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To the Charter School Office of New York State Education Department

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, this letter serves as Brooklyn RISE's request to make minor changes to our key design elements, which qualifies as a non-material charter revision. Specifically, we are requesting approval to slightly alter the description of two key design elements: College Begins in Kindergarten and Data Drives Decisions.

A primary characteristic of our College Begins in Kindergarten key design element is providing students with ample instructional time by implementing an extended school day and year. In our original charter application, we specified that our school day would be exactly eight hours long and our school year would span exactly 186 days. We now realize that providing such specificity constrains our ability to make slight modifications to our daily schedule and annual calendar in response to our students and families' needs, among other factors. As such, we are proposing to remove these specific qualifiers and just indicate that we will implement an extended school day and year. This change will not substantively alter this key design element as we will still continue to implement an extended school day and year, but it will afford us the flexibility to make minor modifications to our day and year in response to need.

Similarly, we are seeking to remove reference to the specific assessments we will administer to students as part of our Data Drives Decisions key design element: the STEP Literacy Assessment and NWEA MAP. While we will continue to use an array of assessments, this change will afford us the flexibility to modify our assessment program as deemed necessary. Accordingly, like the changes we are proposing to College Begins in Kindergarten, the revisions we are requesting to Data Drives Decisions are not substantive and will not change our assessment or data practices but will allow us to make adjustments to best serve our students.

In terms of timeline, we have no current plans to alter our day, year, or assessments. With the submission of our charter application, we are proactively requesting this revision in the event future changes are deemed necessary. If we were to make future changes, we would ensure that staff, students, and families are made aware of them through our robust communication structures, including regular staff professional development and collaborative meetings, student conferences, and family events, among others. We have subsequently included all required information related to the requested revision, including a redlined version of our key design elements that reflects our proposed changes.

Thank you for your consideration with our request.

Sincerely,

Christina Hu
Board Chair