

STATE OF NEW YORK

5797

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 3, 2025

Introduced by Sen. SEPULVEDA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on New York City Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to metered in funding for rental assistance for all New York city charter students

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subdivision 3 of section 2853 of the
2 education law, as added by section 5 of part BB of chapter 56 of the
3 laws of 2014, subparagraphs 5 and 6 as amended by section 11 of part A
4 of chapter 54 of the laws of 2016, and clause (B) of subparagraph 5 as
5 amended by section 5 of part YYY of chapter 59 of the laws of 2017, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (e) In a city school district in a city having a population of one
8 million or more inhabitants, charter schools that [~~first commence~~
9 ~~instruction or that require additional space due to an expansion of~~
10 ~~grade level, pursuant to this article, approved by their charter entity~~
11 ~~for the two thousand fourteen two thousand fifteen school year or there-~~
12 ~~after and~~] request co-location in a public school building shall be
13 provided access to facilities pursuant to this paragraph for such char-
14 ter schools that first commence instruction or that require additional
15 space due to an expansion of grade level, pursuant to this article,
16 approved by their charter entity for those grades newly provided.

17 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, within
18 the later of (i) five months after a charter school's written request
19 for co-location and (ii) thirty days after the charter school's charter
20 is approved by its charter entity, the city school district shall
21 either: (A) offer at no cost to the charter school a co-location site in
22 a public school building approved by the board of education as provided
23 by law, or (B) offer the charter school space in a privately owned or
24 other publicly owned facility at the expense of the city school district
25 and at no cost to the charter school. The space must be reasonable,

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 appropriate and comparable and in the community school district to be
2 served by the charter school and otherwise in reasonable proximity.

3 (2) No later than thirty days after approval by the board of education
4 or expiration of the offer period prescribed in subparagraph one of this
5 paragraph, the charter school shall either accept the city school
6 district's offer or appeal in accordance with subparagraph three of this
7 paragraph. If no appeal is taken, the city's offer or refusal to make an
8 offer shall be final and non-reviewable. The charter school may appeal
9 as early as issuance of an educational impact statement for the proposed
10 co-location.

11 (3) The charter school shall have the option of appealing the city
12 school district's offer or failure to offer a co-location site through
13 binding arbitration in accordance with subparagraph ~~seven~~ six of this
14 paragraph, an expedited appeal to the commissioner pursuant to section
15 three hundred ten of this chapter and the procedures prescribed in para-
16 graph (a-5) of this subdivision, or a special proceeding pursuant to
17 article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules. In any such
18 appeal, the standard of review shall be the standard prescribed in
19 section seventy-eight hundred three of the civil practice law and rules.

20 (4) If the appeal results in a determination in favor of the city
21 school district, the city's offer shall be final and the charter school
22 may either accept such offer and move into the space offered by the city
23 school district at the city school district's expense, or locate in
24 another site at the charter school's expense.

25 (5) ~~[For a new charter school whose charter is granted or for an~~
26 ~~existing charter school whose expansion of grade level, pursuant to this~~
27 ~~article, is approved by their charter entity, if] If~~ the appeal results
28 in a determination in favor of the charter school, the city school
29 district shall pay the charter school an amount ~~[attributable to the~~
30 ~~grade level expansion or the formation of the new charter school]~~ that
31 is equal to the lesser of:

32 (A) the actual rental cost of an alternative privately owned site
33 selected by the charter school or

34 (B) thirty percent of the product of the charter school's basic
35 tuition for the current school year and ~~[(i) for a new charter school~~
36 ~~that first commences instruction on or after July first, two thousand~~
37 ~~fourteen,]~~ the charter school's current year enrollment~~[, or (ii) for a~~
38 ~~charter school which expands its grade level, pursuant to this article,~~
39 ~~the positive difference of the charter school's enrollment in the~~
40 ~~current school year minus the charter school's enrollment in the school~~
41 ~~year prior to the first year of the expansion].~~

42 (5-a) For charter schools that were operating schools or grade levels
43 prior to the two thousand fifteen--two thousand sixteen school year and
44 are now eligible for funding pursuant to subparagraph five of this
45 subdivision, funding will be provided on the following schedule such
46 that these charter schools will be eligible to receive full funding
47 pursuant to subparagraph five of this paragraph in the two thousand
48 twenty-nine--two thousand thirty school year and thereafter. In the two
49 thousand twenty-five--two thousand twenty-six school year, the city
50 school district shall pay the charter school twenty percent of the
51 amount owed to the school under subparagraph five of this paragraph. In
52 the two thousand twenty-six--two thousand twenty-seven school year, the
53 city school district shall pay the charter school forty percent of the
54 amount owed to the school under subparagraph five of this paragraph. In
55 the two thousand twenty-seven--two thousand twenty-eight school year,
56 the city school district shall pay the charter school sixty percent of

the amount owed to the school under subparagraph five of this paragraph.
In the two thousand twenty-eight--two thousand twenty-nine school year,
the city school district shall pay the charter school eighty percent of
the amount owed to the school under subparagraph five of this paragraph.
In the two thousand twenty-nine--two thousand thirty school year, the
city school district shall pay the charter school one hundred percent of
the amount owed to the school under subparagraph five of this paragraph.

(6) An arbitration in an appeal pursuant to this paragraph shall be conducted by a single arbitrator selected in accordance with this subparagraph from a list of arbitrators from the American arbitration association's panel of labor arbitrators, with relevant biographical information, submitted by such association to the commissioner pursuant to paragraph a of subdivision three of section three thousand twenty-a of this chapter. Upon request by the charter school, the commissioner shall forthwith send a copy of such list and biographical information simultaneously to the charter school and city school district. The parties shall, by mutual agreement, select an arbitrator from the list within fifteen days from receipt of the list, and if the parties fail to agree on an arbitrator within such fifteen day period or fail within such fifteen day period to notify the commissioner that an arbitrator has been selected, the commissioner shall appoint an arbitrator from the list to serve as the arbitrator. The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the American arbitration association's rules for labor arbitration, except that the arbitrator shall conduct a pre-hearing conference within ten to fifteen days of agreeing to serve and the arbitration shall be completed and a decision rendered within the time frames prescribed for hearings pursuant to section three thousand twenty-a of this chapter. The arbitrator's fee shall not exceed the rate established by the commissioner for hearings conducted pursuant to section three thousand twenty-a of this chapter, and the cost of such fee, the arbitrator's necessary travel and other reasonable expenses, and all other hearing expenses shall be borne equally by the parties to the arbitration.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.