



Diane Collier
Chair

Angel D. Mescain
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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January 11, 2016

Hon. Carmen Fariña
Chancellor
New York City Department of Education
55 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Support for DREAM Charter School's Application to Expand

Dear Chancellor Fariña,

Community Board 11 strongly supports the requests laid out in the current material change revision of Harlem RBI's DREAM Charter School (DREAM). DREAM's charter extension would increase the number of seats available for elementary and middle school students and allow for the creation of a new high school.

The charter extension will allow DREAM to continue to fulfill its mission of providing the highest quality education and services to even more youths while filling the need for a rigorous college preparatory high school to serve the East Harlem community.

CB11 appreciates both Harlem RBI, the community-based organization that founded DREAM in 2008, and DREAM's consistent commitment to our community. DREAM offers enrollment preference to Community District 4 (CD4) residents, as well as reserving 50 percent of Pre-K and Kindergarten seats for CD4's public housing residents. In addition to providing a rigorous academic curriculum, CB11 applauds DREAM for providing a full range of services for students and their caregivers: a comprehensive health and wellness program, legal clinics, dental clinics, a college-going orientation, including annual trips to colleges in every grade, and a free, all ages, full-day summer program. These support services truly make DREAM a community school that takes care of and supports families in a holistic manner.

DREAM's long waiting list demonstrates the demand for high quality educational services that are accessible to the families of East Harlem. The test scores of DREAM students clearly show that their academic methods are successful, and this quality education is a crucial step needed in order to lift East Harlem's children out of generational poverty. This is the type of educational curriculum, community services and after-school programming that Community Board 11 wishes to foster within our community, and we strongly support DREAM's expansion efforts to reach more students.

Community Board 11 is grateful for all of the work done in our community by DREAM Charter School, and we ask for your approval of their charter extension. We fully expect our partnership with Harlem RBI and DREAM to continue to grow as we work together to ensure local youth have access to improved educational opportunities, and we are happy to support any efforts that help them remain in East Harlem.

If you have any questions, please contact our Assistant District Manager, Mia Brezin, at 212-831-8929.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Collier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diane Collier
Chair
Community Board 11

Cc: Hon. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)
Hon. Jose M. Serrano, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Robert J. Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)
David Giordano, Community Board 11 (via email)
Emily Parkey, DREAM Charter School (via email)
Rich Berlin, Harlem RBI (via email)