

Renaissance Schools Advisory Board

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles reflect the Superintendent's priorities for aligning the Renaissance School Initiative to the overall vision articulated in Imagine 2014.

1. Chronically failing schools should be transformed to provide all families and students in Philadelphia with high quality school options that include great leaders and teachers, effective instructional practices, high parent engagement, comprehensive supports for students, and a safe, nurturing learning environment.
2. Community engagement is integral to the process of successfully implementing choice in Philadelphia. Renaissance School communities will play an active role in the selection of Renaissance School providers and the transformation of these schools into high performing learning environments.
3. The selection process for identifying high and low performing schools will be objective, transparent, and based on a rigorous analysis of school performance data.
4. The process for identifying Renaissance School Providers will be based on objective, rigorous, and transparent criteria and will be open to a wide range of internal and external partners that have a proven track record of success.
5. The process of creating quality choice for families and students and transforming low performing schools must be reasonable and managed to ensure success.
6. Renaissance Schools will be held to the same high performance standards as all Philadelphia schools.
7. The timeline for implementation should result in the conversion of a first set of schools for the 2010-2011 school year.

Provider Recruitment and Selection Sub-committee

Scope / Charter:

Define and recommend criteria for evaluating proposals to operate Renaissance Schools from interested individuals and organizations.

Guiding Questions:

- What qualifications for internal and external providers are necessary as a baseline for being eligible to participate?
- How can the provide selection process accommodate a wide range of individuals and organizations that propose both full-service management and partial school support services?
- How does the District establish a review process that is objective, transparent, and incorporates community input?
- How does the District ensure that Renaissance Schools offer high quality educational options that reflect the community's needs and interests?
- What school models should be considered for Renaissance Schools -- innovation schools (schools that use District staff under terms of current labor contracts), contract schools, and/or charter schools?
- What accountability and autonomy should Renaissance Schools have?
- What should be measures of success for evaluating the provider recruitment and selection process?

School Selection Sub-committee

Scope / Charter:

Define a process and criteria for identifying Renaissance Schools that includes an objective and rigorous assessment of school performance data and facilitates community engagement in the Renaissance school transformation process.

Guiding Questions:

- What quantitative school performance data should be included in the selection process?
- Should the District include a school audit review as part of the school selection process?
- How is this school selection process integrated with the process of selecting providers?
- Should final decisions about school selection be influenced by which Renaissance Providers are selected by the RFQ/RFP process?
- How can the District select schools in a manner that minimizes the immediate, short-term disruption to schools?
- What should be measures of success for evaluating the school selection process?

Community Engagement and Communication Sub-committee

Scope / Charter:

Define the process for community engagement within the Renaissance School Initiative.

Guiding Questions:

- How does the District incorporate community voice in the process of transforming schools?
- How do we define “community” for each targeted Renaissance School and what mechanism do we use to establish community advisory and selection committees for each targeted school?
- How does the District ensure that Renaissance Schools offer high quality educational options that reflect the community’s needs and interests?
- What is the ideal way to “match” providers and schools?
- What messaging should be published to key constituents and the general public about Renaissance Schools and the entire process?
- What requirements should there be for community engagement at a Renaissance School?
- How can the school community help to minimize the immediate, short-term disruption once Renaissance schools are announced?
- What should be the measures of success for determining if the District has effectively engaged the community?