school that will eventually run from kindergarten through 12th grade, will open with a kindergarten and first, fifth, sixth, and ninth grades. Students will be admitted for free by lottery, as with all New York City charter schools, using vouchers paid for with public school taxes. Enrollment will start at 180; it is projected to eventually reach 500 students.

It will be one of the Steinhardt School's several partner schools, said Mary Brabeck, the dean of the Steinhardt School of Education. Dr. Brabeck said that the school had joined forces with a handful of other New York City schools to study urban education. The Steinhardt school already sends its enrollees to student-teach and tutor at public schools, including charter schools.

"I envision that in our collaboration, we will have student teachers at the school, putting tutors there," Dr. Brabeck said. "It is also exciting for us to look at the model of the Ross School and see how it can be successful in an urban environment."

In addition, the Ross Global Academy students will have access to some of N.Y.U.'s facilities, such as its library and technological resources. Dr. Brabeck said that the collaboration could expand to include other departments at the university, such as health, communication, and the arts.

Dr. Brabeck first visited the Ross School in East Hampton in 2003, when she was appointed dean of the Steinhardt School. "It reflected very much what were trying to do with education," she said.

The Ross School's curriculum stresses intercultural study, and Dr. Brabeck said that concentration meshed well with her school's dedication to urban education studies.

"According to studies, 50 percent of the world's population will live in urban settings in the next few years. How are we to prepare schooling in that kind of setting? That is what we are studying," she said.

Dr. Brabeck also said that she was attracted to the Ross School's goal to educate "the whole child," emphasizing health and culture as well as academics.

This will not be the first time the Ross School's curriculum has been exported from East Hampton. In 2002, the Tensta Gymnasium, a public school in Sweden, adopted the curriculum. Since then the school has doubled enrollment and decreased dropout rates, according to the Ross Institute.

"Our work with N.Y.U. at Ross Global Academy will allow us to help more children be better prepared for a world made small yet exceedingly complicated by globalization, said Courtney Ross, the Ross School's founder, in a press release last Thursday.

"I have always intended that what we have learned at Ross School, with the help of some of the best minds in the world, would one day be widely shared around the globe."