



# PHASE I: Letter of Intent

Created: 06/22/2016

Last updated: 06/28/2016

## Basic Contact and Application Information

### Page 1

**Applicant groups and Existing Education Corporations interested in submitting an application to establish Regents-authorized charter schools are asked to complete this brief information sheet. The Department will use this information to plan and coordinate peer review panels with appropriate expertise to evaluate all application materials.**

**Please indicate whether an Applicant Group (operates no charter schools to date) or an Existing Education Corporation (operates a least one charter school) is submitting this Round 1 Letter of Intent.**

Existing Ed Corp LOI to operate additional, new charter schools

### **Name of Existing Education Corporation**

Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School

### **Proposed Charter School Name(s)**

(Please write out the full name for the school you proposed, and include the words "charter" and "school" in the proposed name(s)).

	Name of Proposed Schools	Grades Served Over Charter Term (K-5, .6-8, 9-12, etc.)	Max # of Students Served Over Charter Term
	Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School	K-6	525

**Proposed or Current Board Chair and Public Contact information, including mailing address, phone number, and email address.**

(The entire chart may not be visible on your screen. Use the "tab" key to move from column to column. The first column will remain static as you do so).

	First and Last Name	Best Phone Number (###-###-####)	Email Address
Proposed/Current Board Chair	Fehmi Damkaci	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Public/Media Contact Person	Tolga Hayali	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**List of Key Design Elements**

(Integral to the school model, these elements should be reflected throughout the application)

1	College Preparation
2	Focus on STEM and Environmental Education
3	Glocal Education
4	Student Centered School Structure
5	Parental Involvement and Home Visits
6	Performance Based Accountability
7	(No response)
8	(No response)
9	(No response)
10	(No response)

**If available, please provide the URL to the website established for the proposed school or existing education corporation.**

<http://www.sasccs.org>

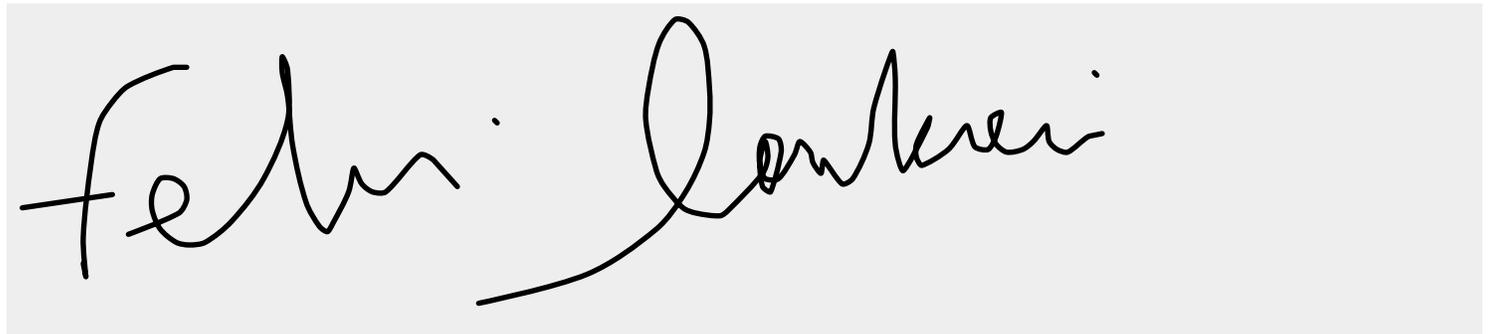
**Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner.**

(Refer to the application kit for definitions and guidance as only "substantial" partnerships should be listed here).

Proposed Management Company	(No response)
Partner Organization 1	(No response)
Partner Organization 2	(No response)

**Proposed Board Chair Signature**

(Internet Explorer may not support this feature. Open the portal using Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari).

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Felton J. Lawrence".

**Date**

2016/06/28

**Thank you for completing this form.**

Letter of Intent to Establish  
Syracuse Academy of Science & Citizenship Charter School

Submitted to the Charter School Office at the New York State Education Department  
June 28, 2016

**I.a/b. Applicant Group Information:** Detailed information on applicant group members has been uploaded in Table 1 on the charter school application webpage.

**I.c. Public Contact:** (315)728-9555; hayali@sascs.org.

**I.d. Application History of the Founding Members:**

*Dr. Fehmi Damkaci:* founding board member of the Pioneer Charter School of Science in Boston, MA, approved in 2006; founding board member of UASCS in Utica, NY, approved in 2012.

*Sherman Dunmore:* founding board member of UASCS in Utica, NY, approved in 2012.

*Mr. Muris Hadžić:* founding board member of UASCS in Utica, NY, approved in 2012.

*Dr. Ahmet Ay:* founding board member of UASCS in Utica, NY, approved in 2012.

The applicant group applied to the Regents for this school in 2015 in Syracuse, NY, which was eventually denied. Many improvements have been made on several aspects of the application such as key design elements, policies on enrollment, recruitment and retention, public outreach, achievement goals, school schedule and calendar, as well as curriculum and instruction. Some of the key design elements are re-grouped to reduce the number of design elements from 10 to 6. More emphasis has been given to the elementary school students in key design elements. In the enrollment section, strategies the school will use to reach out to a broad cross-section of students are fully described. Several new outreach activities to create public awareness about the proposed charter school are included in the application. NYS performance framework and the requirement to meet the states' proficiency rates in English language arts and mathematics are explained under achievement goals. School schedule and calendar are improved to clearly describe how core, supplemental, intervention and elective instructions would be integrated into the student and teacher schedules. A sample teacher schedule is also included.

**II.a. Proposed School Name:** Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School

**II.b. Proposed School Location:** Syracuse City School District

**II.c. Proposed Grades and Enrollment:** School will start with grades k-2 in 2017-18 with enrollment numbers of K-75, 1-48, and 2-48. In 2018-19, enrollment numbers will be K-75, 1-75, 2-48, 3-48; starting from 2019-20, there will be 75 students in each grade of K-4 and 75 seats with a grade will be added every year. Total student enrollment by academic year is as follows:

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Grades	<b>K-2</b>	<b>K-3</b>	<b>K-4</b>	<b>K-5</b>	<b>K-6</b>	<b>K-7</b>	<b>K-8</b>	<b>K-9</b>	<b>K-10</b>	<b>K-11</b>	<b>K-12</b>
Total	<b>171</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>975</b>

**II.d. Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s):** N/A

**II.e. Proposed School Mission:** The school will provide support, challenges and opportunities for its students, and it will instill the necessary skills and knowledge in math, science, and technology to empower students, through high intellectual standards, preparing

them for college, career, and citizenship. The school seeks to graduate students who can think critically and creatively, who are committed to a lifetime of learning and civic involvement, and who are conscious of local, global, and environmental issues.

**II.f. School Overview:** The school will replicate the strengths of two existing college-preparatory public charter schools with the same mission, key design elements, and has proven to be effective in their operations. In addition, SASCCS will have a weighted enrollment preference to ELL population, extensive after school ELL program (similar to UASCS' program), and increased hours of community service requirement extended to all grade levels. The school's key design elements are following:

*College Preparation:* The importance of college readiness will be paramount at the SASCCS. The charter school will create a college-bound culture starting from kindergarten and will provide an extensive and targeted curriculum aimed at college preparation. Enrolling all graduates to a college will be the most important feature and focus of the proposed charter school's educational model: (a) Elementary School: College visits, "college themed" classrooms, guest speakers from local universities, annual college week with various activities (b) Middle School: College visits, "college themed" classrooms, guest speakers from local universities (c) High School: College fairs, college visits, summer residential college programs, after-school and Saturday SAT/ACT programs, guest speakers from local universities, college courses, and more.

*Focus on STEM and Environmental Education:* The curriculum will focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), which provide the necessary foundation for college entrance and careers in technical fields. STEM education is a high national priority because of lack of skilled workers in these fields. The school's environmental education will promote awareness of the environmental challenges and quality, and will include environment related programs for practicing acquired knowledge. Here are some examples from our model school: (a) Elementary School: Annual science fair, coding, Lego League, and green house (b) Middle School: annual science fair, coding, Lego League, MathCounts, Enterprise America with WCNY, SUNY ESF Environmental Challenge, project submission to Build and Bust Bride Building Contest and CNY STEM Fair, summer science camp at school and SUNY ESF (c) High School: annual science fair, Microsoft certification, coding, robotics, summer science research program, project submissions to CNY STEM fair, offering STEM and environmental college courses, and attendance to Science Bowl.

In all K-12 levels, SASCCS will promote real-world problem solving & exploration in science and mathematics, interactive engagement and collaborative problem-solving opportunities, field trips to environmentally friendly locations and science museums, and regular use of technology: tablets, one-on-one chromebooks, internet, apps.

*Glocal Education:* The school will teach thinking globally and acting locally by character education, mentorship program, community service, international trips and activities, and various citizenship programs: (a) Elementary school: local field trips, bullying programs, inviting community leaders, national and international leaders, community service (coin, toy, and food drives for local and national organizations) (b) Middle school: local trips, inviting community leaders, national and international leaders, character education (teaching universally recognized values such as honesty, stewardship, kindness, generosity, courage, freedom, justice, equality), community service (coin, toy, and food drives for local and national organizations) (c) High

school: local, national, and international field trips, inviting community leaders, national and international leaders, mentorship program (providing interpersonal growth, leadership abilities, self-concept, academic achievement, and personality), community service.

In all K-12 levels, we will actively recruit a diverse student population (e.g. ELL (through enrollment preference), free and reduced lunch, etc.) in order to create a small-world community within the school to promote its global educational mission.

*Student Centered School Structure:* (a) Tutoring and After-School Programs: These programs will increase the performance of low-achieving students and will prepare high-achieving students for regional, national, and international science and engineering fairs. The school will include a monthly advisory program incorporated into the regular school schedule, four days each week of tutoring available after school, Saturday Academy, athletics programs, Saturday SAT/ACT Classes, summer and weekend ELL program, clubs, and summer school for all grades. (b) Extended School Day: The school hours will be from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. Teachers will provide extra help, one-on-one tutoring, or after-school activities until 4:30 p.m. The school days will be increased from 180 days to 195 school days starting from third year. (c) Small School Environment: School size is an important factor in student achievement. SASCCS schools offer a small, safe, nurturing environment to students. As modeled in SASCS and UASCS, we will have multiple campuses with small student populations. With its small school size and low student/teacher ratio (two teachers in elementary grades and two teachers in math and ELA courses in grades 5-8), and the schools feel like a family. We will know our students individually and work with them and their families to achieve the best possible outcome for each student.

*Parental Involvement and Home Visits:* Students' success and performance are affected not only by teachers, but also by their parents and environment. Therefore, parental involvement is a significant part of our school's strategic goals. In K-8, family events such as grandparents day, donuts for dad, muffins for mom, field days, academic fun nights, girl empowerment nights, school dances, and winter/spring concerts and art shows will be organized. The school's teachers will perform home visits to understand the students' problems and abilities and to create a better triad of parent-student-teacher relationships. As part of this program, the SASCCS educators contact a minimum of ten school parents each week, and carry out a minimum of twelve home visits each academic year.

*Performance Based Accountability:* Student progress will be measured regularly through data collected and tracked by multiple assessment instruments, such as STAR math, reader, and early literacy, online benchmark exams, and full-length practice tests for state assessments. Student performance will be documented and reviewed by teachers/administrators/board to create action plans to improve individual student achievement. There will be an extensive teacher observation and enrichment program, in which each and every teacher is visited biweekly and given feedback, with resources tailored for their individual needs using the Teachscape program. In addition, the school will use a comprehensive dashboard system based on its performance metrics to more effectively oversee school operations and school leadership using NYSED approved models, such as Marzano rubric.

**II.g. Target Population/Community Served:** SCSD served 20,084 K-12 students in year 2014–15. SCSD has been classified as “In Need of Improvement” by NYSED. SCSD’s student body includes 15% ELL students, 20% student with disabilities, and 77% FRPL students in

2014–15 academic year. SCSD identified 184 students as first-time-arrived ELL student in 2014-15. SCSD has 56% graduation rate for 2010 cohort. 11% of the city population is foreign born according to 2010 census. Syracuse has been attracting about 23% of all new coming refugee population last 3 years which makes it second biggest city receiving immigrants in New York. Data shows that there is a high need for a school targeting ELL population in Syracuse.

**II.h. Replication of High Quality School Models:** SASCCS will use the educational model, corporate and governance structure, and financial and operational processes that have been effective in replication model school, SASCS, and there will be an ongoing relationship between the schools. SASCS has met or exceeded SCSD's and the state's graduation rates, state test scores, and college acceptance and has successful operational and financial management, strong governance, and community support; and therefore has been successfully modeled after in Utica in 2013, which has already shown great success in attracting and educating ELLs by exceeding its targeted ELL level.

Our prudent governing board with close oversight on schools educational and financial operations, and also experienced administrators that include our Superintendent and central office will be crucial and instrumental in replication of the school practices. Our quality school model will be replicated through collective experiences and best practices through unified programs such as summer-time teacher orientations, year-long teacher training and supervision, computer-based individualized student educational planning, centralized assessment and evaluation, efficient after school and college readiness programs, parental awareness and involvement, and centralized financial oversight and purchasing.

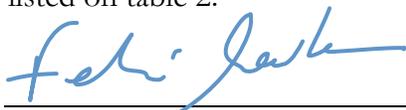
**III. Enrollment and Retention of Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners, and Students who are Eligible Applicants for the Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program:** SASCCS will target students who reside in the inner-city and lower socio-economic regions of the City of Syracuse and surrounding communities and will reach out in particular to students who are ELLs, student with disabilities, and eligible for the free and reduced priced lunch program by utilizing the following activities:

- a. Providing weighted enrollment preference for ELLs, who will be identified in their application by asking home language question.
- b. Reaching out to the significant refugee population in Syracuse through organizations, which provide services to immigrant population such as Catholic Charities, North Side Learning Center and Interfaith Works and disseminate informational materials regarding the school in several languages (these organizations have been already reached out).
- c. Providing extensive ELL services in school design to expedite their proficiency level.
- d. Making the school brochures and application forms available at the school, delivered through targeted mailings, and distributed by hand in refugee housing locations and community centers.
- e. Employing staff from refugee communities to have direct connection.
- f. Holding open houses for students and their parents to present school design/services.
- g. Emphasizing the special education and ELL services in the flyers and informational meetings to attract students from those populations.
- h. Developing relationship with local agencies that serves students with disabilities and distribute brochures to their students (these organizations were already reached out).
- i. Targeted mailing for those who has income less than \$50,000 and school age children.

- j. Developing relationships with local non-profits to provide college scholarship opportunities to the successful economically disadvantaged students.
- k. Targeting the waiting list of sister charter school, SASCS, which maintains a highly diversified student body in terms of race and culture, as well as economic diversity, with 70-80% of students receiving free or reduced lunch.

SASCCS will provide strong support services to increase satisfaction and retention by having a certified special education teacher in each grade level in K-5. SASCCS will also hire two teachers with ESOL certification in its first year, and will be increased up to 5 ELL teachers serving K-5 grades, based on ELL student enrollment. The SASCCS' retention program is subsumed under the overarching goal of providing a safe, belonging environment where students feel accepted, nurtured and motivated. A key element of the school's retention program is to involve students in short- and long-term extra-curricular activities that will not only improve students' connectedness and relationships with other students and staff members, but also identify and develop students' interests and capabilities. The SASCCS will conduct annual parent satisfaction measurements as part of its retention program. In addition teacher satisfaction surveys will include questions regarding schools ELL and special education student population. Over the past twelve years the model school, SASCS, which has registered a rating of over 95% parent satisfaction. In the event that a student withdraws from the school for reasons other than relocation or graduation, we will attempt to conduct an exit interview to determine factors, which led to their withdrawal. The BoT and school leadership review survey and exit interview data, as well as anecdotal responses. A retention improvement plan will be created if a problem in retention exists, and the BoT and school leadership will strategically design and assure implementation of an improvement plan. In addition, the BoT will have a metrics-based dashboard system, which includes ELL, special education, and free and reduced lunch student percentages to be regularly reported to the BoT to take action.

**IV. a/b. Public Outreach and Community Support:** SASCCS organizers have used many instruments in order to assess the parent interest to reach its initial enrollment target. As of today, more than 98% of about 527 respondents through face-to-face and [online surveys](#) published on the webpage ([www.sasccs.org](http://www.sasccs.org)), showed an interest in the proposed SASCCS and would consider enrolling their children if it is chartered. Within the survey, families have 382 students who are at k-3. There are around 2,500 parents who showed interest and applied to the model school SASCS in the same district within last 3 years and their students couldn't get in. Out of those students, 983 applied for grades k-3, who will be eligible and highly interested to apply for this school. For 525 seats in its initial term grades k-6, there are 1,637 students, who applied to its model school but could not get in, are already eligible and interested for the proposed school; proving that SASCCS will reach its enrollment targets easily. Syracuse is the second largest city that receives most immigrant population in New York each year. As a result of that, Syracuse school district received 184 new arrived ELL students in 2014-15 school year which shows high need for an ELL focused school. We have reached out to many community members, parents, and students since January 2015 who showed great interest and support to the new charter application. Details of our efforts to reach out to the community members are listed on table 2.



June 28, 2016

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Dr. Fehmi Damkaci, Proposed BoT Chair

Date

APPLICANT GROUP MEMBER NAME	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Dr. Fehmi Damkaci	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Dr. Ahmet Ay	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sherman Dunmore	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Muris Hadzic, ABD	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Jawwaad Rasheed, J.D.	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Ms. Chanel Turnquest	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Dr. Murat Baysal	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Dr. Tolga Hayali	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Linda Spencer	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Marilyn Dominick	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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**TABLE 1: APPLICANT GROUP INFORMATION****\*Minimum of 5 members must be designated as Trustees**

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT	RELEVANT EXPERIENCE, SKILLS, AND ROLE ON APPLICANT GROUP (Key Words)	PROPOSED ROLE (if any) (Trustee, Employee, Consultant, or None)	PROPOSED POSITION ON THE BOARD (e.g., officer, trustee, or constituent representative)
Professor of Chemistry and Chair, SUNY-Oswego	K-12 charter school implementation and governance; high and middle school and college level teaching and leadership. <b>Role:</b> Leadership, educational programs, financial operations, overall design, and application.	Trustee	President
Professor of Math and Biology, Colgate University	K-12 charter school implementation and governance; STEM Education. <b>Role:</b> STEM Education and College Prep Programs and college relations.	Trustee	Vice President
Chaplain at the Marcy Correctional Facility	K-12 charter school implementation and governance, community leader, and former parent, current grandparent of SASCS. <b>Role:</b> Civic engagement and community outreach	Trustee	Member
Doctoral fellow in finance at Syracuse University	K-12 charter school governance, youth community leader, and mentor for community youth. <b>Role:</b> Community outreach, mentorship, and extracurricular activities.	Trustee	Treasurer

Family Court Magistrate, Oneida County	K-12 charter school governance, non-profit youth organizations and community leader, college level teaching. <b>Role:</b> College prep programs and legal matters	Trustee	Member
Real-estate management	K-12 charter school governance, non-profit youth organizations and community leader, real-estate. <b>Role:</b> Community outreach and real-estate	Trustee	Member
Assistant professor of Engineering, Morisville State College	K-12 charter school governance; STEM education. <b>Role :</b> STEM Education and College Prep Programs and relations	Trustee	Secretary
Superintendent of SASCS and UASCS	K-12 charter school implementation, expansion, and leadership. <b>Role:</b> Educational programs, school culture, human resources, facilities	Employee	Superintendent
Employee of SASCS	K-12 charter school implementation; 6-12 level teaching and leadership, K-12 charter school leadership. <b>Role:</b> School culture, staff development, and student discipline programs	N/A	N/A

Retired Superintendent	34 years of K-12 leadership experience at various level, including elementary school principal and 17 years of superintendent, math teacher at middle and high schools. <b>Role:</b> Academic programs	N/A	N/A
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LENGTH OF INITIAL TERM	VOTING MEMBER (YES OR NO)
1 year, ending 8/17	Y
2 years, ending 8/18	Y
3 year, ending 8/19	Y
3 year, ending 8/19	Y

1 year, ending 8/17	Y
3 year, ending 8/19	Y
2 years, ending 8/18	Y
N/A	N
N/A	N

N/A	N
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**Table 2: Public Outreach Information**

(Table 2 is not counted towards the page limits. Add more rows as necessary)

Dates of Outreach (month/date/year)	Description of Outreach	Location of Outreach	Target Stakeholder Group	Feedback Obtained	Action Taken on Feedback	Number of Attendees
1/15/2015 to date	Online survey published on proposed schools website, <a href="http://www.sasccs.org">www.sasccs.org</a>		All families of eligible students and stakeholders	Some of the feedback are listed in attachment 2a		527 respondents
6/28/2016	Meeting with a special ed service program provider in Syracuse and drop off flyers	Hillside family of agencies 215 Wyoming St, Syracuse	Families of students with disability and sped service provider		Our relation with the provider will continue to attract /recruit more special education students.	
6/27/2016	Meeting with director of special programs and drop off flyers	Syracuse Community Health Center 819 South Salina Street, Syracuse	Families of students with disability community members and sped service provider		Our relation with the provider will continue to attract /recruit more special education students.	
6/27/2016	Drop off flyers	Arise 635 James st. Syracuse	Families of students with disability		Our relation with the provider will continue to attract /recruit more special education students.	
6/27/2016	Drop off flyers	Interfaith works	Families of ELL students		Existing relations will be continued to attract/recruit ELL students.	

6/27/2016	Drop off flyers	Access 1603 court st., Syracuse	Families of students with disability		Our relation with the provider will continue to attract /recruit more special education students.	
6/26/2016	Information desk at free summer camp registration and distributing flyers	Believers' Chapel City 1640 South Ave, Syracuse	Families of students eligible for free and reduced lunch program	Need for more charter schools in the community		13 parents of students in elementary school
6/26/2016	Posted on twitter and facebook	Social media	All stakeholders – 469 followers on twitter and 1396 likes on facebook.			
6/26/2016	E-mail the survey and SASCCS brochure to the parents of 2577 students in SASCS waiting list		Parents who already applied but couldn't get in SASC charter school	I would like to encourage you to consider STEAM, to include the Arts, as a step further than STEM	The comments sections of the survey are closely monitored for taking action.	2577 parents who already applied to existent charter school but not get in
6/25/2016	Press Release to local NPR station, Syracuse.com, and local newspapers		All stakeholders			
6/24/2016	Meeting with program manager and drop off flyers	South side Interfaith CDC 100 Admin Ave., Syracuse	Families of ELL students and service provider to immigrant families			
5/26/2016	Meeting with pastor of Holly Family Church	Holly Family Church 127 Chapel Drive, Syracuse	Community leaders	Support letter	This application will serve to help its community.	
5/26/2016	Meeting with administration of Saint James Church	Saint James Church 4845 South Salina St., Syracuse	Community leaders	Support letter	This application will serve to help its community.	

5/24/2016	Meeting with president of Upstate Medical University	Upstate Medical University 750 East Adams St., Syracuse	Community leaders	Support letter	This application will serve to help its community.	
5/1/2016	Meeting with Former United States Representative	During the national Security conference Maxwell, Syracuse	Dan Maffei	Verbal Support		
4/16/2016	Meeting with community leaders, program coordinators, and students	North side Learning Center 431 E. Fayette St., Syracuse	Families of ELL students and service provider to immigrant families	As refugee help center, they are strongly supporting a charter school for ELL population	School will continue to work this organization to recruit ELL student body.	60 participants including refugee families and students
3/19/2016	Information meeting with 100 black men	1001 Park Avenue Syracuse NY 13204 Saturday Academy	Students attending from the community	Information Session		
3/15/2016	Informational phone call to administrator of Our Ladies of Lourdes Church		Rev. Thomas Fitzpatrick			
3/2/2016	Meeting with Board President of Sacred Hearth Church	1001 Park Avenue Syracuse NY 13204	Philip Felice	Support Letter		
2/23/2016	Meeting with Syracuse Common Councilor 4th District	SASCS elementary school 4837 S. Salina St.	Khalid Bay	Verbal Support		
2/21/2016	Meeting with administrator of St. James Church	SASCS elementary school 4837 S. Salina St.	Rev. John Manno	Helped the school finding a location for the proposed school.	School met with the proposed location owners	
2/2/2016	Information meeting with Co-	SASCS Elementary School	Robert Doucette	Verbal Support		

	founder and partner of Paramount Realty Group and President of Armory Development & Management, Inc.	4837 South Salina Street Syracuse NY 13205				
2/12/2016	Information meeting with Provost of SUNY Oswego, Board member of On Point, serving students with low socioeconomic status	1409 West Genesee St.	Dr. Lorrie Clemo	Verbal Support		
2/2/2016	Information meeting with Co-Chairperson of Syracuse 20/20	Syracuse 20/20 120 Madison St. 15 <sup>th</sup> floor	Kathleen Murphy Pietrafesa			
12/2/2015	Information meeting with Administrator of Syracuse 20/20	Syracuse 20/20 120 Madison St. 15 <sup>th</sup> floor	Laurie Black			
10/2/2015	Information meeting with NYS Board of Regents	Lockheed Martin 497 Electronics Pkwy, Liverpool NY	Anthony S. Bottar			
9/30/2015	Information meeting with Superintendent of OCM BOCES	Panera Bread, Cicero, North Syracuse	Jodie Manning			
9/21/2015	Meeting with Vice President of	SASCS high school 1001 Park Ave.	Ronald Tascarella	Verbal Support of the school and its		

	Pathfinder Bank, a community based bank			key design elements and asked to open a similar school in Oswego, NY		
5/29/2015	Information meeting with Vice President SUNY EOC	SASCS middle school 200 West High terrace	Tim Penix			
3/17/2015	Information meeting with Program Chair, Education Leadership at Syracuse University	SASCS Elementary School 4837 South Salina Street Syracuse NY 13205	Joseph Shedd			
3/9/2015	Information meeting with Vice President and Market Manager of Clear Channel Media & Entertainment	Syracuse 20/20 120 Madison St. 15 <sup>th</sup> floor	Rick Yacobush			
3/9/2015	Information meeting with President at Syracuse Teacher Association	Syracuse 20/20 120 Madison St. 15 <sup>th</sup> floor	Kevin Ahern			
2/20/2015	Information meeting with New York State Assembly member		Samuel D. Roberts			
2/16/2015	Meeting with Executive Director, Catholic Charities of	4834 S. Salina St.	Michael F. Melara	Support Letter		

	Onondaga County					
2/16/2015	Information meeting with Program Director, Catholic Charities	SASCS elementary school 4837 S. Salina St.	Felicia Castricone	As refugee help center, they are strongly supporting a charter school for ELL population	School will continue to work this organization to recruit ELL student body.	
2/16/2015	Information meeting with President and CEO of Crouse Hospital	SASCS elementary school 4837 S. Salina St.	Kimberly A. Boynton			
2/9/2015	Meeting with Former Member of Syracuse Board of Education, and Senior Vice President of Pathfinder Bank, a community based bank	SASCS high school 1001 Park Ave.	Calvin Corriders	Verbal Support of the school and its key design elements		
2/6/2015	Published news on Syracuse University Community Newspaper		All stakeholders			
1/26/2015	Broadcast on WRVO local NPR radio station		All stakeholders			
1/24/2015	Two information sessions	1001 Park Avenue Syracuse NY 13204				25 participants
1/21/2015	Two information sessions	1001 Park Avenue Syracuse NY 13204				12 participants
1/17/2015	Two information sessions	1001 Park Avenue Syracuse NY 13204				18 participants

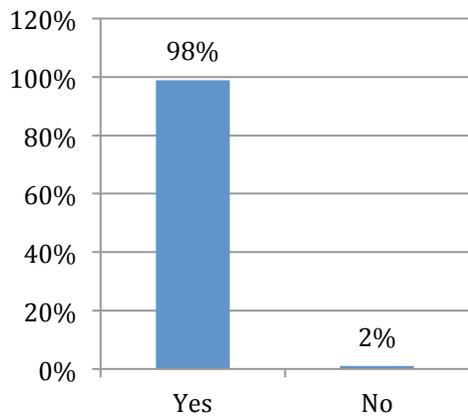
1/16/2015	Published news on Syracuse.com, local newspaper		All stakeholders			
1/16/2015	Information meeting with New York State Senator	333 East Washington St State office building #800, Syracuse	John A. DeFransisco	Support Letter		
1/16/2015	Information meeting with New York Senator	333 East Washington St State office building #805, Syracuse	David J. Valesky			
1/15/2015	Press Release to local NPR station, Syracuse.com, and local newspapers		All stakeholders			
1/12/2015	Meeting with Commissioner, Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs	SASCS high school 1001 Park Ave.	Baye Muhammad	Verbal Support		
12/3/2014	Information meeting with Mayor of Syracuse City	City Hall 233 E. Washington st.	Stephanie Miner			
12/3/2014	Information meeting with Superintendent, Syracuse City Public Schools	City Hall 233 E. Washington st.	Sharon Contrares			
11/18/2014	Information meeting with LeMoyne College, Education	SASCS elementary school 4837 S. Salina St.	Stephen Fleury			

	Department Chair					
11/18/2014	Information meeting with LeMoyne College, Director of Education Leadership	SASCS elementary school 4837 S. Salina St.	Suzanne Gilmour			
11/12/2014	Meeting with Onondaga County Executive	200 W. Terrace st. Syracuse	Joanne M. Mahoney	Support Letter		

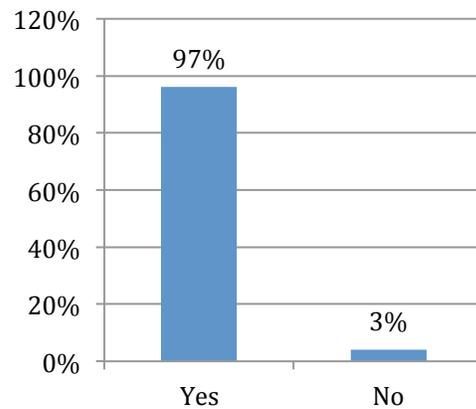
## 1. Online survey results and feedbacks

More than 98% of about 527 respondents through face-to-face and online surveys published on the webpage ([www.sasccs.org](http://www.sasccs.org)), showed an interest in the proposed SASCCS and would consider enrolling their children if it is chartered.

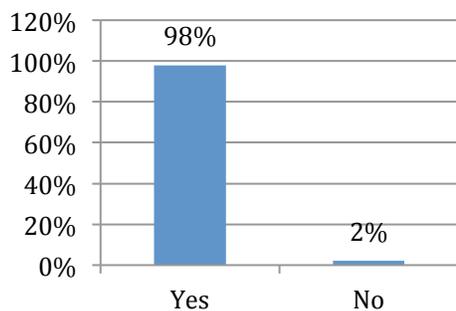
**Question 1: Do you think the level of education provided by the schools in your area needs improvement?**



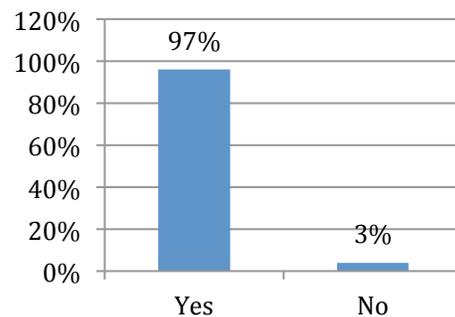
**Question 2: Do you believe there is a greater need for teacher-parent cooperation in your child's school?**



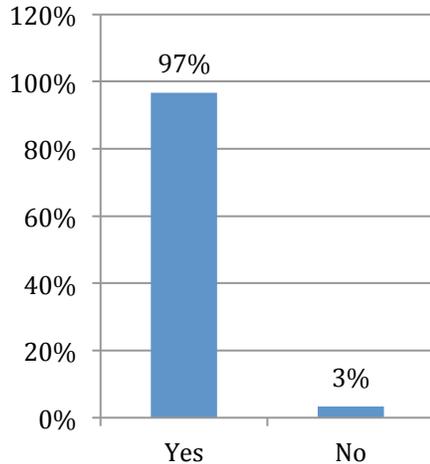
**Question 3: Would you like your child's school to focus more on college preparation, particularly with a math and science focused curriculum?**



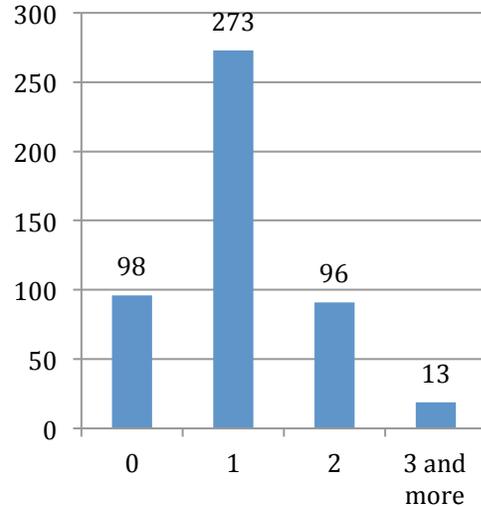
**Question 4: Do you think there is need for more emphasis on diversity and global/international awareness in schools?**



**Question 5: Would you consider sending your child/children to proposed Charter School?**



**Question 6: How many children do you have entering Grades K-3 in September 2017?**



Followings are some of the comments obtained from online survey on June 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

<p>I am deeply concerned about the current state of the city schools. I have attempted to put my children in SAS but they have never gotten in. I have helped my children excel in school because the schools have not done so. So I truly hope another SAS becomes a reality for the sake of our children within the city school district</p>
<p>With a successful track record, I am excited to see SAS grow!</p>
<p>I love that you are expanding your school to provide a more whole child approach to education for more of our SCSD kids. I would like to encourage you to consider STEAM, to include the Arts, as a step further than STEM, and I would like to talk to you about partnership, as I am currently (an extremely qualified art teacher in SCSD), but with everything going on have been considering a similar path to help take more SCSD kids out of a very unstable, unprofessional environment they currently face every day in their homes, community, and unfortunately their schools...Thank You for doing this for our SCSD kids and their families.</p>
<p>This is definitely a need in Syracuse. Unfortunately my children are middle school aged so they would not benefit from this, but I do support it because I believe SCSD is failing our community completely and these kids deserve a chance at an education and a future. I will continue to play the lottery at SAS every year and pray our name is picked. That's the only chance for older children. But please do continue to try to expand, our community needs educated adults and SCSD is failing at providing that. I commend your work. Thank you for making a difference in our community.</p>

I definitely feel there should be greater emphasis on structuring the curriculum towards college prep. My child has been a student of SAS since grade 6 and now she will be entering her final year of high school. I feel that more time should be placed on helping students take college entrance exams and focus on writing.

Great idea also after school tutoring is fantastic idea as some children struggle academically and need the extra help at no cost to parents

We have been so very pleased with SAS. Our daughter started in Kindergarten and is going into the 5th grade. Her older sister starts 10th grade in the fall at SAS - she had to wait a year to get in. This school consistently provides a safe, well-rounded education to all students, and adding another one would cut wait time for students.

When we were put on the "waiting list" for Syracuse Science Academy, I immediately contacted my NY Assemblyman, and informed his staff that they should build more charter schools. I told them that 90 % of the applicants were dissatisfied with the current system, and he should provide more alternatives for New York Students... My student LOVES education, and she needs a school that will nurture that love.

My son will be in 4 at that time and our youngest won't be 5 for a few more years but I would want her to attend the new school and for our son to attend once you have his grade.

## 2. Social media postings and screen shots of twitter and facebook

Following screen shots are taken from SASCS twitter and facebook accounts. School brochures and upcoming open house dates are shared on social media.





Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School added 3 new photos. 10 hrs ·

Syracuse Academy of Science to apply for second charter school in Syracuse

Syracuse, NY: Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School (SASCS) announced today that an application will be submitted to New York State for a new charter school in the City of Syracuse. The charter school, which would open for the 2017-18 school year serving 168 students in grades k-2, would be called Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship (SASCCS) with an emphasis on serving English Language Learners in a college-bound, STEM setting. In 10 years, SASCCS will become k-12 school with the following features: College Prep, focus on STEM and environmental education, home visits, student centered school structure (tutoring and afterschool activities, extended school day and year, small school environment), global education (teaching to think globally and acting locally by character education, mentorship program, community service, international trips and activities, and various citizenship programs), and performance based accountability.

The greater Syracuse area is home to 23 percent of the refugee population in New York State. "There is a need [in Syracuse] to provide curriculum that best serves English Language Learners," said SASCS Superintendent, Dr. Tolga Hayali. "The school of Science & Citizenship will be a replication of Syracuse Academy of Science and provide these [ELL] students the opportunity to learn alongside their native-English speaking peers in an environment that also offers curriculum and activities supportive of their language skills and cultural adaptation." This will be the second replication of Syracuse Academy of Science founded in 2003. In September 2013, SASCS opened Utica Academy of Science Charter School in Utica, NY.

SASCS has been recognized as one of the best public high schools in the nation two years in a row by U.S. News & World Report and has consistently maintained a waiting list in excess of 1400.

Public information sessions will be held in the cafeteria at Syracuse Academy of Science, located at 1001 Park Ave., Syracuse on the following dates and times; the public is encouraged to attend.

Information Sessions at 2:00 p.m. on June 27, 28 and July 2

To learn more about the proposed Syracuse Academy of Science & Citizenship please visit [www.sasccs.org](http://www.sasccs.org).

About Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School  
Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School (SASCS) is a nonprofit, tuition-free, public, k-12, college preparatory charter school in Central New York. The schools prepare students for college, career and citizenship through a STEM based curriculum. SASCS seeks to graduate students who can think critically and creatively; who are committed to a lifetime of learning and civic involvement; and who are conscious of local, global and environmental issues.

English (US) · Español · Português (Brasil) · Français (France) · Deutsch

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192 people reached

Like Comment Share Hootlet

Liani Smarzo, Erica Becker and 9 others Chronological

1 share 2 Comments

Leila Dean Liani Smarzo   
Unlike · Reply · Message · 1 · 7 hrs

Liani Smarzo Good news!  
Unlike · Reply · Message · 2 · 1 hr

Write a comment...

3. Poster distributed to parents at various events and local agencies serve special education students, English language learners, and students eligible for free and reduced lunch program such as Arise, Access, Interfaith Works, Hillside, and Syracuse Community Health Center etc.



PROPOSED  
**SYRACUSE ACADEMY**  
OF SCIENCE AND CITIZENSHIP CHARTER SCHOOL



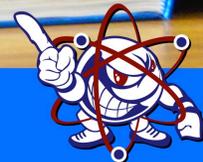
**SASCCS opens its doors  
in September 2017**

- ✓ Rigorous STEM based curriculum
- ✓ Dynamic learning environment
- ✓ Small class sizes
- ✓ State of the art technology  
in EVERY classroom
- ✓ English Language Learner (ELL)  
enrollment preference

- ✓ Tuition-Free, Public School
- ✓ Chartered by New York State Board of Regents
- ✓ NYS Certified teachers
- ✓ Extended school hours: 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.
- ✓ One-on-one tutoring, After School Clubs
- ✓ Saturday School
- ✓ Welcomes special education and ELL
- ✓ Year-round home visits



**Building success one ATOM at a time!**



# The advantage is clear...

## » Safe, Small and Friendly School Environment

SASCCS creates an inviting, safe, and purposeful environment in which students can learn. We maintain a friendly and wholesome atmosphere that encourages creative expression and a desire for knowledge. The small school atmosphere allows for involvement of parents with students, teachers and administrators, making SASCCS feel like an extended family.

## » Technology

Our classrooms are outfitted with the latest in SMART Boards, ELMOs and more. We also offer parents the opportunity to monitor their child's progress online. Parents have 24/7 access to check their child's grades, home work, conduct, attendance and notes from teachers.

## » Character Education

Our character education program instills in our students values such as accountability, compassion, integrity, tolerance and leadership and strengthens our drug-free, gang-free, bully-free campus.

## » STEM Focus

SASCCS has a distinctive and intensive academic curriculum focusing on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). This provides the necessary foundation for college entrance and careers in technical fields. There is also the opportunity to collaborate with industry professionals through lecture and hands on experience in fields such as research, through local colleges and universities.

## » Glocal Education

SASCCS provides students with numerous opportunities to think globally and act locally through local, national and international field trips, as well as special events featuring renowned leaders and speakers. These activities expose students to new ideas and inspire their vision for their future and that of the world around them.

# Our Teachers Make Home Visits

Faculty home visits establish and build upon a family-student-teacher triad as a bridge between school and home. Students, faculty, and parents show dedication to high levels of academic achievement.



# Opportunities are endless...

The Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School (SASCCS) will provide:

- ✓ College Preparation
- ✓ Focus on STEM Education
- ✓ Glocal Education
- ✓ Youth Leadership
- ✓ Environmental Education
- ✓ After-School Programs
- ✓ Parental Involvement
- ✓ Extended Learning Time
- ✓ Assessment & Accountability
- ✓ Small School Environment



Visit us at [www.SASCCS.org](http://www.SASCCS.org)



## 5. Support letters from community leaders

Office of the President

UPSTATE  
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

May 24, 2016

Mr. David Frank, Director  
Charter Schools Office  
New York State Education Department  
98 Washington Ave.  
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Mr. Frank:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School (SASACCS). The Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School would be open to grades K-2. This school will lend a tremendous support and serve the overwhelming need for English Language Learners (ELL) students and students of different learning styles in Syracuse, New York.

Syracuse Academy of Science (SAS) is an innovative institution that focuses on delivering excellence and quality education for students. For twelve years (SAS) has specifically designed comprehensive, reliable, top-rated education for students' local and global success. They have focused on educating, equipping and empowering students in science, technology, math, science (STEM), community leadership and volunteerism. Furthermore, within 12 short years, (SAS), has established an elementary, middle, and high school which has prepared all scholars for college and other educational experiences.

I am excited to join the Syracuse and Central New York Community as the President of SUNY Upstate Medical University. That excitement has not waned since my appointment in September, but has deepened as I learn more about the multi-faceted components of this area, the many challenges, and the necessary vibrancy of our response to those challenges. I have come to Syracuse to listen and learn by meeting with the multiple stakeholders with a stake in the future of Upstate and the region as a whole.

We must reflect that in the face of concentrated poverty in the city of Syracuse (and elsewhere), we must address the issue of POVERTY in Syracuse with our science, our enterprise, our collective will to make a difference. Julius Richmond – pediatrician and Dean of the School of Medicine at Upstate in 1967 – and later the 12th US Surgeon General – the person credited with creating Head Start – understood that to make an impact we need the triad of: scientific knowledge, social strategies, and political will.

I support the opening of The Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School (K-2).

Sincerely,



Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, FAAP  
President, Upstate Medical University

# HOLY FamilyCHURCH

May 26, 2016

Mr. David Frank, Director  
Charter Schools Office  
98 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12234

Dear Mr. Frank,

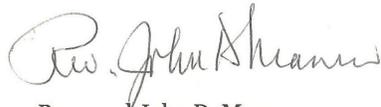
I offer this letter of support for the proposed charter school Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School SASCCS in Syracuse, New York. I believe that this charter school would be a great asset to the greater Syracuse area.

I have worked with Dr. Hayali for the past seven years as I sold a former Catholic school building to Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School (SASCS) and I am well aware of the great work that SASCS has done in Syracuse and Onondaga County. The already existing schools have been successful and are nationally recognized. I have met many graduates of SASCS and it is clear that they have benefited from the education they have received. The contributions of the SASCS to the community have been to numerous to mention and, it is clear, that the graduates of SASCS will only continue to be good contributing members of the community.

The proposed SASCCS would replicate the success already visible in the two existing schools. At the same time, it would target a group sometimes overlooked, the English Language Learners (ELL). This proposed school would give priority to ELL students, which, as you are aware, is so desperately needed. This proposed school would provide priority to these students and meet their cultural and social needs. Without this type of opportunity, one can only wonder if these students will simply fall through the cracks.

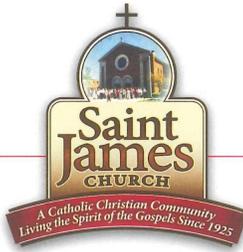
Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support for SASCCS. As I mentioned, I am well aware of the great work of SASCS in Syracuse. As a member of the community and as a Roman Catholic priest, I have seen first hand the benefit of these schools. I can only look to the future with eager anticipation of the proposed SASCCS and know that it will be a success and an asset to the overall community.

Sincerely,



Reverend John D. Manno  
Pastor

127 Chapel Drive • Syracuse • New York • 13219 • (315) 488-3139



4845 South Salina Street • Syracuse, New York 13205 • Telephone: 315-469-7789

Website: [www.stjamesyr.org](http://www.stjamesyr.org) • Email: [info@stjamesyr.org](mailto:info@stjamesyr.org)  
Facebook: Saint James Roman Catholic Church in Syracuse, New York  
Twitter: St. James, Syracuse @ stjamesyracuse

May 26, 2016

Mr. David Frank, Director  
Charter Schools Office  
New York State Education Department  
98 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Mr. Frank,

I am writing to offer my support of the mission of Dr. Tolga Hayali and his desire to establish the Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School. The Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School is currently housed in our former parish school. I am so happy that the original mission of that school can continue to be lived out. The school serves the community in such an essential way. It provides a great educational opportunity for students in our inner-city community.

Dr. Hayali's new vision is to create a school for refugee students. He wants to provide them with a foundation in English and help them to grow as members of our American society. As Syracuse continues to receive large numbers of refugees, we must find creative ways to meet their unique cultural and social needs. I commend Dr. Hayali for his passion for education and his desire to serve this historically low performing student group.

I strongly urge you to grant Dr. Hayali a charter so that he can continue his valuable work of educating students in our inner-city community.

Sincerely,

Rev. Christopher J. Ballard  
Administrator  
St. James Church

CHAIRMAN  
FINANCE  
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
BANKS  
CITIES  
CODES  
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME  
& CORRECTIONS  
JUDICIARY  
LABOR

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



JOHN A. DeFRANCISCO  
SENATOR, 50TH DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE:  
416 CAPITOL  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
PHONE 518-455-3511  
DISTRICT OFFICE:  
STATE OFFICE BUILDING - ROOM 80  
333 EAST WASHINGTON STREET  
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13202  
315-428-7632  
e-mail:  
jdefranc@nysenate.gov  
website:  
defrancisco.nysenate.gov

December 17, 2014

Mr. William Clarke, Director  
Charter Schools Office  
New York State Education Department  
98 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Mr. Clarke:

I am writing to express my support for the approval of the proposed Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School (SASCCS) in Syracuse, NY. I am confident that SASCCS will be an outstanding asset to the City of Syracuse and be of great benefit to the community.

Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School would be a replication of the already successful and nationally recognized Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School, which has already been successfully replicated in Utica, NY as the Utica Academy of Science Charter School.

Syracuse receives 23% of the refugees arriving in NY State. Furthermore, 14% of the students enrolled in the Syracuse City School District are English Language Learners (ELL). There is a need to provide alternative public education to parents of this historically low performing student group. The two charter schools that currently operate in Syracuse do not give any preferences to ELL students. SASCCS would provide priority to these students, providing them with a college-preparatory educational experience, while meeting their unique cultural and social needs.

Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School (SASCS) currently has more than 1300 students on its waiting list. To help accommodate these students, Science Academies of NY Schools would like to build on its successful SASCS school model, and implement Utica Academy of Science Charter School's effective ELL curriculum and programming to focus on ELL students.

The Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School would be open to grades K-3, enabling early intervention for language needs, which, in turn would provide the necessary building blocks to prevent gaps in learning stemming from language proficiency concerns. The school would complete its K-12 plan when 2016's third graders become high school seniors in 2025.

In addition to traditional ELL students, Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School would enroll non-ELL students. These students would assist their ELL friends with development of language, culture and social needs in the community, while reaping the benefits of the unique experiences of their classmates and weaving a tapestry of diversity and acceptance.

Having spent time with administrators and students at SASCS as Senator of the 50<sup>th</sup> Senate District of NY, I am confident in my support of this team as they seek to open the Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School, thus providing the educational and social skills necessary to graduate responsible, career-driven community members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. DeFrancisco".

John A. DeFrancisco  
State Senator

JAD/dc

February 26, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the approval of the proposed Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School (SASCCS) in Syracuse, New York. Catholic Charities of Onondaga County is one of two local agencies that resettles refugees in our community. The resettlement activity occurs primarily on the north side of the City of Syracuse which, not surprisingly, has seen a significant increase in refugee households. The proposed charter school will provide a valuable alternative to these families as well as our community for the following reasons:

- Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School is a replication of the already successful and nationally recognized Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School which has been successfully replicated as Utica Academy of Science Charter School in Utica, NY.
- Syracuse receives 23% of refugees arriving in New York State. According to the 2010 census, 11% of the Syracuse City population is foreign born. Fourteen percent (14%) of the students enrolled in Syracuse City School District are English Language Learners (ELL). Currently, there are two charter schools in the city but they do not give any preferences to ELL students. Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship will provide priority to these students and will assist them with a college-preparatory educational experience while meeting their unique cultural and social needs.
- The School of Science and Citizenship will open to grades K-3 enabling early intervention for language needs, therefore providing the necessary building blocks to prevent gaps in learning stemming from language proficiency concerns. The school will complete its K-12 plan when 2016's third graders become high school seniors in 2025.
- Students are increasingly required to think and act on a global level. In addition to traditional ELL students, Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship will enroll non-ELL students. These students will assist their ELL friends with development of language, culture, and social needs in the community while reaping the benefits of the unique experiences of their classmates, weaving a tapestry of diversity and acceptance.

I support the approval of the Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship Charter School to serve students in our community.

Sincerely,

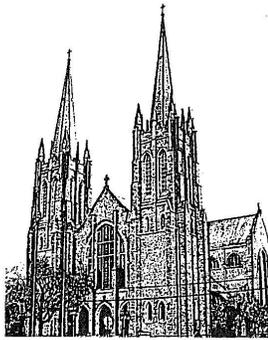


Michael F. Melara  
Executive Director



*Creating Hope, Transforming Lives*  
1654 West Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13204 • (315) 424-1800 • [www.ccoc.us](http://www.ccoc.us)





# *Basilica Sacred Heart of Jesus*

March 3, 2015

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Philip Felice and for the past 10 years I have had the privilege of being the liaison between my church, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Syracuse, NY and the Syracuse Academy of Science located right across the street at 1001 Park Ave. I have worked very closely with Mr. Tolga Hayali and his staff for the entire time and find each and every one of them a delight to work with.

They have been very cooperative, respectful and accommodating of our requests for the use of their facility. We use the school at night for our religious education program, the gym and cafeteria for our annual Parish festival and their kitchen and cafeteria every week for our Bingo. We have also used their gym and cafeteria on weekends for other events.

It should also be noted that because we are in the facility so often, we do see a lot of their students and find all of them to be extremely well behaved, respectful, courteous and polite. Too bad the public schools couldn't take a page from this Charter School's book.

My hats off to the Syracuse Academy of Science Charter Schools Program and Staff. The school is going to be a great addition to the greater Syracuse community and a wonderful opportunity to the urban youth. Their program has proved itself over the years. I support this school and all of their efforts.

Sincerely,

Philip Felice

927 PARK AVE. • SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13204 • TELEPHONE 315-422-2343 • FAX 315-422-2344  
WWW.SACREDHEARTSYR.ORG

## 6. E-mail to 2577 parents of eligible students

Dear Parent,

You have shown an interest to register one or more of your kids at Syracuse Academy Charter School. However, due to limited seating available at SAS they may not have got in SAS.

In order to serve more families and children in Syracuse and satisfy the high demand, Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School (SASCS) has decided to submit a new charter school application to New York State for the City of Syracuse. The new charter school, which would open for the 2017-18 school year serving 168 students in grades k-2, would be called Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship (SASCCS) in a college-bound, STEM setting. In 10 years, SASCCS will become k-12 school with the following features: College Prep, focus on STEM and environmental education, home visits, student centered school structure (tutoring and afterschool activities, extended school day and year, small school environment), glocal education (teaching to think globally and acting locally by character education, mentorship program, community service, international trips and activities, and various citizenship programs), and performance based accountability.

Please feel free to provide your comments and support by filling out the following survey. [Click here to access to the survey](#)

Open Houses for providing information regarding new school and application:

**Place:** SAS High School, 1001 Park ave, Syracuse

**Time:** 2 pm

**Dates:** June 27, 28th, and July 2nd.



To learn more about the proposed Syracuse Academy of Science & Citizenship please visit [www.sasccs.org](http://www.sasccs.org) or read the brochure below.

## 7. Press Release



1001 PARK AVENUE, SYRACUSE, NY 13204  
P: 315-428-8997 F: 315-295-2226  
[www.SASCS.ORG](http://www.SASCS.ORG)

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### NEWS RELEASE: JUNE 25, 2016

Contact: Tolga Hayali  
Phone: 315-728-9555  
E-Mail: hayali@sascs.org

### Syracuse Academy of Science to apply for second charter school in Syracuse

**Syracuse, NY:** Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School (SASCS) announced today that an application will be submitted to New York State for a new charter school in the City of Syracuse. The charter school, which would open for the 2017-18 school year serving 168 students in grades k-2, would be called Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship (SASCCS) with an emphasis on serving English Language Learners in a college-bound, STEM setting. In 10 years, SASCCS will become k-12 school with the following features: College Prep, focus on STEM and environmental education, home visits, student centered school structure (tutoring and afterschool activities, extended school day and year, small school environment), glocal education (teaching to think globally and acting locally by character education, mentorship program, community service, international trips and activities, and various citizenship programs), and performance based accountability.

The greater Syracuse area is home to 23 percent of the refugee population in New York State. "There is a need [in Syracuse] to provide curriculum that best serves English Language Learners," said SASCS Superintendent, Dr. Tolga Hayali. "The school of Science & Citizenship will be a replication of Syracuse Academy of Science and provide these [ELL] students the opportunity to learn alongside their native-English speaking peers in an environment that also offers curriculum and activities supportive of their language skills and cultural adaptation." This will be the second replication of Syracuse Academy of Science founded in 2003. In September 2013, SASCS opened Utica Academy of Science Charter School in Utica, NY.

SASCS has been recognized as one of the best public high schools in the nation two years in a row by U.S. News & World Report and has consistently maintained a waiting list in excess of 1400.

Public information sessions will be held in the cafeteria at Syracuse Academy of Science, located at 1001 Park Ave., Syracuse on the following dates and times; the public is encouraged to attend.

#### Information Sessions at 2:00 p.m. on June 27, 28 and July 2

To learn more about the proposed Syracuse Academy of Science & Citizenship please visit [www.sasccs.org](http://www.sasccs.org).

#### About Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School

Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School (SASCS) is a nonprofit, tuition-free, public, k-12, college preparatory charter school in Central New York. The schools prepare students for college, career and citizenship through a STEM based curriculum. SASCS seeks to graduate students who can think critically and creatively; who are committed to a lifetime of learning and civic involvement; and who are conscious of local, global and environmental issues.

###

## 8. Media Coverage

### Science Academies of New York to apply for second charter school in Syracuse



In this 2013 file photo, students from the Syracuse Academy of Science demonstrate their science projects at the MOST, burning a dollar bill. The bill is soaked in an alcohol-water solution - when the bill is lit the alcohol burns while the temperature is not high enough to evaporate the water so the bill remains wet and not burned. (David Lassman | [dlassman@syracuse.com](mailto:dlassman@syracuse.com))



By **Dave Tobin** | [dtobin@syracuse.com](mailto:dtobin@syracuse.com)

Email the author | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on January 16, 2015 at 1:24 PM, updated January 16, 2015 at 2:25 PM

Reddit

[http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2015/01/science\\_academies\\_of\\_new\\_york\\_to\\_apply\\_for\\_second\\_charter\\_school\\_in\\_syracuse.html](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2015/01/science_academies_of_new_york_to_apply_for_second_charter_school_in_syracuse.html)

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- Science Academies of New York Charter Schools is applying to open a new charter school in the Syracuse.

The proposed charter school, called Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship, would open for the 2016-17 school year serving grades K-2 . It plans to add a new grade each year to become K-12, with enrollment reaching 975 students in 10 years.

The new school will require community service at each grade level, beginning with kindergarten, the charter school company said. The proposed school will serve all students, with English language learners having priority in the enrollment process.

The school of Science & Citizenship will replicate the **Syracuse Academy of Science**, which has three locations in Syracuse, and a current enrollment of 844. The school has been approved for a maximum of 975.

Public information sessions regarding the proposed Syracuse Academy of Science & Citizenship will be held January 17, 24 and 31 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the cafeteria at Syracuse Academy of Science, at 1001 Park Ave.

## Central NY charter school wants to open another location

<http://wrvo.org/post/central-ny-charter-school-wants-open-another-location>

By ELLEN ABBOTT • JAN 26, 2015



*A classroom at the Syracuse Academy of Science*

Charter schools across New York State could be getting a boost, after Gov. Andrew Cuomo, in his State of State address last week, proposed adding another 100 slots to the state's charter school cap and lifting the regional limit on the schools. One non-profit charter school operator in the Syracuse area is already bursting at the seams and looking to expand.

Uniform-clad students hop on the bus after a day at the Syracuse Academy of Science charter school on Syracuse's southside. Superintendent Tolga Hayali says this tuition-free charter school, which focuses on STEM subjects, may not be for everyone

"We are just an option. Our option is being a small size, long day, there are 195 days, There are some things kids might not like, but this is what we believe," said Hayali.

In addition to those differences from most public school, these charter school kids wear uniforms, athletics are limited, and home visits by the school are a must.

And families are chomping at the bit to get in.

"We have more than 1,300 students on the waiting list right now for this building, right now in Syracuse. I think about 254 for [the] academy in Utica charter school."

CREDIT ELLEN ABBOTT / WRVO

Hayali says that waiting list has prompted the non-profit that runs the schools in Syracuse and Utica to apply to the state for permission to open another charter in Syracuse. It will be much the same as the current Syracuse Academy, with one difference: a bigger focus on citizenship and volunteerism.

"And I know we are doing this [volunteering] in the high school[s], in the civics class, 40 hours and it's great," said Hayali. "But why not start it in kindergarten level -- five hours, ten hours, and talk about it. And why do we do this? We certainly believe we get so much from the community. And how do we get back to them, how do we say thank you."

The application process starts next month. Hayali hopes the state makes a decision on their application by late spring, and the school could potentially open up in 2016 with grades K-2 and ultimately serve more than 975 students by 2026.

## **New Syracuse Charter School Could Open Opportunities for ESL Students**

[HTTPS://NCCNEWS.EXPRESSIONS.SYR.EDU/EDUCATION/NEW-SYRACUSE-CHARTER-SCHOOL-COULD-OPEN-OPPORTUNITIES-FOR-ESL-STUDENTS/](https://nccnews.expressions.syr.edu/education/new-syracuse-charter-school-could-open-opportunities-for-esl-students/)

BY [MARIA CINTI](#), [BDJ 364.02](#)

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Superintendent Tolga Hayali at the Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School.

**By Maria Cinti SYRACUSE, N.Y. (NCC News)** — A great opportunity for english as a second language students could be coming their way. If a new charter school opens in Syracuse, ESL students will get a leg up in the school's enrollment process.

Science Academies of New York Charter Schools is applying to open a new charter school in Syracuse. The new school would begin with kindergarten through second grade, but it would add on a new grade each year. Its goal is to become a K-12 school. The proposed charter school is called Syracuse Academy of Science and Citizenship, a name that reflects the many hours of community service the school will provide.

If the application is approved, ESL students will have a much greater chance of being picked to attend it than many of their peers, according to Dr. Tolga Hayali, the superintendent of the Science Academies of New York Charter Schools. In fact, they would make up about 20 percent of the entire student body, Hayali said.

"We wanted to open a school, but we wanted to include something else, Hayali said. 'Okay, what can we do?' We can say, let's give also a preference and help the district so that if the students want to come with ESL, they can get a preference. We know there's a high percentage of the ESL population here," Hayali said.

The ESL programs at the new charter school would reflect upon those practiced at the Utica Academy of Science Charter School, Hayali said. The Utica Academy is one of the schools within the Science Academies of New York Charter Schools. Beginning when the Utica Academy first opened, one in every five children attending the school was an ESL student. Its ESL students advanced from beginner to intermediate levels rather quickly, Hayali said. Hayali says he would like to see this same progress for ESL students at the new charter school.

Like the Utica Academy of Science Charter School, the new charter school will have a peer-mentoring program as it expands, according to Hayali. Those who have gone through the ESL

program will mentor young ESL students, and the program will run like a “study buddy,” Hayali said.

“It’s something that we can bring to the table that can help, Hayali said. Because I am positive some of our students had a really hard time in six-grade math. But in ninth grade they solved it. Now they’re ready to go. Now they’re coming back to the sixth grade to say, ‘Hey, I was in the same spot where you were!’ But here’s how you need to look at it. Peer mentorship is another great tool that the schools are utilizing, and that’s something that we want to definitely bring to the table,” Hayali said.

If approved, the new charter school would have about 175 students, Hayali said. It would open for the 2016-2017 school year.