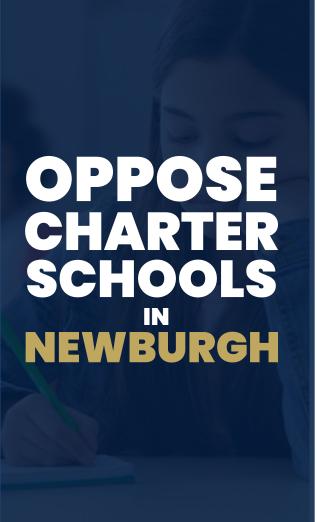
PUBLIC
HEARING FOR
NEW DAWN
CHARTER HIGH
SCHOOL III
PROPOSAL
DR. JACKIELYN MANNING CAMPBELL,

MS. ONYX PETERSON,
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

SUPERINTENDENT

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025





OVERVIEW

Proposal:

Establish New Dawn Charter High School III

• **Grades:** 9–12

Maximum Enrollment: 350 students

Location: Within NECSD boundaries

- Mission: Serve over-aged and under-credited students
 - (16-21 years old)

FULL IMPACT ON NECSD

- Projected enrollment: 350 students
- Potential total <u>annual</u> cost at full enrollment: ~\$9.6M (~\$32.7M projected)
- Additional costs: Transportation, special education, textbooks & technology

REDUCED RESOURCES FOR ALL NECSD STUDENTS

STATEWIDE CHARTER FISCAL BURDENS

- **Buffalo City Schools**: \$17.5M lost in one year
- Rochester City Schools: \$15.3M lost in 2002–2003
- **Schenectady**: \$2.3M lost with one small charter
- Newburgh: ~\$8M lost from Newburgh Prep (2014-2018)

"Charter schools have wreaked tremendous fiscal havoc on NY's public schools."

— NYSSBA Report











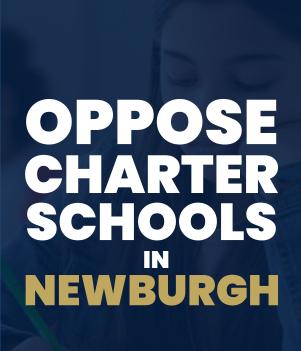
Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways

Internships & work-based learning

Credit recovery programs

College and career readiness counseling

Alternative education supports for over-aged & under-credite d students



CHARTER SCHOOL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

NYSSBA findings:

No consistent evidence charters outperform public schools.

Albany's New Covenant Charter:

32% proficiency vs 57% districtwide

Troy's Ark Charter:

72% below proficiency in ELA

Rochester Charter:

84% failed ELA exams

Promises of superior achievement are unsupported.

Source: NYS School Boards Association. Charter Schools: An Examination of Their Fiscal Impact on Traditional Public Schools. NYSSBA, 2023.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- NECSD Board of Education expresses strong concerns
- Local elected officials have raised opposition
- Union Leaders and community groups cite:
 - Lack of accountability
 - Diversion of funding
 - Duplication of services
- Community feedback favors strengthening NECSD programs

EQUITY CONCERNS

- NECSD serves a large ELL population and high percentage of students with disabilities
- Buffalo charters: 5–6% students with disabilities vs 22% in district
- Charters often 'counsel out' high-need students, shifting costs back to districts
- NECSD would serve more high-need students with fewer resources

New York State School Boards Association. Charter Schools in New York: Performance Gaps and Accountability Challenges. NYSSBA, 2023.

IMPACT CONCERNS

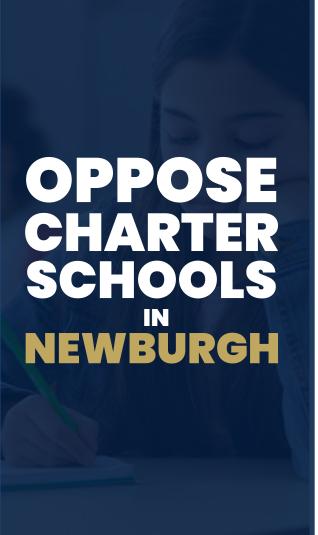
- New Dawn Charter School III estimates
 \$200,000 to reinvent proposed space
- District estimated \$2.5M to renovate same space in 2010 to bring to state code to educate students
- New Dawn Charter III hires teachers who "are <u>working towards</u> their teaching certifications or have <u>given up trying</u> to get their NYSED teacher certifications."
- New Dawn Charter I 48% Graduation Rate
- New Dawn Charter II 28% Graduation Rate

COMPARISON CONCERNS

We've seen this proposal before in 2014 with Newburgh Preparatory Charter School

	Newburgh Prep	New Dawn Charter
Projected		
enrollment	305 (max enrollment)	350 (max enrollment)
	(Enrollment - Drop out)	
Actual Enrollment	237 - 159 = 78	?
Graduation		48% (NDCI)
Rate/Total	24% / 57	
Graduates		28% (NDCII)
Projected total cost	\$21M*	\$32.7M*

*Based on proposed 5 year projection



NECSD URGES THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO DENY THE NEW DAWN CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL III APPLICATION

Rationale:

Significant fiscal burden
Duplication of services
No proven academic advantage
Risks exacerbating inequities

COMMUNITY OPPOSITION

- NECSD Board of Education expresses strong concerns.
- Local elected officials have raised opposition
- National teachers' unions, NAACP, and community groups cite:
 - Lack of accountability
 - Diversion of funding
 - Duplication of services
- Community feedback favors strengthening NECSD programs

TIMELINE

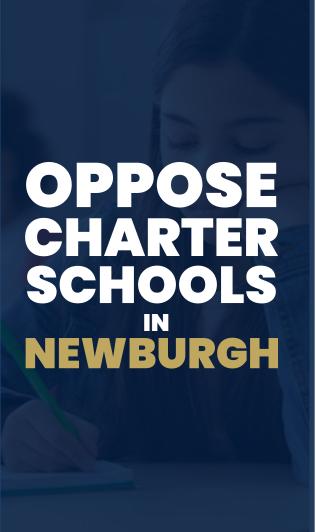
August 26, 2025
Public Hearing at NECSD

September 16, 2025
Public Hearing at NECSD

September 22, 2025
Public Comments accepted by NYSED

November 2025

Proposed Action by NYS Board of Regents



CONCLUSION

- NECSD is committed to providing innovative programs
- Serving all students equitably
- Building strong community partnerships
- Approval of New Dawn destabilizes existing efforts
- We respectfully urge rejection of this proposal

PUBLIC HEARING FOR NEW DAWN CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL III PROPOSAL

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025