

Response 1: Executive Summary

Provide a description of how the education corporation's plans for the 2020-2021 school year support attainment of its chartered mission, are informed with the best knowledge and information available regarding health, safety, support, and continued academic growth for students, their families, and staff. Please identify the chartered names of schools, and grade levels served by each school included under this plan.

Amber Charter Schools (ACS) provide our students with an academically rigorous and well-rounded education, along with strong character development, which will enable them to prosper in their future endeavors.

Rigorous academic learning is core to our mission. Since we were faced with this elongated challenge of figuring out how to “do” school amidst great health, safety and societal uncertainty, we have worked relentlessly to learn and evolve our efforts in order to ensure high-quality teaching and learning would be accessible to every single student enrolled in our schools. We collected feedback from our students and families. We surveyed our staff often and formed cross-functional task forces of teachers, leaders and other staff members to engage diverse voices and leverage ideas from across the entire organization. We made investments in resources that were, just a few months ago, on our “wish lists.” Chromebooks for all students, internet access for families, comprehensive, blended curriculum materials, new platforms for communicating with families.

As you will see throughout this reopening plan, we have formulated a vision for the year ahead that reflects our commitment to student learning and development. We have developed detailed protocols for students and staff in our buildings that will, within a few weeks, become our new routines. Our hybrid approach will provide accessibility to all, and bring students and staff back into our buildings safely. It will also allow us to shift to 100% remote seamlessly, if that is required.

We have strengthened our approach to psychosocial health, systematically gathering information from our families and staff members about their challenges and concerns. We are prioritizing a meaningful re-acclimation to school in September, and have plans to create the foundational classroom, school and network-wide communities we all need, in new and innovative ways. Fostering and maintaining connections between students, with families and amongst our staff has never been more critical.

For the 2020-21 school year, The ACS network will operate two K-5 schools, Amber Charter School East Harlem and Amber Charter Schools Kingsbridge.¹

¹ ACS is also planning to launch Amber Charter Schools Inwood in the fall of 2021. 2020-21 is a planning year for this school.