



## Charter School Renewal Recommendation

*Presentation to the School Reform Commission  
Charter Schools Office*

June 16, 2016



## Renewal Overview

The recommendation to renew a charter for a subsequent five-year period is based on a comprehensive review of three domains: (1) Academic Success, (2) Organizational Viability and Compliance, and (3) Financial Health and Sustainability.

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 nonrenewal regardless of ratings in the other two domains.

		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		

# Russell Byers Charter School

**Recommendation:** *5-Year Renewal with Conditions*  
*NOTE: Evaluated during the 2014-15 school year*

**Location:** Center City

**Student Population:** 485 students in K – Grade 6

	Russell Byers	District
Special Education	13%	14%
English Language Learners	2%	10%
Students Living in Poverty	36%	65%

**Mission:** “RBCS provides students roots, a safe, stimulating environment with a rigorous academic education grounded in Expeditionary Learning.”

<b>Renewal Evaluation Overview</b>	
<b>I. Academic Success</b>	<b>Approaches Standard</b>
<b>II. Organizational Viability and Compliance</b>	<b>Approaches Standard</b>
<b>III. Financial Health and Sustainability</b>	<b>Meets Standard</b>

# Russell Byers Charter School

## I. Academic Success

### Approaches Standard

- The school's math, reading, science and writing proficiency exceeded District, charter and peer averages throughout the charter term.
- The school met the math growth standard in 2 of 4 instances during the charter term.
- The school met the reading growth standard in 3 of 4 instances during the charter term.

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Math Proficiency	71.0%	82.5%	70.8%	69.9%
Reading Proficiency	65.1%	68.7%	67.1%	60.5%
Science Proficiency	70.2%	86.3%	66.7%	79.2%
Writing Proficiency	84.8%	68.1%	70.6%	67.4%
Math Average Growth Index	-2.5	-0.1	-1.2	-0.8
Reading Average Growth Index	0.8	2.8	4.5	-1.0

# Russell Byers Charter School

<b>II. Organizational Viability and Compliance<sup>1</sup></b>		
<b>Mission</b>	<b>Meets Standard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders articulate key components of mission consistently with programming in place to support execution.</li> </ul>
<b>Admissions</b>	<b>Meets Standard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appears to implement compliant and equitable admissions practices.</li> </ul>
<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Meets Standard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appears to implement compliant discipline policies with appropriate due process procedures.</li> <li>Systems in place to support clear expectations and consistent implementation of discipline policies.</li> </ul>
<b>Board Governance</b>	<b>Meets Standard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board appears to comply with Bylaws, Sunshine Act, and Statements of Financial Interest requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>Special Education</b>	<b>Does Not Meet Standard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification process was not clearly understood by staff.</li> <li>Concerns raised regarding meeting services as outlined in IEPs, inadequate time for general and special education teacher collaboration, and lack of professional development to support implementation of inclusion model.</li> </ul>
<b>III. Financial Health and Sustainability<sup>1</sup></b>		
<b>Financial Health</b>	<b>Meets Standard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Met standard financial metrics and ratios throughout charter term.</li> </ul>
<b>Fiscal Management</b>	<b>Meets Standard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial transactions appear appropriate and are without audit findings.</li> <li>Conflict of interest concern regarding overlapping Board member with Foundation was addressed during the charter term.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>Only 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.