

Application: Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys

Jen Pasek -
2024-2025 Annual Report

Summary

ID: 0000000100
Last submitted: Nov 3 2025 09:25 PM (EST)

Entry 1 – School Information and Cover Page

Completed - Nov 3 2025

Instructions

Required of ALL Charter Schools

Each Annual Report begins with a completed School Information and Cover Page. The information is collected in a survey format within the Annual Report Portal. When entering information in the portal, some of the following items may not appear, depending on your authorizer and/or your responses to related items.

Entry 1 – School Information and Cover Page

(New schools that were not open for instruction for the 2024-2025 school year are not required to complete or submit an annual report this year).

Please be advised that you will need to complete this cover page (including signatures) before all of the other tasks assigned to you by your school's authorizer are visible on your task page. While completing this cover page task, please ensure that you select the correct authorizer **(as of June 30, 2025)** or you may not be assigned the correct tasks.

BASIC INFORMATION

a. LEGAL SCHOOL NAME (as chartered)

(Select name from the drop down menu)

Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys

b. Unofficial or Popular School Name

BCCSB

c. CHARTER AUTHORIZER (As of June 30th, 2025)

Please select the correct authorizer as of June 30, 2025 or you may not be assigned the correct tasks.

BOARD OF REGENTS

c. School Unionized

Is your charter school unionized?

No

d. District/CSD of Location

Albany City School District

e. Date of Approved Initial Charter

Jan 1 2001

f. Date School First Opened for Instruction

Jan 19 2002

g. Approved School Mission

(Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-authorized schools only)

The mission of Brighter Choice Charter Schools is to empower our scholars to become responsible learners competent in reading, writing and mathematics and to develop their social-emotional skills. Brighter Choice Charter Schools is committed to providing a well-rounded academic program to all scholars that will enable them to realize their highest potential.

h. Approved Key Design Elements

(Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-authorized schools only)

KDE 1 An Engaging, Standards-Based Academic Program including Integrated Studies
KDE 2 Character Development Aligned to the BCCS Core Values
KDE 3 High Impact Professional Development for Educators
KDE 4 A Focus on Data to Drive Instruction
KDE 5 Parent and Community Partnerships
KDE 6 More Time for Learning through an Extended Day and Year
KDE 7 Single Gender Program

i. School Website Address

www.brighterchoice.org

j. Authorized Charter Enrollment for 2024-2025 School Year

290

k. Actual Enrollment on June 30, 2025, Excluding Pre-K Program Enrollment

233

I. Grades Served

Grades served during the 2024-2025 school year (exclude Pre-K program students):

Responses Selected:

Kindergarten
1
2
3
4
5

m. Charter Management Organization/Educational Management Organization

Do you have a [Charter Management Organization](#)?

No

FACILITIES INFORMATION

n. FACILITIES: Owned, rented, or leased to educate students

Will the school maintain or operate multiple sites in 2025-2026?

	No, just one site.
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School Site 1 (Primary)

n1. SCHOOL SITES

Please provide information on Site 1 for the upcoming school year.

	Physical Address	Phone Number	District/CSD	Grades Served at Site for 2024-2025 School Year (K-5, 6-9, etc.)	Grades to be Served at Site for 2025-2026 school year (K-5, 6-9, etc.)	Receives Rental Assistance for Which Grades (If yes, enter the appropriate grades. If no, enter No).
Site 1	116 North Lake Ave Albany NY 12206		Albany City School District	K-5	K-5	No

n1a. Please provide the contact information for Site 1.

	Name	Title	Work Phone	Alternate Phone	Email Address
School Leader	Karen McLean	Principal			
Operational Leader	Luke Licygiewicz	Operations Manager			
Compliance Contact	Karen McLean	Principal			
Complaint Contact	Karen McLean	Principal			
DASA Coordinator	Karen McLean	Principal			
Phone Contact for After Hours Emergencies	Luke Licygiewicz	Operations Manager			

n1b. Is site 1 in public space or in private space?

Private Space

n1c. Is site 1 in a co-located or not in a co-located facility?

Responses Selected:

Not Co-Located

IF LOCATED IN PRIVATE SPACE IN NYC OR IN DISTRICTS OUTSIDE NYC

n1e. Upload a current Certificate of Occupancy (COO) and the annual Fire Inspection Report for school site 1 if located in private space in NYC or located outside of NYC .

Certificate of Occupancy and Fire Inspection. Provide a copy of a current and non-expired certificate of occupancy (if outside NYC or in private space in NYC). For schools that are not in district space (NYC co-locations), provide a copy of a current and non-expired certificate of occupancy, and a copy of the current annual fire inspection results, which should be dated on or after July 1, 2025.

Fire inspection certificates must be updated annually. For the upcoming school year 2025-2026, please submit a current fire inspection certificate.

If the fire inspection certificate will expire between the August 1, 2025 submission of the Annual Report and the November 3 Annual Report submission, please submit the new certificate with the Annual Report entries due no later than 11:59 PM on November 3, 2025.

Site 1 Certificate of Occupancy (COO)

[BCCSB CO.pdf](#)

Filename: BCCSB CO.pdf Size: 31.1 kB

Site 1 Fire Inspection Report

This is required, marked optional for administrative purposes.

[Brighter Choice Boys Fire Inspection 8.13.25.pdf](#)

Filename: Brighter Choice Boys Fire Inspection 8.13.25.pdf Size: 298.7 kB

o. List of owned, rented, or leased facilities not used to educate students and the purpose of each.

Separate by semi-colon (;)

N/A

p1. Total Number of School Calendar Days

188

p2. Total Number of Anticipated Hours of Instruction by Month (Entries are required for all months. Enter a zero for months with no instructional hours.)

July 2025	0
August 2025	8
September 2025	156
October 2025	161
November 2025	119
December 2025	127
January 2026	140
February 2026	111
March 2026	159
April 2026	122
May 2026	145
June 2026	143

CHARTER REVISIONS DURING THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

q. Summary of Material and Non-Material Charter Revisions submitted or approved since August 1, 2024, including updates to the school’s board of trustees’ by-laws, enrollment policy, discipline policy, or complaint policy.

Please note, listing the revisions here does not constitute a request. Schools are advised to seek revision requests through their authorizer directly.

Does the school have any material or non-material revision requests that have been submitted or approved since August 1, 2024?

Yes

q2. Summary of Charter Revisions

	Category (Select Best Description)	Specific Revision (150 word limit)	Date Approved by BOT (if applicable)	Date Approved by Authorizer (if applicable)
1	Change in Maximum Approved Enrollment	Decrease enrollment to max 290	11/8/2023	N/A - No longer material
2	Change in admissions/enrollment policy	Minor changes, including the addition of a header for “backfill” and a statement that the “lottery will be held in accordance with section 119.5 of the Commissioner’s Regulations.”	6/12/2025	N/A - No longer material
3				
4				
5				

More revisions to add?

No

ATTESTATIONS

r. Name/Position of Person Completing/Submitting the 2024-2025 Annual Report. (To write type in a phone number with an extension, please use this format: 123-456-7890-3. The dash and number 3 at the end of the phone number refers to the individual's phone extension. Do not type in the work extension or the abbreviation for it - just the dash and the extension number after the phone number).

Name	Jen Pasek
Position	Consultant
Phone/Extension	
Email	

s. Our signatures (Executive Director/School Leader/Head of School and Board President) below attest that all of the information contained herein is truthful and accurate and that this charter school is in compliance with all aspects of its charter, and with all pertinent Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and rules. We understand that if any information in any part of this report is found to have been deliberately misrepresented, this will constitute grounds for the revocation of our charter.

Click [YES](#) to agree and then use the mouse on your PC or the stylus on your mobile device to sign your name).

Responses Selected:

Yes

As outlined in ENTRY 7 (Employee Fingerprint Requirements Attestation):

Our E-Signatures (not digital signatures) (Executive Director/School Leader/Head of School and Board President) below attest that our school has reviewed, understands and will comply with the employee clearance and fingerprint requirements as outlined in Entry 7 and found in the [NYSED CSO Fingerprint Clearance Oct 2019 Memo](#). Click **YES** to agree.

Responses Selected:

Yes

Signature, Head of Charter School

(If you are not signing the application now, please click "Clear" on both signature fields before saving this task or else the system will return an error.)



Signature, President of the Board of Trustees

(If you are not signing the application now, please click "Clear" on both signature fields before saving this task or else the system will return an error.)



Date

(No response)



Thank you.

Entry 2 – Links to Critical Documents on School Website

Completed - Nov 3 2025

[Instructions](#)

Required of ALL Charter Schools (Note that SUNY-authorized charter schools are not required to submit item 4: Authorizer-approved Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) policy and Authorizer-approved School Discipline Policy)

By law, each charter school is required to maintain certain notices and policies listed on its website. All documents must be readily found on the school's website and publicly accessible. Please insert the link to the page on the school's website where each document can be accessed. **DO NOT provide a direct link to a Google document.**

1. Current Annual Report (i.e., 2024-2025 Annual Report);[\[1\]](#)
2. Board meeting notices, agendas, and documents, including board meeting minutes;
3. New York State School Report Card - This report captures school-level enrollment and demographic information, staff qualifications, electronic student records, and attendance rates, as prescribed by New York State law.[\[2\]](#) Even if there is no school data yet reported, a direct web link to the most recent [New York State School Report Card](#) for the charter school must be provided.
4. Authorizer-approved DASA Policy and Authorizer-approved School Discipline Policy **(For Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-Authorized Charter Schools ONLY)**;
5. District-wide safety plan, not a building-level safety plan (as per the July 2023 [Emergency Response Plan Memo](#) – Charter Schools Only);
6. Authorizer-approved FOIL Policy; and
7. Subject matter list of FOIL records (e.g., see [NYSED Subject Matter List](#))

[\[1\]](#) Each charter school is required to make the Annual Report publicly available by August 1 and to post on their respective charter school website. Each school should post an updated and complete version to include accountability data and financial statements that are not or may not be available until after the August deadline (i.e., repost when financials have been submitted in November.)

[\[2\]](#) SRC data is included in the reporting requirements for New York charter schools in 8 NYCRR 119.3.

Entry 2 – Links to Critical Documents on School Website

School Name: Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys

Required of ALL Charter Schools (Note that SUNY-authorized charter schools are not required to submit item 4: Authorizer-approved Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) policy and Authorizer-Approved School Discipline Policy)

By law, each charter school is required to maintain certain notices and policies listed on its website. Please insert the [link from the school's website](#) for each of the items. All links must be readily found on the school's website.

[New York State Report Card](#)

[Emergency Response Plan Memo](#)

[NYSED Subject Matter List](#)

	Link to Documents
1. Current Annual Report (i.e., 2024-2025 Annual Report)	<u>https://www.brighterchoice.org/?page_id=3845</u>
2. Board meeting notices, agendas, and documents, including board meeting minutes	<u>https://app2.boardontrack.com/public/ZMGdjp/home</u>
3. New York State School Report Card. This report captures school-level enrollment and demographic information, staff qualifications, electronic student records, and attendance rates, as prescribed by New York State law. Even if there is no school data yet reported, a direct web link to the most recent New York State School Report Card for the charter school must be provided.	<u>https://www.brighterchoice.org/?page_id=3845</u>
4a. Authorizer-approved DASA Policy (For Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-Authorized Charter Schools ONLY)	<u>https://www.brighterchoice.org/?page_id=3845</u>
4b. Authorizer-approved School Discipline Policy (For Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-Authorized Charter Schools ONLY)	<u>https://www.brighterchoice.org/?page_id=3845</u>
5. District-wide safety plan, not a building level safety plan (as per the July 2023 Emergency Response Plan Memo)	<u>https://www.brighterchoice.org/?page_id=3845</u>
6. Authorizer-approved FOIL Policy	<u>https://www.brighterchoice.org/?page_id=3845</u>
7. Subject matter list of FOIL records (e.g., see NYSED	<u>https://www.brighterchoice.org/?page_id=3845</u>

It is the school's responsibility to ensure that if a policy appears in more than one place on the website, including as part of the family handbook, that the policy versions are consistent and up to date.

Responses Selected:

Yes, the website has been reviewed to ensure that policies are consistent and up to date.



Thank you.

Entry 3 – Board of Trustees Membership Table

Completed - Nov 3 2025

Instructions

Required of ALL charter schools

ALL charter schools or education corporations governing multiple schools must complete the Board of Trustees Membership Table within the online portal. Please be sure to include and identify parents who are members of the Board of Trustees and indicate whether parents are voting or non-voting members.

Entry 3 – Board of Trustees Membership Table

1. **SUNY-AUTHORIZED** charter schools are required to provide information for VOTING trustees only.
2. **REGENTS, NYCDOE, and BUFFALO BOE-AUTHORIZED** charter schools are required to provide information for all VOTING and NON-VOTING trustees.

Authorizer:

Who is the authorizer of your charter school?

Board of Regents

1. 2024-2025 Board Member Information (Enter info for each BOT member)

	Voting Trustee Name	Trustee Email Address	Position on the Board	Committee Affiliation (s)	Voting Member Per By- Laws (Y/N)	Number of Completed Terms Served	Start Date of Current Term (MM/DD/ YYYY)	End Date of Current Term (MM/DD/ YYYY)	Board Meetings Attended During 2024- 2025
1	Martha Snyder	[REDACTED]	Chair	Education	Yes	5	7/1/2024	6/30/2027	11
2	Trudy Hanmer	[REDACTED]	Vice Chair	Education	Yes	4	7/1/2024	6/30/2027	10
3	Zoe Nelson	[REDACTED]	Secretary	Higher Ed	Yes	5	7/1/2024	6/30/2027	12
4	Nilsa Velilla	[REDACTED]	Trustee/ Member	Human Resources	Yes	6	7/1/2024	6/30/2027	8
5	Noah Clement	[REDACTED]	Trustee/ Member	Finance, Governance	Yes	1	3/1/2024	2/28/2027	7
6	Colleen Driggs	[REDACTED]	Trustee/ Member	Finance, Governance	Yes	1	7/11/2024	7/11/2027	9
7									
8									
9									

1a. Are there more than 9 members of the Board of Trustees?

No

2. Number of board meetings conducted in 2024-2025

12

3. Number of board meetings scheduled for the 2025-2026 school year

12

4. INFORMATION ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- SUNY-AUTHORIZED charter schools provide response relative to VOTING Trustees only.
- REGENTS, NYCDOE, and BUFFALO BOE-AUTHORIZED charter schools provide a response relative to all trustees.

a. Total number of Voting Members on June 30, 2025	6
b. Total number of Voting Members added during the 2024-2025 school year	0
c. Total number of Voting Members who left the board during 2024-2025 school year	0
d. Total Maximum Number of Voting Members in 2024-2025, as set by the board in by-laws, resolution, or minutes	15
e. Board members attending 8 or fewer meetings during 2024-2025	2

5. INFORMATION ABOUT NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (REGENTS, NYCDOE, and BUFFALO BOE-AUTHORIZED ONLY)

a. Total number of Non-Voting Members on June 30, 2025	0
b. Total number of Non-Voting Members added during the 2024-2025 school year	0
c. Total number of Non-Voting Members who left the board during the 2024-2025 school year	0
d. Total Maximum Number of Non-Voting members in 2024-2025, as set by the board in by-laws, resolution, or minutes	N/A

Thank you.

Entry 4 – Board of Trustees Disclosure of Financial Interest Form

Completed - Nov 3 2025

Instructions

Required of ALL Charter Schools

Each member of the charter school's Board of Trustees who served on a charter school education corporation governing one or more charter schools for any period during the 2024-2025 school year must complete and sign a Trustee [Disclosure of Financial Interest Form](#) due **no later than 11:59 PM on August 1, 2025**. Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature (i.e., DocuSign)
- Manual signature (1. download to print, 2. manually sign, 3. scan signed document to PDF, and 4. upload into portal)

All completed forms must be collected and uploaded in PDF format for each individual member. **The education corporation is responsible for ensuring that each member who served on the board during the 2024-2025 school year completes the form.**

Charter schools MUST submit the latest version of the form. Forms completed from past years will not be accepted.

Trustees serving on an education corporation that governs more than one school are not required to complete a separate disclosure for each school governed by the education corporation. In the Trustee Disclosure of Financial Interest Form, trustees must disclose information relevant to any of the schools served by the governing education corporation.

[24-25 Disclosure - BCCS- Colleen Driggs](#)

Filename: 24-25_Disclosure_-_BCCS-_Colleen_Driggs.pdf Size: 571.1 kB

[24-25 Disclosure-BCCS - Martha Snyder](#)

Filename: 24-25_Disclosure-BCCS_-_Martha_Snyder.pdf Size: 572.4 kB

[24-25 Disclosure-BCCS - Nilsa Velilla](#)

Filename: 24-25_Disclosure-BCCS_-_Nilsa_Velilla.pdf Size: 570.6 kB

[24-25 Disclosure-BCCS - Noah Clement](#)

Filename: 24-25_Disclosure-BCCS_-_Noah_Clement.pdf Size: 572.0 kB

[24-25 Disclosure-BCCS - Trudy Hanmer](#)

Filename: 24-25_Disclosure-BCCS_-_Trudy_Hanmer.pdf Size: 570.1 kB

[24-25 Disclosure-BCCS - Zoe Nelson](#)

Filename: 24-25_Disclosure-BCCS_-_Zoe_Nelson.pdf Size: 570.1 kB

Entry 5 – Board Meeting Minutes

Completed - Nov 3 2025

Instructions

Required of Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-Authorized Schools ONLY

Schools must upload a complete set of final monthly board meeting minutes (July 2024-June 2025), which should match the number of meetings held during the 2024-2025 school year, as indicated in the above table. The minutes provided must be the final version approved by the school's Board of Trustees AND must be posted on the school's website. Board meeting minutes may be uploaded individually or as one single combined file. Board meeting minutes must be submitted **no later than 11:59 PM on August 1, 2025**.

[July Minutes](#)

Filename: July_Minutes_TBUPju4.pdf Size: 384.9 kB

[August Minutes](#)

Filename: August_Minutes_pdrOYqy.pdf Size: 382.5 kB

[September Minutes](#)

Filename: September_Minutes_UXI023W.pdf Size: 386.3 kB

[October Minutes](#)

Filename: October_Minutes_7ZsAKgZ.pdf Size: 384.1 kB

[November Minutes](#)

Filename: November_Minutes_ur38M0x.pdf Size: 381.9 kB

[December Minutes](#)

Filename: December_Minutes_oC1RK2n.pdf Size: 377.5 kB

[January Minutes](#)

Filename: January_Minutes_v30PUzX.pdf Size: 493.5 kB

[February Minutes](#)

Filename: February_Minutes_bKM3Vvc.pdf Size: 378.5 kB

[March Minutes](#)

Filename: March_Minutes_DKzZLA3.pdf Size: 441.1 kB

[April Minutes](#)

Filename: April_Minutes_oGepfEg.pdf Size: 377.4 kB

[May Minutes](#)

Filename: May_Minutes_7kfBxfG.pdf Size: 378.0 kB

[June Minutes](#)

Filename: June_Minutes_vEyHtAA.pdf Size: 383.7 kB

Entry 6 – Enrollment & Retention

Completed - Nov 3 2025

Instructions

Required of ALL Charter Schools

Describe the good faith efforts the charter school has made in 2024-2025 toward meeting targets to attract and retain the enrollment of students with disabilities (SWD), English language learners (ELL), and students who are economically disadvantaged (ED). In addition, describe the school's plans for meeting or making progress toward meeting its enrollment and retention targets in 2025-2026.

Entry 6 – Enrollment and Retention of Special Populations

Good Faith Efforts to Meet Recruitment Targets (Attract)

	Describe Recruitment Efforts in 2024-2025	Describe Recruitment Plans in 2025-2026
Students with Disabilities	We employ a Special Education Coordinator who is responsible for overseeing programs that provide educational assistance to IEP scholars as well as providing special education services to IEP scholars. In addition, our student support staff includes one School Counselor, two Student Success Coordinators, three RtI teachers, and two SPED-certified teachers. In addition, our Parent Coordinator focuses on serving parents and any special family needs. We have been intentional about recruiting prospective staff members who are certified to serve SWD. We have continued our family mental health clinic to serve the school community and also cultivated a relationship with Families Together in New York State. - Broadened media resources to include stories from parents and scholars with disabilities involved in our school's program. - Refined school brand to highlight services that we offer for Students with Disabilities. - Identified contacts at organizations that are led by and work with people with disabilities in order to identify potential families with children with IEPs. Offering financial assistance/scholarships to students with disabilities. Promote disability inclusion as an organizational value conveying the message that our organization values diversity and inclusion and that we foster a	In 2024-25, 3% of our enrollment had an Individual Education Plan. The local Albany City School District enrolled 14% students with disabilities in comparable grades. Going forward we will continue with the strategies outlined to the left.

	commitment to including people with disabilities at all levels of our organization. - Budgeted for reasonable accommodations within the school's budget. - Ensured that disability-inclusive policies are communicated to all staff members so that all are well informed and can confidently communicate and answer questions about services we have in place for students with disabilities. - Created a one page informational document that highlights services that we offer for students with disabilities and send to the Committee of Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education. - Partnered with Albany Head Start Family Coordinators to distribute information directly to Head Start families with children entering K.	
English Language Learners	To support ELLs, we employ a two full time ESL teacher. In addition, our support staff includes a School Counselor, two Student Success Coordinators, three RtI teachers, a SPED Coordinator, and two SPED-certified teachers. In addition, our Parent Coordinator focuses on serving parents and any special family needs. We recruit prospective staff members who are bilingual and can support families of ELL students. We provided translation support in Spanish and Arabic at orientations, enrollment events, and at other occasions as needed. Utilizing the services of "All Language Translation Company," we've been able to communicate information to the families of our ESL scholars.	In 2024-25, 17% of our enrollment were English Language Learners along with 0% former ELLs. The local district enrolled 21% ELL students in comparable grades. Going forward we will continue with the strategies outlined to the left.

This year, these services were utilized for academic conferences. The continued use of these services will be utilized moving forward. We have a relationship with the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI <http://refugees.org/field-office/albany/>) to support current families by connecting networks of support. We also contract with Certified Languages International, which provides telephone translation services in 250 languages. We continue to build capacity with current staff to service the needs of ELL students through professional development opportunities with CASDA and University of Albany and opportunities for collaboration with the ELL teacher at BCCS-G. Refining school brand to highlight services that we offer for English Language Learners. Joining a Title 3 consortium to allow school to collect title 3 funds to help ensure that English Language Learners (ELLs) attain English language proficiency and meet state academic standards. Identify and enlist the support of existing parents who may have access to non-English speaking communities to make potential non-English speaking families feel comfortable at our school. Partnering with community based organizations and distributing distribute marketing materials at local grocery stores, laundromats, restaurants, salons, parks or any location that is used as a gathering place within the community Attending community meetings to present our school and its ELL services and/or programming to the

	community Government Offices; reaching out to the elected officials who represent our community and generate an interest in having our school's information to share with constituents.	
Economically Disadvantaged	BCCS Scholars hired a Director of Recruitment to be more aggressive with our efforts to maintain our enrollment goals, recruit new families, build our waiting lists and employ innovative, forward-thinking practices to build and monitor our enrollment. We offered an incentivized attendance program for scholars with low attendance, free breakfast, lunch, and supper for all students. We offered free uniforms and an extended day and school year. We offered social and emotional health programs to support children living with effects of poverty, including a family therapy clinic in partnership with Parsons, and participation in the Albany Police Department's Handle with Care program, which supports students struggling with trauma outside of the classroom. Our strong marketing presence ensured that community stakeholders are correctly informed about Brighter Choice and understand the benefits of sending their children to our school. Initiating a parent referral program as a key piece of our marketing efforts. On-site and virtual information meetings that would allow prospective families to tour the school, speak with staff and scholars. 10,000 direct monthly postcard mailings: March – August.	In 2024-25, 95% of our enrollment qualified as economically disadvantaged. The local Albany City School District enrolled 66% ED students in comparable grades. Going forward we will continue with the strategies outlined to the left.

Household targeted demographics:
Ages 4 – 12; Household Income \$0
- \$75,000; Mailed to Zip Codes in
Albany, Schenectady, and Troy with
the highest concentration of
targeted population and accessible
bussing options to Brighter Choice.

Good Faith Efforts To Meet Retention Targets

	Describe Retention Efforts in 2024-2025	Describe Retention Plans in 2025-2026
Students with Disabilities	We employed a certified Special Education Coordinator who was responsible for overseeing programs that provide educational assistance to IEP scholars as well as providing special education services to IEP scholars. In addition, our student support staff included a School Counselor, two Student Success Coordinators, three RtI teachers, and two SPED-certified teachers. In addition, our Parent Coordinator focuses on serving parents and any special family needs. We are intentional about recruiting prospective staff members who are certified to serve SWD.	In the fall of 2024-25, we retained 100% of SWD students who were eligible to return from 2023-24. Going forward, our retention strategies for all subgroups continue to include the programming outlined to the left.
English Language Learners	We continued to build capacity with current staff to service needs of ELL students through professional development opportunities with CASDA and University of Albany and opportunities for collaboration with the ELL teacher at BCCS-G. Please refer to the ELL strategies noted in the previous section.	In the fall of 2024-25, we retained 100% of ELL/former ELL students who were eligible to return from 2023-24.
Economically Disadvantaged	We continued with the practices noted above in the ED enrollment section. During Remote Learning, we continued daily communication with families to check in about scholars success points and struggles with packets. We also reach out to check on family engagement and wellness of all our scholars.	In the fall of 2024-25, we retained 79% of ED students who were eligible to return from 2023-24.

Entry 7 – Employee Fingerprint Requirements Attestation

Instructions

Required of ALL Charter Schools

Review and complete the Employee Fingerprint Requirements Attestation.

Entry 7 – Employee Fingerprint Requirements Attestation

A. TEACH System – Employee Clearance

Required of ALL Charter Schools

Charter schools MUST ensure that all prospective employees^[1] receive clearance through [the NYSED Office of School Personnel Review and Accountability](#) (OSPRA) prior to employment. **This includes paraprofessionals and other school personnel who are provided or assigned by the district of location, or related/contracted service providers.** After an employee has been cleared, schools are required to maintain proof of such clearance in the file of each employee.

Please note that all schools should maintain an electronic or hard copy of the clearance certification pulled from TEACH and dated PRIOR to the employee's start date. Clearance certifications pulled from TEACH at a later date will show that the staff member was cleared as of that date and may result in a finding of clearance violations against the school.

^[1] Employees who must be cleared include, but are not limited to, teachers, administrative staff, janitors, security personnel and cafeteria workers, and other staff who are present when children are in the school building. **This includes paraprofessionals and other school personnel that are provided or assigned by the district of location, as well as related/contracted service providers.** See NYSED memorandum dated October 1, 2019 at [NYSED CSO Employee Clearance and Fingerprint Memo](#) or visit the NYSED website at [Who Must Be Fingerprinted Charts](#) for more information regarding who must be fingerprinted. Also see, 8 NYCRR §87.2.

B. Emergency Conditional Clearances

Charter schools are **strongly discouraged** from using the emergency conditional clearance provisions for prospective employees. This is because the school must request clearance through NYSED TEACH, and the school's emergency conditional clearance of the employee terminates automatically once the school receives notification from NYSED regarding the clearance request. Status notification is provided for all prospective employees through the NYSED TEACH portal within 48 hours after the clearance request is submitted. Therefore, at most, a school's emergency conditional clearance will be valid for only 48 hours after approval by the board.

Schools are not permitted to renew or in any way re-establish a prospective employee's emergency conditional clearance after status notification is sent by NYSED through the TEACH portal.

Schools are asked to attest that they have reviewed and understand these requirements. More information can be found in the memo at [NYSED CSO Employee Clearance and Fingerprint Memo](#).

Attestation

Responses Selected:

I hereby attest that the school has reviewed, understands, and will comply with these requirements.

Entry 8 – Organization Chart

Completed - Nov 3 2025

Instructions

Required of Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-Authorized Charter Schools ONLY

Upload the school's current approved **2024-2025 Organization Chart**. The organization chart should be a graphic representation (a list will not be accepted) and should include position titles and reporting (hierarchical) relationships. Employee names should **not** appear on the chart.

[Copy of BCCS B Org Chart 24-25 \(1\)](#)

Filename: Copy_of_BCCS_B_Org_Chart_24-25_1.pdf Size: 139.9 kB

Entry 9 – School Calendar

Completed - Nov 3 2025

Instructions

Required of ALL Charter Schools

Charter schools must upload a final 2025-2026 calendar into the portal **no later than 11:59 PM on August 1, 2025**.

School calendars must meet the [minimum instructional requirements](#) as required of other public schools "... *unless the school's charter requires more instructional time than is required under the regulations.*"

Board of Regents-authorized charter schools are also required to submit **school calendars that clearly indicate the start and end date of the instructional year AND the number of instructional hours and/or instructional days for each month. Schools must use a calendar format and ensure there is a monthly tally of instructional days.**

Charter schools serving elementary and secondary levels may submit one combined calendar showing instructional hours and days for all building levels OR separate calendars uploaded as one PDF. *Note that school calendars will also provide evidence of alignment for schools with extended days/years referenced in their mission statements or key design elements.*

See below for an example of a calendar showing the requested information.

Sample Calendar:

[BCCS '25-'26 Calendar](#)

Filename: BCCS_25-26_Calendar.pdf Size: 128.8 kB

Entry 10 – Faculty/Staff Roster Template

Completed - Nov 3 2025

[INSTRUCTIONS](#)

Required of Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-Authorized Charter Schools ONLY

Please click on the MS Excel [Faculty/Staff Roster Template](#) and provide the following information for **all** instructional and non-instructional employees, which should include all faculty and staff employed by the school at any point during the 2024-2025 school year.

Use of the 2024-2025 Annual Report Faculty/Staff Roster Template is required. With the exception of the optional Notes section, completion of each of the data elements is required. When provided, use of the drop-down list options is also required. Failure to adhere to the guidelines and validations in the Faculty/Staff Roster Template will result in the need for resubmission of a fully corrected roster.

Reminders: (1) Verify that the correct TEACH ID is entered in the roster. Incorrect data entry may result in findings of non-compliance for the school in the areas of teacher certification and clearance. (2) Use the Notes section to add any additional information deemed necessary, such as a name change that may impact verification of certification. (3) Ensure staff classifications (i.e., teacher / non-teacher) are accurately identified.

Here is the complete list of data elements in the roster template and an explanation of what information is required to correctly complete this task.

Roster Data Elements	Explanations
Authorizer NOTE: MUST BE DONE FIRST	Select your school's authorizer from the drop-down list first , before completing the roster.
School Name and Institution ID	Select your school's name from the drop-down list .
Faculty/Staff First Name	Enter the first name of the Faculty/Staff person.
Faculty/Staff Last Name	Enter the last name of the Faculty/Staff person.
TEACH ID	Enter the 7-digit TEACH ID for the Faculty/Staff person; verify the TEACH ID is correctly entered .
Role at the School / Network	Select the best choice of role of the Faculty/Staff person from the drop-down list .
Total Years Experience in this Role	Enter the number of years of experience the Faculty/Staff person has in the role selected .
CPR/AED Certification Status	Select the appropriate choice from the drop-down list .
Hire Date at the School / Network	Enter the date that the Faculty/Staff person was hired at the school/network .
Start Date at the School / Network	Enter the date that the Faculty/Staff person actually began employment at this school/network .
Date Employee Separated from Service (if applicable)	Enter the date that the Faculty/Staff person separated from service at the school/network .
Certification Status / Out-of-Certification Justification	Select the appropriate choice from the drop-down list .

FOR TEACHERS ONLY: Choose Subject Taught

FOR TEACHERS ONLY: Specify Subject or Grade Band, if NOT Math, Science, Career Technical Education, Technology, or Computer Science

Notes

Select the appropriate choice from the drop-down list.

Select the appropriate choice from the drop-down list.

Optional

[BCCSB faculty-staff-roster-template-may-2025 final](#)

Filename: BCCSB_faculty-staff-roster-templa_J3wWk4r.xlsx Size: 33.0 kB

Entry 11 – Progress Toward Goals (Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-Authorized Charter Schools ONLY

Completed - Nov 3 2025

Instructions

Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-Authorized Charter Schools ONLY

Board of Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-authorized schools must report all Progress Toward Charter Goals as per their currently approved charters **no later than 11:59 PM on November 3, 2025.**

Schools must complete the "Goals" tables as provided in the tables below OR upload the most current action plan that includes progress made toward the attainment of goals during the 2024-2025 school year.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a required task for Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-authorized charter schools. It is marked optional for administrative purposes only.

Entry 11 – Progress Toward Goals

PROGRESS TOWARD CHARTER GOALS

Board of Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-authorized schools may complete the "Goals" tables as provided in the portal OR upload the school's most current action plan that includes progress made toward the attainment of academic, organization, and financial goals during the 2024-2025 school year.

Please select the method by which you will provide your school's information:

Responses Selected:

Upload Action Plan That Includes 2024-2025 Progress Toward Goals

1. Please upload a current action plan document that includes:

- 2024-2025 Progress Toward Attainment of Academic Goals
- 2024-2025 Progress Toward Attainment of Organization Goals
- 2024-2025 Progress Toward Attainment of Financial Goals

[BCCSB 2024-25 PTG.pdf](#)

Filename: BCCSB 2024-25 PTG.pdf Size: 156.7 kB

Entry 12 – Audited Financial Statements

Completed - Nov 3 2025

Required of ALL Charter Schools

ALL charter schools must upload the financial statements and related documents in PDF format into the portal **no later than 11:59 PM on November 3, 2025**. The statements, the independent auditor's report, any advisory and/or management letter, and the internal controls report must be combined into a PDF file with security features such as password protection removed.

ALL SUNY-authorized charter schools must also enter the financial statements and upload related documents in PDF format into the SUNY Compass system **no later than 11:59 PM on November 3, 2025**. **SUNY-authorized charter schools** are asked to ensure that security features such as password protection are turned off.

PLEASE NOTE: This task appears as optional until August 1, 2025. Thereafter, it will be identified as a required task due on November 3, 2025.

BCCS Girls and Boys - FY 2024-25 Audited Financial Statements

Filename: c04a8e863db340e4b8cf4e556fe585f2.pdf Size: 493.1 kB

Entry 12a – Audited Financial Report Template (BOR)

Completed - Nov 3 2025

Regents-Authorized Charter Schools ONLY

Regents-authorized schools must download the Excel spreadsheet entitled “Audited Financial Report Template” from the portal or the [Annual Reports](#) webpage and complete it using the audited financial statements. Upload the completed file **no later than 11:59 PM on November 3, 2025**.

Do not add rows or columns to the template in order to match the format of the financial statements. Use only the existing fields and combine any additional entries into the “other” fields throughout the template. For education corporations operating more than one school, complete one template at the education corporation level and submit the same template for each of the schools operated by the education corporation.

PLEASE NOTE: This task appears as optional until August 1, 2025. Thereafter, it will be identified as a required task due on November 3, 2025.

BCCS Girls and Boys - FY 2024-25 Audited Financial Template-NYSED

Filename: 4534d7cdfba2430fa8aa13b14ba645c3.xlsx Size: 74.9 kB

Entry 12b – Additional Financial Documents

Completed - Nov 3 2025

Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-authorized schools must upload financial documents and submit **no later than 11:59 PM on November 3, 2025**. The items listed below should be uploaded with an explanation added if an

item is not applicable or not available (e.g., a "Federal Single Audit was not required because the school did not expend federal funds of more than the \$750,000 Threshold.")

1. Advisory and/or Management Letter
2. Federal Single Audit
3. Agreed-Upon Procedure Report
4. Evidence of Required Escrow Account for Each School
5. Corrective Action Plan for Audit Findings and Management Letter Recommendations

PLEASE NOTE: This task appears as an optional task until August 1, 2025. After this date, the task will be identified as a required task due on November 3, 2025.

[BCCSB Escrow redacted](#)

Filename: cd0571c5b97d479084e7ec0faecab110.pdf Size: 474.5 kB

Entry 12c – Financial Contact Information

Completed - Nov 3 2025

Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-authorized schools should enter financial contact information directly into the form within the portal **no later than 11:59 PM on November 3, 2025**.

PLEASE NOTE: This task appears as an optional task until August 1, 2025. After this date, the task will be identified as a required task due on November 3, 2025.

Form for "Financial Contact Information"

1. School Based Fiscal Contact Information

	School Based Fiscal Contact Name	School Based Fiscal Contact Email	School Based Fiscal Contact Phone
	Lukasz Licygiewicz	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

2. Audit Firm Contact Information

	School Audit Contact Name	School Audit Contact Email	School Audit Contact Phone	Years Working With This Audit Firm
	Cusack & Company	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	17

3. If applicable, please provide contact information for the school's outsourced financial services firm.

	Firm Name	Contact Person	Mailing Address	Email	Phone	Years With Firm
	BoostED Finance					9

Entry 13 – Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

Completed - Nov 3 2025

SUNY-authorized charter schools are required to use Compass to complete and submit the Annual Budget and the Budget Narrative Questionnaire **no later than 11:59 PM on November 3, 2025**.

Regents, NYCDOE, and Buffalo BOE-authorized charter schools are required to download the budget template from the portal or the [Annual Reports](#) webpage and complete it. Upload the completed template **no later than 11:59 PM on November 3, 2025**. The Assumptions column should be completed for all revenue and expense items unless the item is self-explanatory.

PLEASE NOTE: This task appears as optional until August 1, 2025. Thereafter, it will be identified as a required task due on November 3, 2025.

[BCCS Boys NYSED - 2025-2026-annual-report-budget-template](#)

Filename: 7f7f4b954d1be4f56896f6cd120f8c684.xlsx Size: 49.7 kB

Optional Additional Documents to Upload (BOR)

Incomplete

Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current or Former Trustee
--

Trustee Name:

Colleen Driggs

Name of Charter School Education Corporation:

Brighter Choice Charter Schools

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

board member

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

-

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

-

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

-

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.

Business Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Business Address:

[REDACTED]

E-mail Address:

[REDACTED]

Home Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Home Address:

[REDACTED]

DocuSigned by:
Colleen Driggs
3EE081B2ED67446

6/10/2025 | 4:08 PM EDT

Signature

Date

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

last revised 04/2022

**Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current
or Former Trustee**

Trustee Name:

Martha Snyder

Name of Charter School Education Corporation:

Brighter Choice Charter Schools

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Chair, secretary

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

-

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

-

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

-

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.

Business Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Business Address:

[REDACTED]

E-mail Address:

[REDACTED]

Home Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Home Address:

[REDACTED]

DocuSigned by:
Martha Snyder
D4D794E8219B438

6/19/2025 | 3:28 AM PDT

Signature

Date

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

last revised 04/2022

**Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current
or Former Trustee**

Trustee Name:

Nilsa Velilla

Name of Charter School Education Corporation:

Brighter Choice Charter Schools

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Parent Representative
Trustee

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

-

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

-

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

-

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.

Business Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Business Address:

[REDACTED]

E-mail Address:

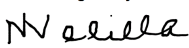
[REDACTED]

Home Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Home Address:

[REDACTED]

DocuSigned by:

ABB9E74CEA204A1

6/12/2025 | 10:23 AM EDT

Signature

Date

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

last revised 04/2022

Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current or Former Trustee
--

Trustee Name:

NOAH CLEMENT

Name of Charter School Education Corporation:

Brighter Choice Charter Schools

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Board Trustee

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

-

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

-

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☐ **None**

Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you
February 2025	Retirement Plan Provider	I recused myself from Mutual of America presentations to the Board. I also recused myself from Board discussions regarding the Mutual of America presentations and comparison between other providers. I was not involved in the decision or vote.	Noah Clement

-

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☐ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest
Mutual of America	Retirement Plan Provider	\$3,500,000.00 - the value of the retirement plan	Noah Clement - Board Trustee	I recused myself from Mutual of America presentations to the Board. I also recused myself from Board discussions regarding the Mutual of America presentations and comparison between other providers. I was not involved in the decision or vote.

This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.

Business Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Business Address:

[REDACTED]

E-mail Address:

[REDACTED]

Home Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Home Address:

[REDACTED]

DocuSigned by:
NOAH CLEMENT
C50719E7B121434

6/12/2025 | 3:01 PM EDT

Signature

Date

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

last revised 04/2022

**Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current
or Former Trustee**

Trustee Name:

Trudy Hanmer

Name of Charter School Education Corporation:

Brighter Choice Charter Schools

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Vice-chair

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

-

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

-

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

-

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.

Business Telephone:



Business Address:



E-mail Address:

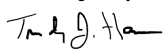


Home Telephone:



Home Address:



DocuSigned by:

650DD356C4E44CD

6/23/2025 | 6:21 AM EDT

Signature

Date

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

last revised 04/2022

**Disclosure of Financial Interest by a Current
or Former Trustee**

Trustee Name:

Zoe Nelson

Name of Charter School Education Corporation:

Brighter Choice Charter Schools

1. List all positions held on the education corporation Board of Trustees ("Board") (e.g., chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, parent representative, etc.).

Secretary

2. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person employed by the school and/or education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and the person's position, job description, and other responsibilities with the school.

3. Are you related by blood, or marriage, or legal adoption/guardianship to any student currently enrolled in a school operated by the education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if the student could benefit from your participation.

-

4. Are you related, by blood or marriage, to any person that could otherwise benefit from your participation as a board member of the education corporation?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please describe the nature of your relationship and if this person could benefit from your participation.

5. Are you a past, current, or prospective employee of the charter school, education corporation, and/or an entity that provides comprehensive management services ("CMO"), whether for-profit or not-for-profit, which contracts, or may contract, with the charter school or education corporation; or do you serve as an employee, officer, or director of, or own a controlling interest in, a business or entity that contracts, or does business with, or plans to contract or do business with, the charter school, education corporation, and/or a CMO, whether for-profit or not-for-profit, including, but not limited to, the lease of real or personal property to the said entities?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position(s) you hold, your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

-

6. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you, any of your immediate family members, and/or any persons who you reside with have held or engaged in with the charter school(s) operated by the education corporation during the time you have served on the Board, and in the six months prior to such service. If there has been no such interest or transaction, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Date(s)	Nature of financial interest / transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to you

-

7. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, franchise holding company, joint-stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school(s) operated by the education corporation **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member(s) or person(s) you reside with had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer, or employee of an organization formally partnered with and/or doing business with the school(s) through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization, and the relationship between such organization and the school(s). If there was no financial interest, check **None**.

☒ **None**

Organization conducting business with the school(s)	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school(s) and the nature of the interest	Steps taken to avoid conflict of interest

This document is considered a public record and, as such, may be made available to members of the public upon request under the Freedom of Information Law. The personal contact information provided below will be redacted.

Business Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Business Address:

[REDACTED]

E-mail Address:

[REDACTED]

Home Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Home Address:

[REDACTED]

DocuSigned by:
Zoe Nelson
4EE7A004891E405

6/27/2025 | 10:43 AM EDT

Signature

Date

Acceptable signature formats include:

- Digitally certified PDF signature
- Print form, manually sign, scan to PDF

last revised 04/2022



Brighter Choice Charter Schools

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday July 11, 2024 at 9:30 AM

Location

Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls
250 Central Ave, Albany, NY

Trustees Present

M. Snyder (remote), N. Clement, T. Hanmer, Z. Nelson

Trustees Absent

N. Velilla

Guests Present

Christine Forbes, K. Ford, K. Mclean, L. Licygiewicz, colleendriggs@gmail.com

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Snyder called a meeting of the board of trustees of Brighter Choice Charter Schools to order on Thursday Jul 11, 2024 at 9:37 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

T. Hanmer made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 06-13-24.

N. Clement seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Committee Reports

A. Governance Report

M. Snyder reported on the Governance committee report. K. Ford reported on the enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year at 299 scholars. We are focused on getting to the budget goal of 223 or above. Some scholars are not returning due to families moving out of state or region. K. Ford also reported on staffing changes and new hires and interview process going forward. Summer PD planning is underway.

M. Snyder reported that the Boys' school needs 13 scholars to meet the budgeted enrollment goal. 252 is the high enrollment goal with a focus on K enrollment to fill the K classes. We heard about several open positions that exist in the school though several candidates are being interviewed in each of those areas. Ms. Winfrey is returning as AP, and Paul Stallings is leading summer recruitment and will be full time recruitment director for the Boys' school. Assistance and encouragement for teachers to attain or reattain their certification were discussed so we are not out of compliance. The committee spoke about strategies to retain teachers such as a paid mentor programs and a teacher fellow program along with transparency of salaries and salary scale.

The committee discussed how the enrollment coordinators will work both separately and together to leverage the strengths of each to benefit both schools. P. Stallings has begun in earnest to engage with prospective students where they live.

M. Snyder reported that the committee discussed the HVAC system that needs replacement and L. Licygiewicz will get more quotes and look into grants to assist with the costs.

L. Licygiewicz is looking into a 403(b) change into a plan that could have lower fees for participants.

The committee settled on August 19th at 4:00 for a followup to the June all staff/board meeting. This meeting will be in person and optional but encouraged for staff.

III. Other Business

A. Child Nutrition (Vote)

Z. Nelson made a motion to renew the five year contract with A'viands for dining services for the 2024-2025 school year.

T. Hanmer seconded the motion.

A'viands has been a positive partner and food service provider. Increased costs will be offset by increased reimbursements.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Z. Nelson made a motion to adjourn.

T. Hanmer seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Z. Nelson



Brighter Choice Charter Schools

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday August 8, 2024 at 9:30 AM

Location

BCCS-Girls 250 Central Ave., Albany, NY

Trustees Present

M. Snyder (remote), N. Clement, N. Velilla, T. Hanmer, Z. Nelson

Trustees Absent

C. Driggs

Guests Present

K. Ford, K. Mclean, L. Licygiewicz

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Snyder called a meeting of the board of trustees of Brighter Choice Charter Schools to order on Thursday Aug 8, 2024 at 9:43 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

N. Clement made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 07-11-24.

T. Hanmer seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Committee Reports

A. Governance Report

M. Snyder reported that the Governance committee discussed primarily enrollment for the upcoming school year and in particular the Boys' school with 194. The Girls' school is currently at 307. Some hires have been made.

Dean Lysenko from Marshall and Sterling presented to the board the options for savings if we switched the administrator of our 403B retirement plan. The board will review the proposal and will make a decision after consulting with the School leadership.

B. Finance Committee Report

M. Snyder reported that the Finance Committee discussed the closeout of last year's budget. There are numbers to be finalized but pending in a good direction. Overall the organization is running a net positive. Paul Augello will be in the school next week to plan scenarios for the upcoming school year should we need it. The week of September 16th will be the start of the audit using Cusak again.

C. Emergency Plan (Needs Vote)

T. Hanmer made a motion to approve our emergency plan as amended.

N. Velilla seconded the motion.

The document remains the same, except changes to the responsible parties listed at the end of the document.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Other Business

A. Executive Session

Z. Nelson made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss matters pertaining to personnel at the schools.

T. Hanmer seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

The board voted to exit executive session.

IV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Z. Nelson made a motion to adjourn.

T. Hanmer seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Z. Nelson



Brighter Choice Charter Schools

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Friday September 20, 2024 at 8:30 AM

Location

250 Central Ave. Albany, NY 12206

Trustees Present

C. Driggs, M. Snyder (remote), N. Velilla, T. Hanmer, Z. Nelson

Trustees Absent

N. Clement

Guests Present

K. Ford, K. Mclean, L. Licygiewicz, Paul Augello

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Snyder called a meeting of the board of trustees of Brighter Choice Charter Schools to order on Friday Sep 20, 2024 at 8:36 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

T. Hanmer made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 08-08-24.

C. Driggs seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Committee Reports

A. Retention Plan

The board has been discussing the schools' ability to initiate retention pay plan based on years of service to the school. Paul Augello reported on the budgetary feasibility of the proposed plan submitted by K. Ford, K. McLean and L. Licygiewicz. The board discussed this proposal and seeking the clearance from our auditors but will vote on it during another meeting.

Trudy Hanmer made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Zoe Nelson and all voted in favor.

Zoe Nelson made a motion to leave executive session, Colleen Driggs seconded. All in favor.

B. BCCSG Parent Email

Zoe Nelson made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss a matter involving a scholar and teacher. Colleen Driggs seconded the motion. All in favor.

Trudy made a motion to exit executive session, Nilsa seconded. All approved.

C. 403B

Luke reported that he spoke with our TPA about Vanguard and Mutual of America. He reported that the charges on account holders for Vanguard would be very similar between the two companies. The board discussed the perceived level of service for each of the plans and continuity for employees. The board will further discuss.

D. Governance Report

M.Snyder reported the the Governance committee met last week and the focus was on reports from the principals on enrollment and academic and staffing updates, and a presentation from Mutual of America.

NYS results have been released and the school had extremely strong showing over most grades as compared to state averages. The Girls' school has 322 scholars (as of today) with a few enrollments pending.

Karen McLean reported 237 (as of last week) scholars in Power School. As of today, K. McLean reported 239 scholars. We heard from Paul Stallings about the proposal for 3 and 4 year olds in the building for a K readiness program on 1 Saturday per month. The academic update focused on the state results on which we can only compare this year to

state averages (as of this report). There is a potential resignation in K at the Boys' school for varied personal reasons. There is an increase in ELL population in Kindergarten and other grades that the school is working to support. The ELL population has doubled over the past year. K. McLean is reading out to local colleges to see who may need an internship/clinical learning during ELL education.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

C. Driggs made a motion to adjourn.

T. Hanmer seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Z. Nelson



Brighter Choice Charter Schools

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday October 24, 2024 at 9:30 AM

Location

250 Central Ave. Albany, NY 12206

Trustees Present

M. Snyder (remote), N. Clement, N. Velilla, T. Hanmer, Z. Nelson

Trustees Absent

C. Driggs

Guests Present

K. Ford, K. Mclean, L. Licygiewicz

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Snyder called a meeting of the board of trustees of Brighter Choice Charter Schools to order on Thursday Oct 24, 2024 at 9:33 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

T. Hanmer made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 09-20-24.

N. Velilla seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Approve minutes

N. Velilla made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 10-12-23.

T. Hanmer seconded the motion.

Members who were official during the 10-23 meeting voted.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Report out

Martha Snyder reported that the Finance committee met in September. There are a few adjustments that will be made to update enrollment at the Boy's school, school contributions to the staff HSA, the draft audit, and retention bonus plan. Luke reported that there will be updates to the security cameras that will be \$20K capital expense. The committee discussed a possible transition to a 401K from a 403B (Noah did recuse himself because there could be a bid from his employer).

B. Governance Committee Report out

Martha reported on the Governance Committee meeting where the committee heard directly from Ken Claflin about the draft audit and the strong organization. Ken and the leadership team expressed mutual appreciation for the professionalism and collaboration during the process. The principals of each school reported on the current points of interest for their schools, including enrollment, staffing changes, interim assessments, special populations and special events. The Boy's school Kindergarten readiness Saturday program (Jump Start) has been successful so far with growing interest. This will be a program that continues forward with expansion considerations.

C. Approve Draft Audit Report (Vote)

Z. Nelson made a motion to approve the audit for the 2023-2024 school year.

T. Hanmer seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Vote on the draft email report

This item is a typo.

III. Other Business

A. Executive session

T. Hanmer made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss staff incentive bonus program.

N. Velilla seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Z. Nelson made a motion to exit executive session.

N. Clement seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

The board asked Luke and Paul to have an amended budget for the November (latest December) to vote on that includes HSA, 403B, merit, and incentive proposals. The board will look for dates for an all staff meeting sometime in December. The schools will look at 12/12/24 for the all staff meeting.

IV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

T. Hanmer made a motion to adjourn.

N. Clement seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Z. Nelson



Brighter Choice Charter Schools

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday November 14, 2024 at 9:30 AM

Location

250 Central Ave, Albany NY 12206

Trustees Present

C. Driggs, N. Clement, N. Velilla, Z. Nelson

Trustees Absent

M. Snyder, T. Hanmer

Guests Present

L. Licygiewicz

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Z. Nelson called a meeting of the board of trustees of Brighter Choice Charter Schools to order on Thursday Nov 14, 2024 at 10:02 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

N. Velilla made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 10-24-24.

N. Clement seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Governance Report Out- Martha

Zoe reported that the Governance committee discussed the school updates that included enrollment, staffing and the NYSED liaison visit to the schools. The committee discussed the revised budget after hearing from Paul Augello, and recommended the incentive plan and merit plan be voted on in the full board meeting. The revised budget also includes a school contribution to each staff member's Health Savings Account to help reduce the health care burden. Luke reported on the reviewed bids from HVAC contractors to replace the system at the Boys' school as well as the recommendation to go with Mutual of America as our new 403B administrator.

E. Revised Budget- Vote

N. Velilla made a motion to adopt the revised Fiscal '25 budget.

C. Driggs seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Incentive Plan- Vote

C. Driggs made a motion to adopt the incentive plan for teacher and staff retention and merit pay over 3 years.

N. Velilla seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

G. HVAC- Vote

N. Clement made a motion to accept the bid from Carrier to replace the Boys' school HVAC system. This will be a capitalized expense.

N. Velilla seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

H. 403b Plan- Vote

N. Velilla made a motion to accept the proposal from Mutual of America to administer the schools' 403B retirement plan.

C. Driggs seconded the motion.

Noah Clement abstained from the vote citing a conflict of interest.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Z. Nelson made a motion to adjourn.

N. Clement seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Z. Nelson



Brighter Choice Charter Schools

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday December 12, 2024 at 9:30 AM

Location

250 Central Ave. Albany, NY 12206

Trustees Present

M. Snyder, N. Clement, N. Velilla, T. Hanmer, Z. Nelson

Trustees Absent

C. Driggs

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Snyder called a meeting of the board of trustees of Brighter Choice Charter Schools to order on Thursday Dec 12, 2024 at 9:25 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

N. Velilla made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 11-14-24.

N. Clement seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee Report out

B. Governance Committee Report out

Martha Snyder reported that we met this morning. Major highlights include enrollment, renewal, and celebrated data from NYS assessments at each school. The committee discussed trends and future plans to increase the effectiveness of initiatives already underway. One question for the Boys' school is whether to do a material change for enrollment to ensure compliance.

The Girls' school celebrated their testing performance as well, and renewal preparation. Martha reported that the committee discussed the all staff meeting scheduled for this afternoon which will include compensation and benefits discussion as relates to the budget.

C. Merit pay- Vote

Per discussion during the Governance committee, the schools have accrued \$239,989 to spread across the teachers and staff. The principals have discretion to allocate the funds and the payments will be in the 12/20/24 paychecks.

T. Hanmer made a motion to approve the merit payment to staff totaling \$239,989.

Z. Nelson seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Z. Nelson

APPROVED



Brighter Choice Charter Schools

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday January 14, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Location

250 Central Ave., Albany, NY

Trustees Present

C. Driggs, M. Snyder (remote), N. Clement, T. Hanmer, Z. Nelson

Trustees Absent

N. Velilla

Guests Present

K. Ford, K. Mclean, L. Licygiewicz

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Snyder called a meeting of the board of trustees of Brighton Choice Charter Schools to order on Tuesday Jan 14, 2025 at 8:44 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

T. Hanmer made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 12-12-24.

N. Clement seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Committee Reports

A. Governance Committee Report out

Z. Nelson reported on the Governance meeting from 1/9/25. The committee discussed enrollment and interim assessment data as well as staffing updates. Teacher mid-year formal observations will begin this month. Mutual of America will support staff on their retirement plans and trustee, Noah Clement, will also attend. The board considered new times for board meetings to occur a couple of times a year for staff to be able to attend.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

C. Driggs made a motion to adjourn.

N. Clement seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Z. Nelson



Brighter Choice Charter Schools

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Friday February 28, 2025 at 8:30 AM

Location

250 Central Ave. Albany, NY

Trustees Present

C. Driggs, M. Snyder (remote), N. Velilla, T. Hanmer, Z. Nelson

Trustees Absent

N. Clement

Guests Present

K. Ford, K. Mclean, L. Licygiewicz

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Snyder called a meeting of the board of trustees of Brighter Choice Charter Schools to order on Friday Feb 28, 2025 at 8:30 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

N. Velilla made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 01-14-25.

T. Hanmer seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Committee Reports

A. Governance Committee Report out

Martha reported that the two school principals gave their monthly report, as provided in advance with standard data. This included enrollment data reflecting some movement of students in and out of schools as well as specials populations. The committee heard an update on interim assessments given to scholars and staffing updates and needs.

Discussion of an activity to honor Ms. Frasier, parent coordinator, who unexpectedly passed away. K. Ford described iReady results reflecting improvement in proficiency in both ELA and math, making progress toward our goals. K. Ford reported on the search for teaching fellows. M. Snyder reported on similar metrics, enrollment, special populations, iReady and STEP (wrapping up), searched for teaching fellows to address staffing, in particular for grades 3 and 4. The principals reported on the engagement activities of the recruitment director to increase enrollment for the coming year. Jump Start program is going strong with 13 potential scholars for next Kindergarten year. Pre-enrollment packets were delivered to families.

B. Finance Committee Report Out

M. Snyder reported on the finance committee meeting from January. Paul Augello reported on the updated financials. January close out reflects the schools running safely ahead of budgeted numbers. Health care premiums would increase next year barring changes. Luke L. is reviewing potential changes to the health plan with staff inputs. Mutual of America visited the schools to assist in retirement account enrollment for staff. The transition is complete. M of A will come back to the building to meet with staff to make sure they are supporting staff.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

T. Hanmer made a motion to adjourn.

N. Velilla seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Z. Nelson



Brighter Choice Charter Schools

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday March 13, 2025 at 8:30 AM

Location

250 Central Ave, Albany, NY

Trustees Present

C. Driggs, M. Snyder (remote), N. Clement, N. Velilla, T. Hanmer, Z. Nelson

Trustees Absent

None

Guests Present

K. Ford, K. Mclean, L. Licygiewicz

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Snyder called a meeting of the board of trustees of Brighter Choice Charter Schools to order on Thursday Mar 13, 2025 at 8:35 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

N. Velilla made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 02-28-25.

C. Driggs seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Committee Reports

A. Governance Committee Report out

Martha Snyder reported on the Governance

Discussions around teacher compensation and staffing structure, health care, and retirement will be scheduled for the coming months. The committee heard from the school leaders regarding examples of compensation philosophies and documentation. A work group will be created and discussed the possibility of hiring a consultant (cost dependent) to support this goal. Focus group activities will engage staff and faculty. A communications plan will be constructed to make sure the school communities are aware of the work group actions and decisions.

Regarding health plans, Luke is continuing to work with our vender and the board will engage with faculty and staff as we consider changes.

The principals reported on enrollment and activities for current and next year. The boys school has 20 enrollees in K for next year, 14 of whom are from Jump Start program. Digital re-enrollment is beginning. No changes to specials populations. NYSED visit will be on 3/27. Recruitment campaigns are taking place. Karen reported on activities for the month.

Kristina reported on enrollment currently and new applications for next year. 41 new applications including 25 new apps for Kindergarten. Specials populations remain consistent, NYSED visit March 25. K. Ford updated the board on a disciplinary issue with a scholar as well as activities for the month.

Martha reported that the committee discussed potential opportunities around development and fundraising.

B. Approve '25-'26 School Calendar

T. Hanmer made a motion to Approve the '25-'26 calendar.

N. Clement seconded the motion.

Built off of the Albany City School calendar. This is built upon 188 school days with 3 snow days. First day of school September 2, and last day of school June 26 unless no snow days are used. Remote is a consideration if more than 3 snow days.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

C. Driggs made a motion to adjourn.

T. Hanmer seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Z. Nelson



Brighter Choice Charter Schools

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday April 24, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Location

250 Central Ave. Albany, NY

Trustees Present

M. Snyder, N. Clement, N. Velilla, Z. Nelson

Trustees Absent

C. Driggs, T. Hanmer

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Snyder called a meeting of the board of trustees of Brighter Choice Charter Schools to order on Thursday Apr 24, 2025 at 10:23 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

N. Velilla made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 03-13-25.

N. Clement seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Committee Reports

A. Governance Committee Report out

The committee heard from the our health insurance broker from Marshall and Sterling regarding the options for health insurance that faculty and staff could choose from next year if we decide to offer new plan structures and options. The committee heard from the principals about current enrollment and enrollment for the coming year, specials populations, teacher recruitment and retention as well as departures. The committee continues to discuss options to increase teacher recruitment and retention as it is critical to the success of the schools to have qualified and committed teachers. The principals reported on interim assessment data as well as events for the coming month.

The committee heard about options to engage a firm to do a compensation study to inform what the board and school leaders may be able to do to increase staff satisfaction with compensation packages- all in service of keeping high quality teachers in the classroom. Finally, the committee heard from Luke regarding the schools' insurance premiums increasing this year and whether there are options to consider in order to mitigate the increase while maintaining appropriate coverage.

B. Finance Committee Report Out

Martha reported that at the finance committee discussed similar topics, including health insurance costs and plans and how they impact our 25-26 budget. The compensation study, if we proceed with one, will inform budgetary discussions for the coming year. Also discussed was the increase in finance committee meeting frequency to address the issues raised, specifically regarding compensation. Luke reported that the 5500s were filed and will have to be amended when the audit report for the retirement plan is complete.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

N. Velilla made a motion to adjourn.

N. Clement seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Z. Nelson



Brighter Choice Charter Schools

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday May 15, 2025 at 8:30 AM

Trustees Present

C. Driggs, M. Snyder (remote), N. Clement, T. Hanmer, Z. Nelson

Trustees Absent

N. Velilla

Guests Present

K. Ford, K. Mclean, L. Licygiewicz

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Snyder called a meeting of the board of trustees of Brighter Choice Charter Schools to order on Thursday May 15, 2025 at 8:34 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

C. Driggs made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 04-24-25.

T. Hanmer seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Committee Reports

A. Governance Committee Report out

The Governance committee met last week and received reports from both elementary schools focused on enrollment for the current school year and next school year. Both schools are trending in positive directions for next year. There is a busy May activities calendar. The committee discussed health insurance and will move ahead with at least 2 options for staff that have the most support.

Luke reported an update from our broker that we are able to offer all 3 plans if they have support from staff. Leadership feels it will be a good move forward and Paul Augello will budget the same health insurance costs for next year.

Luke discussed data from other groups charging premiums and BCCS remains lower than most.

The board is supportive of moving forward with 2 or 3 plans and appreciates Luke's work in getting the schools these options.

The committee heard from 2 consultants regarding compensation study proposals. The board discussed moving forward and heard references from Edgility. The board regarded Edgility as the best option to engage.

The committee discussed the roles and responsibilities of enrollment coordinators and a subset of the board will convene with the school leaders to continue the conversation.

B. Finance Committee Report Out

It was reported that the committee discussed health insurance update due to the financial impact. The committee also discussed the roles and responsibilities of the enrollment coordinators across the schools. Formal budgetary planning discussions for next year have begun in earnest and budget will be passed by the June 30 deadline.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Z. Nelson made a motion to adjourn.

N. Clement seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Z. Nelson



Brighter Choice Charter Schools

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday June 12, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Location

250 Central Ave., Albany, NY

Trustees Present

C. Driggs, M. Snyder (remote), T. Hanmer, Z. Nelson

Trustees Absent

N. Clement, N. Velilla

Guests Present

K. Ford, K. Mclean, L. Licygiewicz

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Snyder called a meeting of the board of trustees of Brighter Choice Charter Schools to order on Thursday Jun 12, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

C. Approve Minutes

T. Hanmer made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 05-15-25.

C. Driggs seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Committee Reports

A. Governance Committee Report out

Governance committee met this morning and discussed several items, including a visit from Shawn Berger to inform the board of our insurance coverage. No changes were made today, but the board will consider changes to lower premiums.

Karen McLean and Kristina Ford reported on enrollment for this and next year and both schools are trending strong especially compared to past year trends. Staffing was discussed and issues are aligned with the discussions the board has had about teacher recruitment and retention. Lots of end of year activities and celebrations for each school. K. Ford reported great growth for scholars academically this year.

B. SY 25-26 budget

Z. Nelson made a motion to adopt the budget for the 25-26 school year.

T. Hanmer seconded the motion.

Paul presented the budget that represents the staffing structure that will support the scholars at the schools and assures we remain in compliance with state and bond regulations.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

C. BCCSG Admissions Policy- Vote

T. Hanmer made a motion to approve the amendment to the BCCS Girls admissions policy.

C. Driggs seconded the motion.

The admissions policy will add a header "backfill" and that the school will hold a lottery for each school in accordance with the law.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. BCCSB Admissions Policy- Vote

C. Driggs made a motion to approve the amendment to the BCCS Boys admissions policy.

T. Hanmer seconded the motion.

The admissions policy will add a header "backfill" and that the school will hold a lottery for each school in accordance with the law.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Child Nutrition- Vote

It was determined that we don't need a vote but the schools will go forward with A'Viands for a 3rd year for food service.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

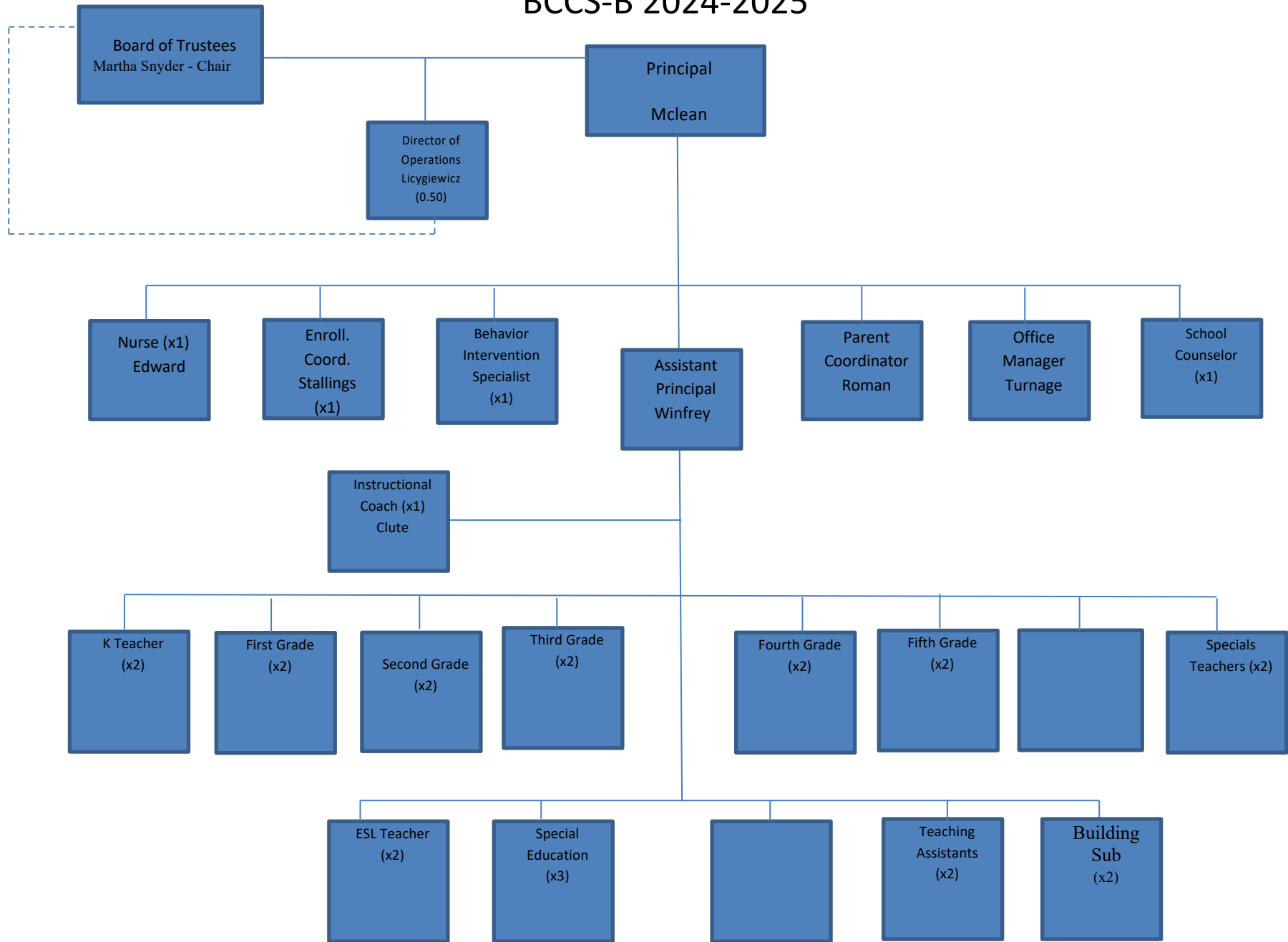
Z. Nelson

C. Driggs made a motion to adjourn.

T. Hanmer seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

BCCS-B 2024-2025



Brighter Choice 2025-26 School Calendar

14-15 New Staff Report 18- All Staff Report 28 +29 K camp Aug- 2 Instructional Days 8 Hours	<table><tr><th colspan="7">August 2025</th></tr><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr></table>	August 2025							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	<table><tr><th colspan="7">SEPTEMBER 2025</th></tr><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td>31</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> 1- No School Labor Day 2- First Day of School; Beginning of Trimester 1 Sept- 21 Instructional Days 156 Hours	SEPTEMBER 2025							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
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TBD Emergency EARLY RELEASE 13 No School – Indigenous Peoples' Day Oct- 22 Instructional Days 161 Hours	<table><tr><th colspan="7">OCTOBER 2025</th></tr><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	OCTOBER 2025							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	<table><tr><th colspan="7">NOVEMBER 2025</th></tr><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr><tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> 11 No School – Veteran's Day 26-28 No School – Thanksgiving Break 28- End of Trimester 1 Nov- 16 Instructional Days 119 Hours	NOVEMBER 2025							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
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3-10 No School – Spring Break April- 16 Instructional Days 122 Hours	<table><tr><th colspan="7">APRIL 2026</th></tr><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr></table>	APRIL 2026							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	<table><tr><th colspan="7">MAY 2026</th></tr><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> 25 No School- Memorial Day May- 20 Instructional Days 145 Hours	MAY 2026							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
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Scholar Days: 188
Teacher Days: 198
District Days: 180

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2025

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS

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CUSACK & COMPANY
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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

MEMBERS OF:
NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Trustees
Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools
Albany, New York

Report on the Audit of Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools (the Schools) (nonprofit organizations), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2025, and the related statements of activities, cash flows and functional expenses for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Schools as of June 30, 2025, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Schools and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Schools' ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Schools' internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Schools' ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplementary Information

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of

management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 23, 2025, on our consideration of the Schools' internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Schools' internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Schools' internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cusack & Company, CPA's LLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CUSACK & COMPANY, CPA'S LLC

Latham, New York
October 23, 2025

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2025

	<u>ASSETS</u>			
	<u>Girls School</u>	<u>Boys School</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
Current Assets				
Cash	\$ 7,814,449	\$ 3,279,116	\$ -	\$ 11,093,565
Contracts and Grants				
Receivable, Net	440,021	208,686	-	648,707
Due from Related School	50,825	-	(50,825)	-
Total Current Assets	<u>8,305,295</u>	<u>3,487,802</u>	<u>(50,825)</u>	<u>11,742,272</u>
Property and Equipment, Net	<u>4,391,535</u>	<u>4,571,223</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,962,758</u>
Other Assets				
Cash, Restricted	112,506	112,506	-	225,012
Bond Trust Accounts,				
Restricted	903,852	903,852	-	1,807,704
Total Other Assets	<u>1,016,358</u>	<u>1,016,358</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,032,716</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 13,713,188</u>	<u>\$ 9,075,383</u>	<u>\$ (50,825)</u>	<u>\$ 22,737,746</u>

	<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>			
Current Liabilities				
Current Portion of Mortgage				
Payable	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ -	\$ 700,000
Accounts Payable and				
Accrued Expenses	183,331	236,645	-	419,976
Accrued Payroll and				
Benefits	391,928	326,659	-	718,587
Due to Related School	-	50,825	(50,825)	-
Total Current Liabilities	<u>925,259</u>	<u>964,129</u>	<u>(50,825)</u>	<u>1,838,563</u>
Long-Term Liabilities				
Mortgage Payable	<u>5,006,813</u>	<u>5,006,813</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,013,626</u>
Net Assets Without Donor				
Restrictions	<u>7,781,116</u>	<u>3,104,441</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,885,557</u>
Total Liabilities and Net				
Assets	<u>\$ 13,713,188</u>	<u>\$ 9,075,383</u>	<u>\$ (50,825)</u>	<u>\$ 22,737,746</u>

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	<u>Girls School</u>	<u>Boys School</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenue and Grants			
Public School District			
Resident Student Enrollment	\$ 5,512,329	\$ 4,140,842	\$ 9,653,171
Special Education Services	82,936	68,829	151,765
Grants and Contracts			
Federal - Child Nutrition Program	404,998	309,013	714,011
Federal - Title I, II, IV	172,696	152,610	325,306
Federal - Employee Retention Credits	257,160	-	257,160
Other	<u>21,991</u>	<u>47,124</u>	<u>69,115</u>
Total Revenue and Grants	<u>6,452,110</u>	<u>4,718,418</u>	<u>11,170,528</u>
Expenses			
Program Services			
Regular Education	3,790,630	2,966,674	6,757,304
Special Education	236,238	355,807	592,045
Other Programs	<u>570,482</u>	<u>398,094</u>	<u>968,576</u>
Total Program Services	4,597,350	3,720,575	8,317,925
Management and General	<u>773,373</u>	<u>910,844</u>	<u>1,684,217</u>
Total Expenses	5,370,723	4,631,419	10,002,142
Surplus from School Operations	<u>1,081,387</u>	<u>86,999</u>	<u>1,168,386</u>
Other Revenue			
Fundraising and Contributions	7,548	5,324	12,872
Interest Income	341,067	195,652	536,719
Other Income	<u>978</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>978</u>
Total Other Revenue	<u>349,593</u>	<u>200,976</u>	<u>550,569</u>
Change in Net Assets	1,430,980	287,975	1,718,955
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions, Beginning of Year	<u>6,350,136</u>	<u>2,816,466</u>	<u>9,166,602</u>
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions, End of Year	<u>\$ 7,781,116</u>	<u>\$ 3,104,441</u>	<u>\$ 10,885,557</u>

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLSSTATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	<u>Girls School</u>	<u>Boys School</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:			
Change in Net Assets	\$ 1,430,980	\$ 287,975	\$ 1,718,955
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities			
Depreciation	293,920	303,343	597,263
Amortization of Deferred Financing Costs	24,059	24,059	48,118
Amortization of Mortgage Premium	(62,426)	(62,426)	(124,852)
Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities			
Increase in Assets			
Contracts and Grants Receivable	392,754	428,699	821,453
Prepaid Expenses	27,138	22,345	49,483
Increase (Decrease) in Liabilities			
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	(15,335)	(17,593)	(32,928)
Accrued Payroll and Benefits	<u>16,751</u>	<u>(15,399)</u>	<u>1,352</u>
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities	<u>2,107,841</u>	<u>971,003</u>	<u>3,078,844</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Due from Related Schools	165,217	-	165,217
Purchase of Property and Equipment	<u>(32,324)</u>	<u>(162,746)</u>	<u>(195,070)</u>
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Investing Activities	<u>132,893</u>	<u>(162,746)</u>	<u>(29,853)</u>
Cash Flows From Financing Activities			
Payments on Mortgage Payable	(340,000)	(340,000)	(680,000)
Net Change from Trust Accounts	(130,309)	(130,309)	(260,618)
Due to Related Schools	<u>-</u>	<u>(165,217)</u>	<u>(165,217)</u>
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Financing Activities	<u>(470,309)</u>	<u>(635,526)</u>	<u>(1,105,835)</u>
Change in Cash	1,770,425	172,731	1,943,156
Cash, Beginning of Year	<u>6,156,530</u>	<u>3,218,891</u>	<u>9,375,421</u>
Cash, End of Year	<u>\$ 7,926,955</u>	<u>\$ 3,391,622</u>	<u>\$ 11,318,577</u>
Cash, End of Year Consists of:			
Cash	\$ 7,814,449	\$ 3,279,116	\$ 11,093,565
Cash, Restricted	<u>112,506</u>	<u>112,506</u>	<u>225,012</u>
	<u>\$ 7,926,955</u>	<u>\$ 3,391,622</u>	<u>\$ 11,318,577</u>
Supplementary Cash Flow Information			
Cash Paid During the Year for Interest	<u>\$ 197,769</u>	<u>\$ 197,769</u>	<u>\$ 395,538</u>

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS*STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES - GIRLS SCHOOL**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 (WITH COMPARATIVE TOTAL FOR 2024)*

	<u>Regular Education</u>	<u>Special Education</u>	<u>Other Programs</u>	<u>Management and General</u>	<u>Total 2025</u>	<u>Total 2024</u>
Administrative Staff						
Personnel	\$ 235,266	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 409,508	\$ 644,774	\$ 539,455
Instructional Personnel	1,746,551	134,232	-	-	1,880,783	1,908,233
Non-Instructional Personnel	-	-	117,590	-	117,590	163,551
Total Salaries and Staff	1,981,817	134,232	117,590	409,508	2,643,147	2,611,239
Fringe Benefits and Payroll						
Taxes	396,607	26,863	23,532	81,952	528,954	594,139
Retirement	96,768	6,554	5,742	19,996	129,060	112,216
Legal Services	-	-	-	450	450	-
Accounting and Audit						
Services	66,482	4,503	3,945	13,737	88,667	77,222
Other Purchased, Professional and Consulting						
Services	64,945	4,399	3,853	13,420	86,617	93,193
Facility Interest Expense	117,448	7,955	6,969	24,268	156,640	165,316
Repairs and Maintenance	219,148	14,843	13,003	45,283	292,277	250,550
Insurance	45,587	3,088	2,705	9,420	60,800	56,145
Utilities	79,655	5,395	4,726	16,460	106,236	121,692
Supplies and Materials	33,008	2,236	1,959	6,821	44,024	49,922
Staff Development	18,651	1,263	1,107	3,854	24,875	21,569
Marketing and Recruitment	-	-	-	52,221	52,221	40,615
Technology	83,559	5,660	4,958	17,266	111,443	106,632
Food Service	-	-	363,533	-	363,533	411,589
Student Services	302,795	-	-	-	302,795	348,809
Office Expenses	55,699	3,773	3,305	11,509	74,286	67,763
Depreciation	220,380	14,927	13,076	45,538	293,921	289,580
Other	8,081	547	479	1,670	10,777	3,876
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 3,790,630</u>	<u>\$ 236,238</u>	<u>\$ 570,482</u>	<u>\$ 773,373</u>	<u>\$ 5,370,723</u>	<u>\$ 5,422,067</u>

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS**STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES - BOYS SCHOOL****FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 (WITH COMPARATIVE TOTAL FOR 2024)**

	<u>Regular Education</u>	<u>Special Education</u>	<u>Other Programs</u>	<u>Management and General</u>	<u>Total 2025</u>	<u>Total 2024</u>
Administrative Staff						
Personnel	\$ 170,903	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 451,620	\$ 622,523	\$ 709,905
Instructional Personnel	1,235,547	188,716	-	-	1,424,263	1,608,486
Non-Instructional Personnel	-	-	64,045	-	64,045	122,613
Total Salaries and Staff	<u>1,406,450</u>	<u>188,716</u>	<u>64,045</u>	<u>451,620</u>	<u>2,110,831</u>	<u>2,441,004</u>
Fringe Benefits and Payroll						
Taxes	281,780	37,809	12,831	90,482	422,902	496,285
Retirement	64,883	8,706	2,955	20,834	97,378	108,798
Accounting and Audit						
Services	66,001	8,856	3,005	21,193	99,055	94,919
Other Purchased, Professional and Consulting						
Services	110,511	14,828	5,032	35,487	165,858	164,729
Facility Interest Expense	104,369	14,004	4,753	33,514	156,640	165,317
Repairs and Maintenance	178,246	23,917	8,117	57,236	267,516	271,847
Insurance	40,510	5,436	1,845	13,008	60,799	56,145
Utilities	65,260	8,757	2,972	20,955	97,944	109,216
Supplies and Materials	36,259	4,865	1,651	11,643	54,418	68,579
Staff Development	12,240	1,642	557	3,931	18,370	19,260
Marketing and Recruitment	-	-	-	59,354	59,354	59,923
Technology	38,434	5,157	1,750	12,342	57,683	49,936
Food Service	-	-	277,343	-	277,343	319,977
Student Services	314,943	-	-	-	314,943	361,197
Office Expenses	41,557	5,576	1,892	13,345	62,370	61,530
Depreciation	202,118	27,120	9,204	64,901	303,343	309,545
Other	<u>3,113</u>	<u>418</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>999</u>	<u>4,672</u>	<u>8,268</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 2,966,674</u>	<u>\$ 355,807</u>	<u>\$ 398,094</u>	<u>\$ 910,844</u>	<u>\$ 4,631,419</u>	<u>\$ 5,166,475</u>

1. ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE

Organization

Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls (the Girls School) and Boys (the Boys School) are not-for-profit corporations formed in 2001 in order to build and operate charter schools in the City of Albany, New York (the “City”). The Brighter Choice Charter Schools for Girls and Boys (the “Schools”) were established to provide a quality educational alternative for at-risk elementary students in the City. Effective July 1, 2016, Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys was merged with and into Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls, with Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls being renamed Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools.

Each charter school, authorized by Article 56 of the New York State Charter Schools Act of 1998, is an independent public school and, in accordance with their charter and bylaws, each school has a Board of Trustees and is an independent, discreet operating entity.

The Schools provide a broad and rigorous liberal arts education, including instruction on phonics-based reading, traditional mathematics, science, visual and performing arts, American and world history, and physical education. Students benefit from a longer school day and school year, which will provide them with an equivalent of two years of academic instruction over each of their elementary years.

The New York State Education Department has issued the Schools a five-year charter valid until June 30, 2026. During the year ended June 30, 2025, the Girls School had enrollment of approximately 318 students (322 students, June 30, 2024) and the Boys School had enrollment of approximately 238 students (242 students, June 30, 2024) serving kindergarten through 5th grade.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting Policies and Financial Statement Presentation

The following summarizes the significant accounting policies consistently applied in the preparation of the Schools’ financial statements, with reference to the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) where applicable.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, whereby revenue is recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred. This basis of accounting is in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)*Allowance of Doubtful Accounts*

Contacts and grants receivable are carried at original invoice amount less an estimate made for doubtful receivables based on a review of all outstanding amounts on a monthly basis. Management determines the allowance for doubtful accounts by identifying troubled accounts and by using historical experience applied to an aging of accounts. Contracts and grants receivable are written off when deemed uncollectible. Recoveries of accounts previously written off are recorded when received. A receivable is considered past due if any portion of the receivable balance is outstanding for more than 90 days. Interest is not charged on outstanding accounts receivable. The allowance for doubtful accounts was \$10,212 for the Girls School and \$39,824 for the Boys School at June 30, 2025.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost, net of accumulated depreciation. Donations of property and equipment are recorded as support at their estimated fair values on the date of donation. Expenditures for acquisitions, renewals, and betterments are capitalized, whereas maintenance and repair costs are expensed as incurred. When equipment is retired or otherwise disposed of, the appropriate accounts are relieved of costs and accumulated depreciation, and any resultant gain or loss is credited or charged to the change in net assets.

Long-lived assets to be held and used are tested for recoverability whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the related carrying amount may not be recoverable.

Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives of 40 years for buildings and improvements and 3-10 years for furniture and equipment.

Net Assets

The financial statements report net assets and changes in net assets in two classes that are based upon the existence or absence of restrictions on use that are placed by its donors, as follows:

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions

Net assets without donor restrictions are resources available to support operations. The only limits on the use of net assets without donor restrictions are the broad limits resulting from the nature of the Schools.

Net Assets With Donor Restrictions

Purpose restricted net assets are resources that are restricted by a donor for use for a particular purpose or in a particular future period.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)Net Assets With Donor Restrictions (Continued)

When a donor's restriction is satisfied, either by using the resources in the manner specified by the donor or by the passage of time, the expiration of the restriction is reported in the financial statements by reclassifying the net assets from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions. The Schools have no purpose restricted net assets at June 30, 2025.

Perpetually restricted net assets are resources whose use by the Schools are limited by donor-imposed restrictions that neither expire by being used in accordance with a donor's restriction nor by the passage of time. The Schools have no perpetually restricted net assets at June 30, 2025.

Recognition of Income

Revenue from contracts with customers is recognized in accordance with a five-step model as follows:

- Identify the contract with the customer
- Identify the performance obligation(s) in the contract
- Determine the transaction price
- Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligation(s) in the contract
- Recognize revenue when earned or as performance obligation(s) are satisfied

Contract Assets

Amounts related to services provided to customers which have not been billed and that do not meet the conditions of an unconditional right to payment at the end of the reporting period are contract assets. Contract asset balances consist primarily of services provided to customers who are still receiving services at the end of the year. There were no contract assets at June 30, 2025.

Contract Liabilities

Contract liabilities represent revenue that has been deferred for the funds advanced by third party payors for the Schools' contracts received related to services that have not yet been provided to customers. Contract liabilities consist of payments made by funding and other sources for the Schools' contracts for services not yet performed that are expected to be performed within the next fiscal year. There were no contract liabilities for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Public School District Fees

A substantial portion of the Schools' revenue and related receivables are derived from its arrangement with the local School Districts, which reimburse the Schools based on per capital enrollment. These revenues are recognized ratably over the related school year during which they are earned.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Grants and Contracts

Revenue from other governmental sources generally represents various entitlements and is recognized as earned when allowable expenditures are incurred.

Contributions

Contributions received are recorded as with or without donor restrictions depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor-imposed restrictions.

Allocation of Expenses

Directly identifiable expenses are charged to program and supporting services. Expenses related to more than one function are charged to program and supporting services using specific allocation methods. Management and general expenses include those expenses that are not directly identifiable with any other specific function but provide for the overall support and direction of the Schools.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes

The Accounting Standards Codification requires entities to disclose in their financial statements the nature of any uncertainty in their tax position. The Schools have not recognized any benefits or liabilities from uncertain tax positions in 2025 and believes they have no uncertain tax positions for which it is reasonably possible that will significantly increase or decrease net assets. Generally, federal and state authorities may examine the Schools' tax returns for three years from the date of filing; consequently, income returns for years prior to 2022 are no longer subject to examination by tax authorities.

Income Taxes

The Schools are exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and the Schools are exempt from state income tax. The Schools have been classified as a publicly-supported organization that is not a private foundation under Section 509(a) of the Code.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)*Fair Value*

The Accounting Standards Codification requires expanded disclosures about fair value measurements and establishes a three-level hierarchy for fair value measurements based on the observable inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability at the measurement date. Fair value is defined as the price that the Schools would receive upon selling an asset or pay to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. It prioritizes the inputs to the valuation techniques used to measure fair value by giving the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to measurements involving significant unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements).

The following methods and assumptions were used to estimate the fair value of each class of financial instrument for which it is practicable to estimate that value:

Cash, contracts and grants receivable, accounts payable and accrued expenses - The carrying amounts approximate fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments.

Property and equipment - No attempt has been made to determine the fair value of property and equipment.

Mortgage payable - The fair value of the mortgage payable is estimated based on current rates offered to the Schools for debt of the same remaining maturity. At June 30, 2025, the fair value of the mortgage payable approximates the amount recorded in the financial statements.

Subsequent Events

The Schools have evaluated subsequent events or transactions as to any potential material impact on operations or financial position that existed at the date of the financial statements through October 23, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. No such events or transactions were noted.

3. CASH, RESTRICTED

As part of the charter agreement, charter schools agree to establish an escrow account of no less than a set dollar amount as determined by the New York State Education Department (“NYSED”). This amount is established to pay for legal and audit expenses that would be associated with a dissolution should it occur. Each school has established an interest-bearing escrow account for \$100,000 as required by the NYSED.

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS*NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**JUNE 30, 2025*

4. BOND TRUST ACCOUNTS - RESTRICTED

The Schools have entered into a custody agreement with Wilmington Trust Company as Custodian and as Trustee. Debt service reserve represents funds held by Wilmington Trust Company in the name of the Schools. The Schools will direct educational aid payments to be deposited with the Custodian. The Custodian will pay the Trustee, for deposit in the Debt Service Fund, an amount equal to a proportionate share of the next interest and principal payment on the Bonds for which funds have not already been provided. Any funds remaining with the Custodian following such transfers will be transferred to the Schools.

In connection with the mortgage with the City of Albany Industrial Development Agency (IDA), the Schools are required to maintain bond trust accounts which are administered by Wilmington Trust Company. The underlying investments in the bond trust accounts at June 30, 2025 consist of money market funds.

Bond trust accounts consist of the following:

	<u>Girls School</u>	<u>Boys School</u>	<u>Total</u>
Reserve Fund	\$ 542,527	\$ 542,527	\$ 1,085,054
Bond Fund	310,980	310,980	621,960
Repair and Replacement Fund	<u>50,345</u>	<u>50,345</u>	<u>100,690</u>
	<u><u>\$ 903,852</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 903,852</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,807,704</u></u>

The Schools have entered into a collateral agreement for bond trust accounts not covered under federal deposit insurance. Cash is fully insured and collateralized under the bond trust accounts as of June 30, 2025.

5. CONTRACTS AND GRANTS RECEIVABLE, NET

Contracts and grants receivable, net consists of the following:

	<u>Girls School</u>	<u>Boys School</u>	<u>Total</u>
Due from Other Districts	\$ 208,905	\$ 125,440	\$ 334,345
Grant Receivable	241,328	123,070	364,398
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	<u>(10,212)</u>	<u>(39,824)</u>	<u>(50,036)</u>
Contracts and Grants Receivable, Net	<u><u>\$ 440,021</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 208,686</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 648,707</u></u>

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS*NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)*

JUNE 30, 2025

6. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET

Property and equipment consists of the following:

	<u>Girls School</u>	<u>Boys School</u>	<u>Total</u>
Land	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 220,000
Building and Improvements	7,850,235	8,217,755	16,067,990
Furniture and Equipment	<u>1,074,575</u>	<u>997,029</u>	<u>2,071,604</u>
Total at Cost	9,034,810	9,324,784	18,359,594
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(4,643,275)</u>	<u>(4,753,561)</u>	<u>(9,396,836)</u>
Property and Equipment, Net	<u><u>\$ 4,391,535</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 4,571,223</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 8,962,758</u></u>

Depreciation expense was \$293,920 and \$303,343 for the Girls and Boys School, respectively, for the year ended June 30, 2025.

7. MORTGAGE PAYABLE

The Schools' facilities are jointly owned by the two Schools. The facilities were acquired through financing provided by the IDA in March 2008. The IDA issued taxable and tax-exempt Civic Facility Revenue Bonds totaling \$18,490,000 to acquire and renovate the facilities of the two Schools. The Schools acquired the facilities from the IDA through an installment sale agreement which provides for the Schools to make installment purchase payments in amounts sufficient to pay the principal and interest on the bonds when due. Under the installment sale agreement, each School is jointly and severally obligated to make the installment purchase payments. The installment sale agreement is collateralized by a first mortgage lien and security interest in the land, buildings and equipment of the Schools' facilities. The interest rate was 3.6% for both the years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024.

At June 30, 2025, Mortgage Payable consisted of the following:

	<u>Girls School</u>	<u>Boys School</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Mortgage Payable	\$ 5,095,000	\$ 5,095,000	\$ 10,190,000
Current Portion of Mortgage Payable	(350,000)	(350,000)	(700,000)
Unamortized Premiums	425,991	425,991	851,982
Unamortized Financing Costs	<u>(164,178)</u>	<u>(164,178)</u>	<u>(328,356)</u>
Long-Term Mortgage Payable	<u><u>\$ 5,006,813</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,006,813</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 10,013,626</u></u>

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS*NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)*

JUNE 30, 2025

7. MORTGAGE PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

The following is a summary of maturing debt service requirements:

	<u>Girls School</u>	<u>Boys School</u>	<u>Total</u>
2026	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 700,000
2027	362,500	362,500	725,000
2028	372,500	372,500	745,000
2029	385,000	385,000	770,000
2030	397,500	397,500	795,000
Thereafter	<u>3,227,500</u>	<u>3,227,500</u>	<u>6,455,000</u>
	<u>\$ 5,095,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,095,000</u>	<u>\$ 10,190,000</u>

Total interest expense was \$156,640 and \$156,640 for the Girls and Boys School, respectively, for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Net deferred financing costs consist of bond closing costs incurred in connection with the refunding of the tax-exempt and taxable Civic Facility Revenue Bonds issued by the IDA. Bond closing costs are being amortized using the interest rate method over the term of the obligation. Net deferred financing costs consist of the following:

	<u>Girls School</u>	<u>Boys School</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bond Closing Costs	\$ 280,631	\$ 280,630	\$ 561,261
Less: Accumulated Amortization	<u>(116,453)</u>	<u>(116,452)</u>	<u>(232,905)</u>
Net Deferred Financing Costs	<u>\$ 164,178</u>	<u>\$ 164,178</u>	<u>\$ 328,356</u>
Amortization Expense	<u>\$ 24,060</u>	<u>\$ 24,059</u>	<u>\$ 48,119</u>

Bond premiums received in connection with tax-exempt and taxable Civic Facility Revenue Bonds issued by the IDA are amortized using the effective interest method over the term of the obligation as follows:

	<u>Girls School</u>	<u>Boys School</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bond Premium Received	\$ 647,831	\$ 647,830	\$ 1,295,661
Less: Accumulated Amortization	<u>(221,840)</u>	<u>(221,839)</u>	<u>(443,679)</u>
Net Bond Premium	<u>\$ 425,991</u>	<u>\$ 425,991</u>	<u>\$ 851,982</u>
Amortization Expense	<u>\$ 62,427</u>	<u>\$ 62,426</u>	<u>\$ 124,853</u>

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS*NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**JUNE 30, 2025***7. MORTGAGE PAYABLE (CONTINUED)**

The Schools are subject to debt covenants which are calculated using information aggregated from both Schools. The covenants are as follows:

	<u>Minimum Requirement</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.10	
Days Cash on Hand	45	

The debt service coverage ratio is calculated as follows:

Increase in Net Assets	\$ 1,718,955	
Add Back: Interest Expense	313,280	
Depreciation	<u>597,263</u>	
Net Revenues Available for Debt Service	<u>\$ 2,629,498</u>	
Debt Service Payments		
Interest Expense	\$ 313,280	
Principal	<u>680,000</u>	
Total Current Debt Service	<u>\$ 993,280</u>	
Net Revenues Available for Debt Service	<u>\$ 2,629,498</u>	<u>= 2.65</u>
Total Current Debt Service	<u>\$ 993,280</u>	

The day's cash on hand is calculated as follows:

Total Expenses	\$ 10,002,142	
Less: Depreciation	(597,263)	
Net Amortization	<u>76,734</u>	
Net Expenses	9,481,613	
Days	<u>365</u>	
Cash Used Per Day	<u>\$ 25,977</u>	
Cash at Year End	<u>\$ 11,093,565</u>	<u>= 427</u>
Cash Used Per Day	<u>\$ 25,977</u>	

8. BOARD DESIGNATED NET ASSETS

The Board of Trustees implemented a long-term incentive plan to compensate and retain employees. The plan designated a portion of the grant revenues received for the employee retention credit for future merit and bonuses for fiscal year ends 2026 and 2027.

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS*NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**JUNE 30, 2025*

8. BOARD DESIGNATED NET ASSETS (CONTINUED)

The designated balances are as follows:

	<u>Girls School</u>	<u>Boys School</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fiscal year end			
June 30, 2026	\$ 184,000	\$ 163,500	\$ 347,500
June 30, 2027	<u>196,500</u>	<u>175,500</u>	<u>372,000</u>
	<u>\$ 380,500</u>	<u>\$ 339,000</u>	<u>\$ 719,500</u>

9. EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN

The Schools have a 403(b) tax-deferred annuity retirement plans, which are funded by contributions from both the Schools and its employees. The Schools' contribution ranges from 2% to 6% of eligible employees' salaries based on years of service. Retirement plan expense was \$129,060 and \$97,378 for the Girls and Boys School, respectively, for the year ended June 30, 2025.

10. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Schools maintain cash balances in a financial institution located in the Northeast. Accounts at this institution are insured, up to certain limits, by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). At June 30, 2025, the Schools have bank deposits of approximately \$668,000 in excess of amounts insured by the FDIC.

In the normal course of business, the Schools are, from time to time, subject to allegations that may or do result in litigation. The Schools have general liability insurance to cover potential claims. Based upon the advice of counsel, it is the opinion of management that any liability that may arise from such actions would not result in losses that would materially affect the financial position of the Schools or their change in net assets.

The Schools are subject to audits and reviews of reimbursable costs by various governmental agencies. The outcome of the audits and reviews may have the effect of retroactively increasing or decreasing revenue from various sources. These changes, if any, will be recognized in accordance with the rules and guidelines established by the various funding sources.

11. CONCENTRATION OF RISK

The Schools receive a substantial portion of their funding from school districts where the Schools' students reside as well as federal funding sources. One school district constituted approximately 62% of total revenue and support for the year ended June 30, 2025 (51% at June 30, 2024).

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

JUNE 30, 2025

12. LIQUIDITY

The Schools' liquidity management policy is to structure its financial assets to be available as its general expenditures, liabilities and other obligations come due.

The Schools have financial assets available within one year of the statement of financial position date to meet cash needs for general expenditures, liabilities and other obligations of:

Cash	\$ 11,093,565
Contracts and Grants Receivable	<u>648,707</u>
Financial Assets Available to Meet Cash Needs within One Year	<u>\$ 11,742,272</u>

None of the financial assets are subject to donor or other contractual restrictions that make them unavailable for general expenditure within one year of the statement of financial position date.

**ADDITIONAL REPORTS REQUIRED BY
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS
AND THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE**

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MEMBERS OF:
NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Board of Trustees
Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools
Albany, New York

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools (the Schools) (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of June 30, 2025, and the related statements of activities, cash flows and functional expenses for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 23, 2025.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Schools’ internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Schools’ internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Schools’ internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements, on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Schools' financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Schools' internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Schools' internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cusack & Company, CPA's LLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CUSACK & COMPANY, CPA'S LLC

Latham, New York
October 23, 2025

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR PROGRAM
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE
REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE**

Board of Trustees
Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools
Albany, New York

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools' (the Schools) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Schools' major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2025. The Schools' major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the Schools complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Schools and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Schools' compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the Schools' federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Schools' compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Schools' compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the Schools' compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the Schools' internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Schools' internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on

a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cusack & Company, CPA's LLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CUSACK & COMPANY, CPA'S LLC

Latham, New York
October 23, 2025

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS*SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025*

<u>Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program or Cluster Title</u>	<u>Assistance Listing/ CFDA Number</u>	<u>Pass Through Identifying Number Girls School</u>	<u>Pass Through Identifying Number Boys School</u>	<u>Passed Through to Subrecipients</u>	<u>Girls School</u>	<u>Boys School</u>	<u>Total Federal Expenditures</u>
<u>US Department of Agriculture</u>							
Passed Through NYS Education Department							
Child Nutrition Cluster							
National School Breakfast Program	10.553	N/A	N/A	\$ -	\$ 132,299	\$ 101,837	\$ 234,136
National School Lunch Program	10.555	N/A	N/A	-	223,377	169,803	393,180
National School Snack Program	10.555	N/A	N/A	-	<u>49,322</u>	<u>37,373</u>	<u>86,695</u>
Total US Department of Agriculture Passed Through NYS Education Department				-	<u>404,998</u>	<u>309,013</u>	<u>714,011</u>
<u>US Department of Education</u>							
Passed Through NYS Education Department							
ESEA Title I, Basic Grant	84.010A	0021-25-4015	0021-25-4010	-	141,245	121,499	262,744
Title II A, Improving Teacher Quality	84.367A	0147-25-4015	0147-25-4010	-	20,708	21,111	41,819
Title IV, Student Support and Enrichment	84.424A	0204-25-4015	0204-25-4010	-	<u>10,743</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>20,743</u>
Total US Department of Education Passed Through NYS Education Department				-	<u>172,696</u>	<u>152,610</u>	<u>325,306</u>
Total Federal Awards Expended				<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 577,694</u>	<u>\$ 461,623</u>	<u>\$ 1,039,317</u>

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards presents all activity of all federal award programs of Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools. All federal awards received directly from federal agencies, as well as federal awards passed through from other governmental agencies, are included in the schedule. The information is presented in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Guidance.

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is presented using the accrual basis of accounting, which is described in the notes to Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools' financial statements.

2. SCOPE OF THE AUDIT PURSUANT TO THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools is a tax-exempt organization. All federal grant operations of Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools are included in the scope of the Single Audit.

3. INDIRECT COST RATE

Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools did not elect to use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate.

4. SUBRECIPIENTS

Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools did not have any subrecipients.

5. LOANS AND LOAN GUARANTEES

Brighter Choice Elementary Charter Schools did not receive any federal assistance in the form of loans or loan guarantees.

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOLS

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

SECTION I – SUMMARY OF AUDITOR’S RESULTS

Financial Statements

Type of auditor’s report issued:

Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified? _____ Yes x No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? _____ Yes x None reported
- Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? _____ Yes x No

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:

- Material weakness(es) identified? _____ Yes x No
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? _____ Yes x None reported

Type of auditor’s report issued on compliance for major programs:

Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with section 2 CFR 200.516(a)?

_____ Yes x No

Identification of major programs:

CFDA Number(s)

Name of Federal Program or Clusters

10.553/10.555

Child Nutrition Cluster

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs:

\$ 750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?

 x Yes _____ No

SECTION II – FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

There were no current year recommendations.

SECTION III – FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

No findings or matters were reported.

SECTION IV – RESOLUTION OF PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS

No findings or matters were reported.

99 Park Avenue, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10016

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY CHARTER
SCHOOLS
250 CENTRAL AVE
ALBANY NY 12206-2610

Statement Ending 09/30/2025

BRIGHTER CHOICE ELEMENTARY

Page 1 of 2

Statement Number: XXXXXXXXXX

Managing Your Accounts

	Banking Center	Park Avenue Banking Center
	Banking Center	212-365-6700
	Mailing Address	99 Park Avenue New York, NY 10016
	Online Banking	www.MCBankNY.com

Summary of Accounts

Account Type	Account Number	Ending Balance
BOYS RESERVE	XXXXXXXXXX	\$113,672.35

BOYS RESERVE - XXXXXXXXXX

Account Summary

Date	Description	Amount
08/30/2025	Beginning Balance	\$113,265.22
	1 Credit(s) This Period	\$407.13
	0 Debit(s) This Period	\$0.00
09/30/2025	Ending Balance	\$113,672.35

Interest Summary

Description	Amount
Annual Percentage Yield Earned	4.18%
Interest Days	32
Interest Earned	\$407.13
Interest Paid This Period	\$407.13
Interest Paid Year-to-Date	\$3,427.94

Account Activity

Post Date	Description	Debits	Credits	Balance
08/30/2025	Beginning Balance			\$113,265.22
09/30/2025	INTEREST PAID 8/30 THROUGH 9/30		\$407.13	\$113,672.35
09/30/2025	Ending Balance			\$113,672.35

Daily Balances

Date	Amount
09/30/2025	\$113,672.35

Overdraft and Returned Item Fees

	Total for this period	Total year-to-date
Total Overdraft Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Returned Item Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00

Online Banking
www.MCBankNY.com

Mobile Banking Apps



In case of errors or questions about your account telephone us at: 212-365-6700 or write us at: Metropolitan Commercial Bank, 99 Park Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10016

As soon as you can, if you think your statement or receipt is wrong or if you need more information about a transfer listed on the statement or receipt:

1. Tell us your name and account number.
2. Describe the error or transfer you are unsure about, and explain as clearly as you can why you believe there is an error or why you need more information.
3. Tell us the dollar amount of the suspected error.

We must hear from you no later than 60 days after we sent you the FIRST statement on which the problem appeared.

We will investigate your complaint and will correct any error promptly. If we take more than 10 business days to do this, we will recredit your account for the amount you think is in error, so that you will have the use of the money during the time it takes us to complete our investigation.

AN EASY GUIDE FOR BALANCING YOUR ACCOUNT

1. Enter the last balance shown on this statement here.	\$	
2. Compare the deposits and additions shown on this statement with your records. If a recent deposit does not show on this statement, enter the amount(s) here.	\$	
3. Total of lines 1 & 2.	\$	
4. Enter the total from the checks/withdrawals in Section 4a .	\$	
5. Subtract line 4 from line 3. This should be your present balance.	\$	

USE THIS AREA FOR YOUR COMPUTATIONS

4a. List the checks / withdrawals which have been written or made, but have not been charged to your account.

CHECKS/WITHDRAWALS	AMOUNT		CHECKS/WITHDRAWALS	AMOUNT	
	\$			\$	
	\$			\$	
	\$			\$	
	\$			\$	
	\$			\$	
	\$			\$	
	\$			\$	
	\$			\$	
	\$			\$	
	\$			\$	
TOTAL to be entered in Section 4 above.				\$	

Updated DECEMBER 2020

Part I: General Information and Fire/Life Safety History

Inspection Date 8-13-25

Note : Please insert the date the actual inspection took place.
The Inspection Date cannot be earlier than 45 days before the Due Date.

1. Please indicate the primary use of this facility:

- ☒ INSTRUCTIONAL
- ☐ ADMINISTRATIVE
- ☐ BUS MAINTENANCE
- ☐ BUS STORAGE ONLY
- ☐ LEASED FACILITY OFF SCHOOL GROUNDS
- ☐ MAINTENANCE
- ☐ OTHER

Please Specify:

- ☐ PUBLIC LIBRARY
- ☐ STORAGE
- ☐ VACANT

2. Is there a fire sprinkler system in this facility? ☒ YES ☐ NO

If 'yes', is the sprinkler alarm connected with the building alarm? ☒ YES ☐ NO

3. Is there a fire hydrant system for facility protection? ☒ YES ☐ NO

If 'yes', indicate ownership of system (select one):

- ☒ Public owned
- ☐ School owned
- ☐ Other

Please Specify:

4. Indicate the ownership of this facility

- ☐ Leased
☒ Owned

a. If the building is not District Owned, provide the name and address of Landlord or Building Owner:

Name *

Brighter Choice CS

Address *

250 Central ave

Albany

12206

Telephone # *

518 694-4100

5. Does the District lease the building or spaces within the building to others? ☐ YES ☐ NO

a. If yes, indicate the tenant(s):

Name *

Address *

Telephone # *

6. What is the current gross square footage of this facility?

nearest whole ten feet: 45320

7. If this Facility is vacant, skip the remaining questions and go to Section #2 Non-Conformance and report any non-conformances for Items #25A-1 through #26A-3

8. FIRE AND EMERGENCY DRILLS

If this facility is used for instruction, complete (a) - (g); otherwise go to question 9.

- a. Per Section 807, paragraph 2 of the State Education Law entitled Fire and Emergency Drills, a copy of Section 807 has been printed and distributed as guidance to teaching staff? ☒ YES ☐ NO
- b. Provide dates of twelve fire and emergency drills required by Section 807 of Education Law held between September 1 and June 30 of the previous school year: ☒ YES ☐ NO

FIRE & EMERGENCY DRILLS

NOTE Eight (8) are required between September 1, and December 31
Eight (8) drills are required to be evacuation drills Four (4) drills are required to be lockdown drills

	Date	Evacuation	Lockdown
1	9-5-24	X	
2	9-16-24	X	
3	9-30-24	X	
4	9-28-24		X
5	10-9-24	X	
6	10-22-24	X	
7	11-25-24	X	
8	12-9-24		X
9	3-11-25	X	
10	4-1-25		X
11	4-23-25		X
12	5-12-25	X	

- c. If the required number of fire and emergency drills were not held during this reporting cycle, please describe the reason:

8d. Average time to evacuate facility was:

2

minutes

05

seconds

8e. Arson and fire prevention instruction was provided in accordance with section 808 of the Education Law (revised 9/1/05) which requires every school in New York State to provide a minimum of 45 minutes of instruction in arson, fire prevention, injury prevention, and life safety for each month school is in session. ☒ YES ☐ NO

8f. Employee fire prevention, evacuation, and fire safety training was provided, and records maintained, in accordance with Section F406 of the NYS Fire Code ☒ YES ☐ NO

9. If the fire alarm system was activated, was the fire department immediately notified? ☐ YES ☒ NO

10. Have there been any fires in this facility since the last annual fire inspection report? ☐ YES ☒ NO

a. If 'yes', indicate: Number of fires

Number of injuries

Total cost of property damage

Part II: Public School Fire and Building Safety Non-Conformance Report Sheet

School District _____
Facility # _____

Building Name _____

Part II-A (to be completed for public schools only – except “Big 4”)					Part II-B					Part II-B					Part II-B				
Item #	Non-Conformance	Date Corrected	Date Reinspected		Item #	Non-Conformance	Date Corrected	Date Reinspected		Item #	Non-Conformance	Date Corrected	Date Reinspected		Item #	Non-Conformance	Date Corrected	Date Reinspected	
01A-2					08A-2					13A-2					19E-1				
01B-1					08B-2					13B-2					19F-1				
01C-1					08C-2										19G-1				
01D-1					08D-2					14A-2					19H-2				
01E-1					08E-2					14B-2									
					09A-2					14C-2					20A-1				
02A-2					09B-2					14D-1					20B-1				
02B-1					09C-1					14E-1					20C-1				
02C-3					09D-1					15A-2					21A-3				
02D-1					09F-2					15B-1					22A-3				
02E-2					09G-2					15C-2					22B-3				
02F-3					10A-2					15D-2					22C-3				
02G-2					10B-2					15E-1					23A-1				
					10C-1					16A-2					23B-1				
03A-3					10D-1					16B-2					23C-1				
03B-1										16C-2					23D-2				
					11A-2					16D-2					24A-3				
04A-2					11B-1					17A-3					25A-1				
04B-2					11C-2					17B-2					25B-1				
04C-1					11D-2					17C-2					25C-1				
					11E-1					17D-2									
05A-3										17E-1					26A-3				
05B-2					12A-1					17F-3					If any additional non-conformances are observed, check item 26A-3 and list the Code section below. _____ _____ _____ Inspector The inspector has been provided with a copy of the previous year's school fire safety report: Yes _____ No _____				
05C-2					12B-3					17G-1									
					12C-2					17H-2									
06A-1					12D-2					17I-2									
06B-1					12E-1					17J-1									
06C-1					12F-1					17K-1									
06D-2					12G-1					17L-1									
06E-3					12H-1					18A-2									
06F-1					12I-1					18B-2									
06G-1					12J-1					18C-2									
06H-2					12K-1					18D-2									
					12L-1					19A-3									
07A-3					12M-1					19B-2									
07B-2					12N-1					19C-1									
07C-2					12O-2					19D-1									

All schools complete Section 8 only if the building has electrically-operated folding partitions.

Initial Inspection:

Fire Safety Inspector: Name _____
Date _____

Registry # _____ (26E-4)

Final Inspection (if required):

Fire Safety Inspector: Name _____
Date _____

Registry # _____ (26F-4)

Part III: Public School Certifications

Section III-A. Fire Inspector

The individual noted below inspected this building and the information in this Fire Safety Report represents, to the best of their knowledge and belief, an accurate description of the building and conditions they observed. The individual that performed this inspection has maintained their certification requirements pursuant to Title 19 Part 1208

Name: NICHOLAS DRIBASSO

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Title: FF/140/CRD

Certification # 0322-0113
(as designated by the NYS Department of State)

Email: [REDACTED]

Section III-B. Building Administrator or Designee

Please provide the name and contact information of the person responsible for monitoring this inspection (whomever accompanied the inspector; provided access to all spaces; and made available any records and/or required documentation requested by the inspector)

The individual identified below certifies that this building inspection was conducted on this date 8-14-25 and can confirm the specific locations of any non-conformances (provide inspection date) identified within this report.

Name: NICK KODNASKY

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Title: Wilson Properties MGR

Email: [REDACTED]

Signature: [Signature]

Section III-C. School Superintendent

I hereby submit this fire inspection report on behalf of the Board of Education and certify that:

1. Public notice of report availability has been published, and that
2. Any nonconformances noted as corrected on the *Public School Fire Safety Non-Conformance Report Sheet* portion of this report were corrected on the date indicated, and that
3. Violations which are not corrected immediately shall be corrected within a period of time approved by the Commissioner.

Name: Luke Liczygiewitz

Telephone #: [REDACTED]

Title: Director of Operations

Email: [REDACTED]

Signature: [Signature]



City of Albany
Department of Public Safety
Division of Building and Codes

BCI Construction, Inc.
20 Loudonville Road
Albany, NY 12204

Certificate of Occupancy

Address: 116 North Lake Avenue

Permit 37960

Parcel 14504

This is to Certify that the building located at 116 North Lake Avenue in the City of Albany, NY has been inspected and found to be in compliance with the plans on file and with permit application for renovations and addition for a elementary charter school known as Brighter Choice.

The following occupancy is permitted at this location:

Area	Use	Uniform Code Classification
Cellar/Basement	School	E
First Floor	School	E
Second Floor	School	E
Third Floor	School	E
Other Floors		

No change in the nature of this parcel, building or use is allowed without a permit and the issuance of a new Certificate of Occupancy.

Zoning District at time of Issuance R-2A

Issuance Recommended By:

Vincent J. DiBiase
Sr. Building Inspector

Nicholas A. DiLello, Director

Issue Date: Monday, July 02, 2007

2024-25	Academic Student Performance Goal	Measure Used to Evaluate Progress Toward Attainment of Goal	Goal - Met, Not Met or Unable to Assess	If not met, describe efforts the school will take to meet goal.
Academic Goal 1	Performance Framework: NYS ELA Test Scores vs District	NYS ELA Exam --BCCSB - Albany Gr3 59% Gr4 50% Gr5 65% All 58%	Unable to Assess	
Academic Goal 2	Performance Framework: NYS ELA Test Scores vs NYS	NYS ELA Exam --BCCSB - NYS Gr3 59% - 54% Gr4 50% - 54% Gr5 65% - 57% All 58% - 55%	Met	
Academic Goal 3	Performance Framework: NYS Math Test Scores vs District	NYS Math Exam ---BCCSB - Albany Gr3 82% Gr4 67% Gr5 40% All 62%	Unable to Assess	
Academic Goal 4	Performance Framework: NYS Math Test Scores vs NYS	NYS Math Exam ---BCCSB - NYS Gr3 82% - 60% Gr4 67% - 59% Gr5 40% - 54% All 62% - 58%	Met	
2024-25	Organizational Goal	Measure Used to Evaluate Progress	Goal - Met, Not Met, or Unable to Assess	If not met, describe efforts the school will take to meet goal. If unable to assess goal, type N/A for Not Applicable
Org Goal 1				
Org Goal 2				
Org Goal 3				
2024-25	Financial Goals	Measure Used to Evaluate Progress	Goal - Met, Not Met, or Partially Met	If not met, describe efforts the school will take to meet goal.
Financial Goal 1				