

May 14, 2024

Dear Mr. Giovine:

I hope this finds you well. We very much appreciate the work that went into the preparation of the New Dawn Charter High School II's five-year report and find it to be a true reflection of the school. That said, I would like to add some evaluative comments to add context for the outcomes.

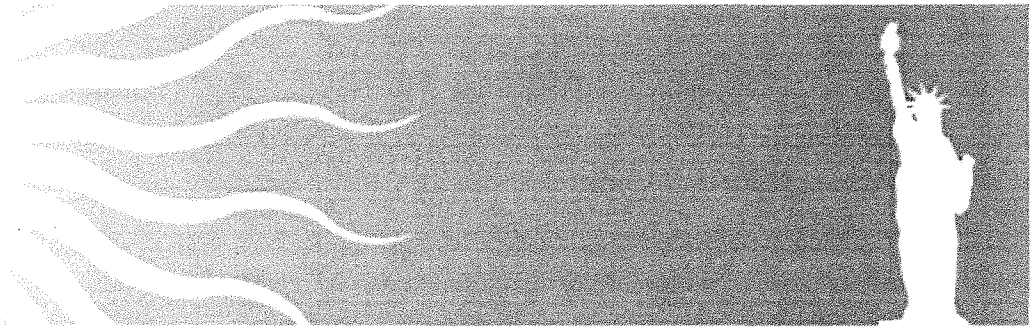
On page 8 the summary of challenges is listed. While it is true that we are faced with attendance and long-term absences, these issues are not necessarily the result of anything occurring at New Dawn but are the result of the prior schools. For example, if we enroll a 17-year-old with 5 credits (in NYC students need 44 credits to graduate), this student will never make a four- or five-year graduation and may need 6 years to graduate. The fact the student was allowed to stay at a traditional school for three years, accumulating no credits should not reflect on New Dawn. This is our population in our charter and the students we want to serve. We are faced with up to 75% of our students having long-term absences in their prior schools. They must now be reacclimated to school and all that this entails. And while we do have strategies in place to combat this and increase school responsibility, we still must start over from square one anytime we enroll a new student. Our enrollment occurs all year long, which is something that is important to NYSED but impacts the numbers and attendance greatly.

Benchmark 9 on page 34 (Retention and Enrollment), while technically correct, resolves itself by the end of the year. NYSED reporting does not pick this up. We understand that enrollment is taken on BEDS Day in October; however, if the NYSED is serious about the importance of rolling enrollment throughout the year, there should be an alternative calculation when reviewing our numbers. We have requested the Board of Regents decrease our number of students to 350 for the upcoming chartering period, so this will resolve part of the problem. Below is the number of students we served during the 2023-2024 school year:

Data	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb	Mar h	Apri l
Number of Students	248	283	310	334	343	331	370	405
<i>New Intakes during month</i>	61	36	27	10	12	45	44	12

We have a variety of reasons why students leave the school throughout the years such as graduation, transferring to another setting, moving, jail, rehabilitation, and dropping out.

NEW DAWN CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL



Even with these discharges, by the end of April we had 413 students on our active roster; we had seen a total of 444 different students; and we had billed the city for 348.8 FTEs. Lowering our enrollment to 350 will ensure that we have that many FTEs by the end of every year. This number of FTEs this year will increase by reconciliation as we are still enrolling students.

We would like to thank Mr. Giovine and the Charter School Office for this report as well as all the support we have received throughout the years. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald Tabano

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