

ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW COUNCIL

Report to the School Reform Commission

**Charter School Accountability in the
School District of Philadelphia: Issues of
Oversight and Performance**

September 2015

ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW COUNCIL

Judith A. Winston, J.D., Chair

Edmund R. Becker, Ph.D., Member

Constance L. Hollinger, Ph.D., Member

James E. Lyons, Sr., Ph.D., Member

Gerald Tirozzi, Ph.D., Member

Marlene Weinstein, MS, Member

Kenneth K. Wong, Ph.D., Executive Advisor

	SDP Schools	% SDP Schools	Charter Schools	% Total Charter Schools	Overall District	% Overall District
Intervene	83	39%	12	15.4%	95	32.6%
Watch	88	41.3%	36	46.2%	124	42.6%
Reinforce	36	16.9%	27	34.6%	63	21.7%
Model	6	2.8%	3	3.8%	9	3.1%
Total	213	100% (N=213)	78	100% (N=78)	291	100% (N=291)

Overall SPR Tier Ratings for Charter and District Schools
2013-14

ARC Recommendations

- ARC supports SRC's cautious approach on charter school expansion
- ARC supports SRC's efforts toward ensuring stronger charter school transparency and accountability policies and practices
- ARC recommends the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) take a stronger role in ensuring charter accountability
- ARC supports PDE and SRC joint efforts to replicate effective "beating the odds" schools and their practices

Belmont Charter High School

Revised Application

Presentation to the School Reform Commission
September 17, 2015

Overview of Revised Charter Application

- The Pennsylvania Charter School Law provides denied applicants with the right to appeal to the State Charter School Appeal Board **or** to resubmit a revised application
- The SRC is required to vote upon a revised application at the first scheduled public board meeting occurring at least 45 days after the receipt of the revised application

Resubmission Review

- The Community Education Alliance of West Philadelphia's revised application for Belmont Charter High School was received by the Charter Schools Office on July 7, 2015
- District staff reviewed the content of the revised application and submitted an evaluation report to the SRC
- The SRC will vote upon the revised application this evening

Belmont High School Application Overview

	Original Application	Revised Application
Grade Range	9 to 12	Same
Total Enrollment	500	Same
Location	Leidy building: 1301 Belmont Ave, 19104	Same
Proposed Opening Year	2015	2016
Enrollment Preference	Belmont 8 th graders, 19139 and 19143	Same

PA Charter Law Requirements

- PA charter law contains guidelines for approval of charter applications, including:
 - The extent to which the application considers the information requested in the charter application
 - The capabilities of the applicant, in terms of support and planning, to provide comprehensive learning experiences to students
 - The demonstrated, sustainable support for the charter school plan by parents, community members, and students
 - The extent to which the charter school may serve as a model for other public schools