

School District of Philadelphia

Renaissance Schools

<http://webgui.phila.k12.pa.us/offices/r/renaissance-schools>

According to this webpage, “On January 27, 2010 The School District of Philadelphia launched the Renaissance Schools initiative. The initiative is aimed at bringing transformative changes to the District’s lowest performing school to bring about dramatic improvement in student achievement. There are three major components of the Renaissance Schools initiative: (1) identifying chronically low-performing District schools that are not likely to achieve dramatic improvements without transformative change, (2) identifying individuals and organizations that are capable and prepared to turnaround around failing schools in Philadelphia, and (3) empowering school communities to play an active role in the turnaround and ongoing support of their school.” The site currently lists schools that have been identified as eligible for Renaissance conversion in 2010–2011; selected organizations which first responded to a request for qualifications and have been invited to respond to the RFP; and an application for community members who are interested in participating in the process and want to apply to be on a Renaissance School Advisory Council. According to the site, “Renaissance Schools will have greater degrees of autonomy in school management in exchange for a high degree of accountability for performance.”

Renaissance Schools Implementation Plan (2010, January)

http://webgui.phila.k12.pa.us/uploads/03/oH/03oHmrjUztWQkcaZg21Ktg/Implementation-Plan_v2.2_012610_w-TOC-1.pdf

This implantation plan contains a brief history of the Renaissance School Advisory Board; Renaissance Schools definition, governance, and autonomies; required elements for Renaissance School plans; four Renaissance School models (Innovation Schools, Promise Academy Schools, Contract Schools, and Charter Schools); the accountability plan; student admission and retention; the Renaissance School selection process; recruiting and selecting Renaissance Turnaround Teams; the formation of School Advisory Councils; the matching process for school communities and Turnaround Teams; and the transition process. A timeline for the development and implementation of the plan are also provided. Appendix C is the *Overview of the Renaissance School Review Protocol (2010)*, intended to “provide a diagnostic view of current school strengths and areas for improvement, with a focus on school leadership’s capacity to affect dramatic improvements in student achievement.”

News Release (2010, January 27)

<http://philasd.org/announcements/renaissance-release-masthead.pdf>

This January 27, 2010, 9-page news release is entitled “School District of Philadelphia Launches Major Turnaround School Initiative: The Renaissance Schools Initiative, a Major Component of Imagine 2014, Looks to Turn Around Chronically Underperforming Schools.” It details the process used to select the Renaissance Eligible Schools, the formation and responsibilities of School Advisory Councils, the recruitment and selection of Renaissance Turnaround Teams, and a Summary of Renaissance Schools Implementation Timeline–Year 1.

Office of Charter, Partnership, & New Schools

<http://webgui.phila.k12.pa.us/offices/c/charter-partnership-and-new-schools>

The School District of Philadelphia Office of Charter, Partnership, & New Schools (OCPNS) is responsible for expanding and supporting high quality public school choice for Philadelphia students. Housed in OCPNS are the Charter School Office; Partnership Schools; the Renaissance Schools Initiative; and Promoting Excellence in Philadelphia Schools, based on the Milken Family Foundation's Teacher Advancement Program (TAP), or Philly TAP.

Charter Schools

http://webgui.phila.k12.pa.us/offices/c/charter_schools

This webpage “has been developed to aid students, parents, teachers and the general public as they seek information on Philadelphia's 71 charter schools.... We have also provided information for charter school operators to facilitate their interaction with various District offices.” The page contains links to the district's “Charter School Policy” statement (2010), a slide presentation of proposed amendments to the policy, and the “Charter Agreement Modification Request Form” (2010), including enrollment increased, grade reconfigurations, and a timeline for submitting requests.