



The School District of Philadelphia

Presentation to the School Reform Commission (SRC)

From the Office of General Counsel

October 19, 2017



The School District of Philadelphia

Topic: Statutory Framework Concerning the Dissolution of the SRC

Background:

- December 21, 2001 – Secretary of Education declared School District of Philadelphia as a distressed school district for the reasons that it:
 - Failed to adopt a valid budget; and
 - Failed or will fail to provide an educational program in compliance with State laws and regulations.
- Pursuant to the Public School Code, the SRC was established consisting of 5 members (3 appointed by the Governor and 2 appointed by the Mayor).
- There is no term set forth in the Public School Code for the life of the SRC.



The School District of Philadelphia

Dissolution process:

As per Section 696(n) of the Public School Code:

1. SRC deliberates and votes to adopt a resolution recommending the dissolution of the SRC at a regular Action meeting or special meeting called by the Chair.
2. Secretary of Education may then issue a declaration to dissolve the SRC.

Timeline for dissolution:

- The Secretary's declaration must be issued at least 180 days prior to the end of the current school year and becomes effective at the end of that school year.
- The current school year ends June 30th, 2018.



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Activities Outside the Scope of the Responsibilities of the SRC:

- The Mayor may appoint members to the Board of School Directors prior to the dissolution of the SRC.
- Current provisions in the Home Rule Charter & Public School Code.

Changes from the SRC to a Board of School Directors:

- Five (5) member Commission to nine (9) member Board of School Directors.
- Certain provisions of Section 696 would cease to be in effect such as:
 - Section 696(n): Maintenance of Effort.
 - Section 696(1): Prohibiting all School Employees from engaging in any strike.
 - Section 693(a)(1): Cancel or renegotiate any contract other than teachers' contract



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Question & Answers



Charter School Renewal Recommendation

*Presentation to the School Reform Commission
Charter Schools Office*

October 19, 2017



Renewal Overview

The recommendation to renew a charter for a subsequent five-year period is based on a comprehensive review of three domains:

I. Academic Success

- Academic proficiency
- Academic growth compared to the statewide standard
- Attendance trend and comparison to median
- Within and Across Year Retention (pre 2015)

II. Organizational Compliance and Viability

- Mission and innovation
- Compliance with special education, English Language Learner, student enrollment, student discipline, personnel, food program, school safety and student health services requirements
- Board governance and adherence to Applicable Laws, submission of required documentation

III. Financial Health and Sustainability

- Short and long-term financial performance
- Adherence to generally accepted standards of fiscal management



Renewal Overview

- Each of the three domains is rated as Meets Standard, Approaches Standard or Does Not Meet Standard.
- *Academic success is a primary consideration for charter renewal.* A charter school that does not meet the standard for academic success will be considered for non-renewal regardless of ratings in the other two domains.
- Charter schools in Philadelphia can be Non-Renewed or Renewed for 1 year or 5 years with or without conditions.

		Academic Success		
		Meets Standard	Approaches Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
Organizational Compliance Financial Health	Meets Standard	5-Year Renewal	5-Year Renewal with Conditions	Nonrenewal
	Approaches Standard	5-Year Renewal with Conditions		
	Does Not Meet Standard	Nonrenewal		

Richard Allen Preparatory Charter School

Recommendation: *Revocation and Non-Renewal*

Location: Southwest

Student Population: 492 students in Grades 5 – 8
(2015-16)

	Richard Allen Preparatory	District
Special Education	13.2%	15.4%
English Language Learners	3.5%	10%
Students Living in Poverty	70.1%	63.6%

Mission: *“The mission of RAPCS is to create a safe and healthy learning environment for middle school youth to develop into responsible participants in their education and our diverse society. We will provide rigorous instruction to prepare children for higher learning, the workplace, and life. RAPCS will engage our students to think globally and act locally!”*

Evaluation Overview	2014-15 Renewal Review	2016-17 Review
I. Academic Success	Approaches Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
II. Organizational Compliance and Viability	Does Not Meet Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
III. Financial Health and Sustainability	Meets Standard	Approaches Standard

Richard Allen Preparatory Charter School

I. Academic Success 2010-2014 School Years*

Approaches Standard

- Math, Reading and Science proficiency District and charter comparison averages in only 3 of 12 instances during the charter term
- PSSA proficiency rates above floor but below target in all years of the charter term
- School met or exceeded the growth standard in 6 of 8 instances during the charter term in Math and Reading
- Within Year Retention was above the floor but below the target in all years
- Across Year Retention was above the floor but below the target in 3 of 4 years

**Note: All PSSA test scores in this period are prior to the change in the PSSA*

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Math Proficiency	52.7%	60.1%	50.4%	39.2%
Reading Proficiency	58.8%	58.9%	46.9%	43.7%
Science Proficiency	26.4%	28.1%	24.7%	19.1%
Math AGI (standard ≥ -1)	4.2	0.5	4.3	-5.3
Reading AGI (standard ≥ -1)	5.6	1.9	2.7	-1.9
Within Year Retention	93.4%	96.9%	96.6%	93.5%
Across Year Retention	83.0%	72.3%	76.4%	85.7%

Richard Allen Preparatory Charter School

I. Academic Success 2014-15 and 2015-16*

Does Not Meet Standard

- Math, ELA and Science proficiency exceeded at least two of three comparison averages in 0 instances in the most recent two years
- School met or exceeded the growth standard in tested subjects in 0 of 6 instances in the most recent two years
- Rate of attendance was available for only one year as the school did not participate in the SPR in 2014-15, rate was above the 50th percentile for MS

**Note: All PSSA test scores in this period are after the change in the PSSA*

	2014-15	2015-16
Math Proficiency	2.87%	3.11%
ELA Proficiency	28.78%	19.29%
Science Proficiency	15.52%	14.40%
Math AGI (standard ≥ -1)	-6.88	-6.54
ELA AGI (standard ≥ -1)	-1.04	-5.31
Grade 8 Science AGI (standard ≥ -1)	-4.97	-5.17
Attendance (95% or more days)	NA	48%

Richard Allen Preparatory Charter School

II. Organizational Compliance and Viability¹

Mission	Does Not Meet Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School does not execute its mission consistently in school operations and programming. Material design components of the educational program were not consistently observed in classrooms.
English Language Learners	Does Not Meet Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School's ELL policy does not articulate all program exit criteria compliant with PDE requirements.• Practices for identification, notification, daily instruction and annual assessment were not consistently implemented for all ELLs.
Student Discipline	Does Not Meet Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School did not have a discipline policy reflecting compliance with all due process requirements.• School did not provide evidence of notification of charges and due process rights to families or evidence of a hearing for any of the 8 expulsions during the period reviewed.

¹Only those categories which either Meet Standard or Do Not Meet Standard are listed herein. Categories in which the school Approached Standard are detailed in the Renewal Recommendation Report.

Richard Allen Preparatory Charter School

III. Financial Health and Sustainability¹

Financial Health	Meets Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Met standards for short-term and long-term financial metrics and ratios throughout the charter term.
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