



May 9, 2024

Dr. Lisa Long  
Executive Director  
NYSED Charter School Office  
89 Washington Ave  
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Dr. Long:

Thank you for providing the opportunity to respond to Ivy Hill Preparatory Charter School's 2023-24 Renewal Site Visit Report. Ivy Hill Preparatory Charter School (Ivy Hill Prep or IHP) is a community-based charter school in East Flatbush that delivers high quality curriculum and instruction, intentional leadership development, and a commitment to excellence. IHP educates kindergarten through fifth grade scholars to thrive in middle and high school, graduate from the college of their choice, and access lives of promise and opportunity. IHP's educational philosophy is finely tuned to blend rigorous instruction with a strong sense of community which emphasizes social and emotional learning. We're committed to providing challenging academics while also prioritizing the holistic development of our students. Through intentional focus on social and emotional support, we ensure that every child thrives not only academically but also personally during our extended school day and after school hours.

At Ivy Hill Prep we wholeheartedly believe in raising the educational outcomes of all students. At Ivy Hill Prep, we believe in collective work and responsibility: **Ujima**. Our unique **Ujima** plans are co-created by administrators, educators and parents to support students' academic and social-emotional needs. These plans are generated and tailored to meet the individual needs of any scholar to tackle lagging skills in behavior, instruction or both. Ujima plans are created for any scholar who demonstrates a need for individualized support, despite a scholar having an IEP/504; to promote inclusivity. It is our responsibility to uplift our scholars, reiterate their worth and capabilities, and build leaders that will be agents of change as they grow and mature. IHP supports scholars' personal development through intentional character lessons on our LEAGUE Values- Leadership, Excellence, Achievement, Growth, Uniqueness, and confidence.

The 2023-24 Renewal Report highlights many of the strengths of the IHP program and designates a "meets" rating to seven out of ten renewal benchmarks. There is one benchmark which has been designated as "approaches" – benchmark 1- and two benchmarks that "fall far below" - benchmark 9



and benchmark 10. Ivy Hill Prep believes the following information is relevant for the benchmarks that “fall far below” and should be considered for a comprehensive understanding of the School’s performance and efforts.

### **Benchmark 9**

The IHP team agrees with the Charter School’s Office’s (CSO) rating “falls far below” and believes additional information is relevant and should be considered for a comprehensive understanding of the School’s performance and efforts as they relate to Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention. The Renewal Report awarded the “falls far below” designation based on the following justification: “IHP’s overall enrollment declined to 71 percent in the most current year, 2022-2023, and is now a violation of their charter agreement.” In 2023, IHP requested a revision to an authorized enrollment of 265 as opposed to the original approval of 360, and the CSO approved this request.

Ivy Hill Prep remains committed to recruiting, enrolling, and retaining students and families who are aligned to the mission and values of the School. To increase visibility and drive recruitment efforts, Ivy Hill Prep has partnered with different media outlets and mediums such as Pix 11 ([View Story Here](#)), Caribbean Times, and Out-Front Marketing. Ivy Hill Prep has also returned to its grassroots efforts—tabling at neighborhood Pre-K and Day Care Centers, as well as establishing relationships with local businesses and business owners to post fliers, distribute pamphlets, and sponsor fundraising efforts.

Ivy Hill Prep is also actively strengthening family partnerships to ensure higher retention levels. Efforts include increased touchpoints with current families, through monthly Family Town Halls, monthly Class Parent Association meetings, biweekly touchpoints with Class Parent Association board members, and monthly family events for families to build relationships with one another and with staff. Ivy Hill Prep has partnered with Integrate Schools to increase IHP’s social media presence. By fostering a supportive and inclusive community, the School aims to increase enrollment and improve retention rates, ultimately ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed academically and personally.

### **Benchmark 10**

The IHP team agrees with the Charter School’s Office’s (CSO) rating “falls far below” and believes additional information is relevant and should be considered for a comprehensive understanding of the School’s performance and efforts as they relate to Legal Compliance.

School Management has prepared an action plan to respond to the fingerprinting process expectations from NYSED to ensure compliance. IHP began utilizing a compliance calendar to ensure timely reporting.