

PSCcuny/ Professional Staff Congress / City University of New York

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September 7, 2017

To whom it may Concern:

The Professional Staff Congress of CUNY a union of over 25,000 members wishes to register its strong opposition to the proposed regulation allowing charter school networks statewide to conduct their own teacher training programs and issue a cheapened teaching credential that will short change students across the state. The charter school industry continues to achieve policy changes in NY State to facilitate its expansion at the expense of a greater public good.

The proposed regulation would allow charter networks statewide to conduct their own teacher training programs and issue a teaching credential that will only be valid inside those schools after just 30 hours of instruction plus 100 hours of supervised teaching. No CAEP accreditation or any other requirement is necessary for the credential. This regulation will create a captive pool of teachers only credentialed - not certified - for work in the SUNY-authorized charter school chains. The target group of about 120 schools statewide including 110 schools in New York City eligible for such certification is likely to expand. Success Academy and its allies have spearheaded this initiative. Success Academy intends to provide and profit from a training site for their teachers and those from other networks. Importantly, this initiative threatens both the quality of instruction in publicly funded charter schools and the important roles of schools of education in advancing teacher professionalization. For more information see:

- [“Charters move closer to new teacher-certification rules, worrying education schools,” PoliticoNY, 6 July 2017.](#)
- [“Some charter school teachers could become certified without a master’s under proposed new SUNY rules,” Chalkbeat, 6 July 2017.](#)

Chancellor Rosa and Commissioner Elia have spoken out against the proposed regulation and have been consistent in their messages that it undermines teaching quality. Two set of standards are being established regarding teacher certification and accountability, one for public schools and another for charters. Advocacy organizations like the Alliance for Quality of Education have argued that this deregulation of teaching standards was prompted by charter schools turnover rates and shortage of teachers. The annual teacher turnover rate in charter schools statewide is about 41% while for Success Academy it is 60%. Conversely, the turnover rate of public school teachers in NYC is 18%. Some part of this discrepancy can be traced to differences in working conditions and commitment to professionalization of the teaching workforce.

In sum, PSC/ CUNY is strongly opposed to this regulation and will continue to work to advance an agenda of adequate public investment to produce a quality education for those citizens most deserving and often least able to afford such instruction. Unfortunately, the proposed regulation fails students and communities across the state and more generally the larger public good. What it does achieve is a further cheapening of education for poor students especially of color, and an expansion of the charter industry.

Sincerely,

David Gerwin, Ph.D. and Professor of Education Queens College
Michael Fabricant, Ph.D. First Vice President of the PSC and Professor Hunter College

American Federation of Teachers Local 2334

New York State United Teachers • New York State AFL-CIO

American Association of University Professors • New York City Central Labor Council

