

Revision of the Admissions Policy: At-Risk Definition and Lottery Entries

To: Members of the True North Rochester Preparatory Charter School Board of Trustees
From: Anna Hall, Chief Operating Officer, Uncommon Schools Boston, Troy, and Rochester
Subject: Revision of the Admissions Policy: At-risk definition and lottery entries
Date: February 9, 2016

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the True North Rochester Preparatory Charter School ("Rochester Prep") Board of Trustees wishes to add an at-risk admissions preference for students whose primary language is not English; and

Whereas the Board also wishes to revise its admissions preference to align with federal requirements no more than one extra admissions weight be given to at-risk students; now therefore be

Resolved that the Board of Trustees (the "Board") requests to revise the Rochester Prep Admissions Policy to grant at-risk preference to students whose primary language is not English; and also be it

Resolved that the Board wishes to further revise its Admissions Policy to limit the number of extra weights granted to at-risk students in the lottery to one; and also be it

Resolved that the Board of Trustees authorizes the School, in conjunction with its management partner, Uncommon Schools, to complete and submit to the SUNY Board of Trustees on its behalf the request for the Charter Revision described herein.

Background

The current Rochester prep admissions policy grants at-risk preference only to students who are eligible for the federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch program. The proposed revision would expand the definition of "at-risk" in the Rochester Prep admissions policy to include students whose primary language is not English, in an effort to serve more students who may be eligible for English Language Learner services.

Additionally Rochester Prep has learned that the federal government now requires that schools receiving CSP grant money grant no more than 1 extra weight to at-risk students in the lottery. As such, the proposed revision to the admissions policy also includes this change to the at-risk weighting system.