

Ranking Minority Member
Civil Service and Pensions

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



BRIAN A. BENJAMIN
SENATOR, 30TH DISTRICT

□ Albany Office:
Room 517
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247
(518) 455-2441
Fax (518) 426-6809

□ District Office:
Adam Clayton Powell Jr.
State Office Building
163 West 125th St., Rm. 912
New York, NY 10027
(212) 222-7315
Fax (212) 678-0001

August 17, 2017

New York State Board of Regents
NYS Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234

To the Honorable Members of the Board of Regents,

This letter is sent in support of Harlem Hebrew Language Academy's application to the Education Department, and this Board, for renewal and expansion of its charter. Harlem Hebrew is a deeply integrated school in a city grappling with how to thoughtfully tackle school segregation. Its "diverse by design" model, in which students learn in an environment that looks like our wider city and state, encourages both academic and social development. Harlem Hebrew, and other Hebrew Public schools, do not co-locate, and prioritize positive community relations.

Harlem Hebrew is one of the most integrated schools in New York City. It is 30% Latino, 33% Black or African American, 34% white, 1% Asian, and has many multiracial students. This student body is more diverse than most other schools in Community School District 3, in which Harlem Hebrew is located. Importantly, this integration also occurs at the classroom level, encouraging meaningful social and academic interaction. School and classroom integration create vital learning environments which benefit students, teachers, the wider school, and our wider shared civic life.

I hope Harlem Hebrew's application for charter renewal and expansion meets with your approval. Please don't hesitate to reach out for my office with any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Benjamin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "B" at the beginning.

Brian A. Benjamin
New York State Senator, District 30