



Recent Editions - [Sat.](#) | [Mon.](#) | [Tue.](#) | [Wed.](#) | [Thu.](#)

June 7, 2007 edition

Search Archives:

Advertise  
Subscribe  
Contact Us

Out & About  
Email Alerts  
Photo Gallery

HOME **NEW YORK** NATIONAL FOREIGN EDITORIAL LATEST POLITICS BUSINESS REAL ESTATE+ ARTS+ FOOD & DRINK SPORTS CALENDAR STYLE TRAVEL

# NEW YORK

[Comment](#) [Diag](#) [del.icio.us](#) [Email](#) [Print](#) [RSS](#) [XML](#)

## Two Unionized Schools Set To Adopt Merit Pay

By ELIZABETH GREEN  
Staff Reporter of the Sun  
June 7, 2007

Two unionized schools are among the 10 in the city set to begin a merit-pay plan next year, but the plan could face resistance from the union, the [United Federation of Teachers](#).

A \$10.5 million federal grant announced yesterday will pay for the program, which would reward teachers with up to \$6,000 in bonuses if they raised student test scores or took on leadership positions.

All 10 schools set to participate are charter schools, but two — known as conversion schools — abide by UFT contracts. The group that will run the program, the [Center for Educational Innovation](#), said the conversion schools' involvement could lay the groundwork for expanding merit pay citywide. If union contracts are shown to permit the arrangement, and union members are shown to appreciate it, even traditional public schools could adopt it, the group's project director, Frank San Felice, said.

But the union's president, [Randi Weingarten](#), yesterday suggested that might be impossible. She said unionized schools could not enact merit pay without renegotiating their contracts, a process the UFT could halt. "It has to be negotiated," she said. "CEI or the school leadership is not going to unilaterally do this."

Both the Center for Educational Innovation and a co-director of one of the schools disputed that yesterday. They said faculties at the two unionized schools, the Renaissance Charter School in Jackson Heights, Queens, and the John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School in Manhattan, could amend their contracts to allow for merit-based pay without involving the union. Both faculties have already showed support for the program, in votes to join the grant application, they said.

"If our bargaining unit members decide that they want to participate in this, that's their right," Renaissance's co-director of operations, Stacey Gauthier, said. She said she didn't understand "why the union wouldn't want to support their members getting extra income."

Ms. Weingarten said she would support some types of performance-based bonuses, citing the union's participation in an application to the same federal fund last year, which the city Department of Education also joined. The application called for a plan that would reward entire schools for meeting performance goals, but would not differentiate between teachers. It was not approved.

The new grant will distinguish between teachers; one of its bonuses would only go to a teacher who met his or her performance goals, representatives from the Center for Educational Innovation said.

Schools Chancellor Joel Klein, who supports bonuses for individual teachers, yesterday said he hopes the

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

### Related Sun Articles

- [School Reform Group Hails Jersey Victories](#)  
Jun 7, 2007
- [Manhattan Schools Left Out of Federal Funds Hike](#)  
Jun 7, 2007
- [Federal Grant Brings Merit Pay To Some Schools](#)  
Jun 6, 2007
- [Test Scores Rise Since No Child Left Behind](#)  
Jun 6, 2007
- [Spitzer Nominates Ex-Chancellor To Lead SUNY Board](#)  
Jun 6, 2007

### Related Topics

- [Business](#)
- [Charter Schools](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Jobs and Labor](#)
- [Labor Unions](#)

powered by [Inform](#)

### New York Sun Blogs

- [Latest Politics](#)  
Q-Poll: Fred Thompson Nearly Triples Percentage in FL  
June 7, 7:27 AM
- [It Shines For All](#)  
Foot-Washing Stations  
June 5, 2:36 PM
- [Out & About Blog](#)  
Monday Kick Off  
June 4, 5:53 PM

### Online Extras



### An Arabic Public School

Read the Sun's coverage of plans to open an Arabic-language public school in Brooklyn.

**Real Estate+**  
The Sun's new expanded real estate coverage is here.

program can extend through the rest of city schools. "I hope Sy that your vision – that we'll be able to extend it throughout the city," he told the Center for Educational Innovation's president, Seymour Fliegel.



**Has Prison Lost Its Capacity To Shame?**

By LENORE SKENAZY  
Ah, the glamour of the slammer. Just before Paris Hilton slipped off to jail, Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum in Times Square posed a paraffin Paris in prison stripes in the public lobby.

**Comment on this article**

Name:

Email Address:

*Email me if someone replies to my comment*

Title of Comments:

Comments:

Send Comment

**Note:** Comments are screened, and in some cases edited, before posting. We reserve the right to reject anything we find objectionable.

[Click here to see the top 25 recent comments.](#)



105 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007

© 2007 The New York Sun, One SL, LLC. All rights reserved.

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#)