

Philadelphia Charter Schools and the Authorizing Quality Initiative

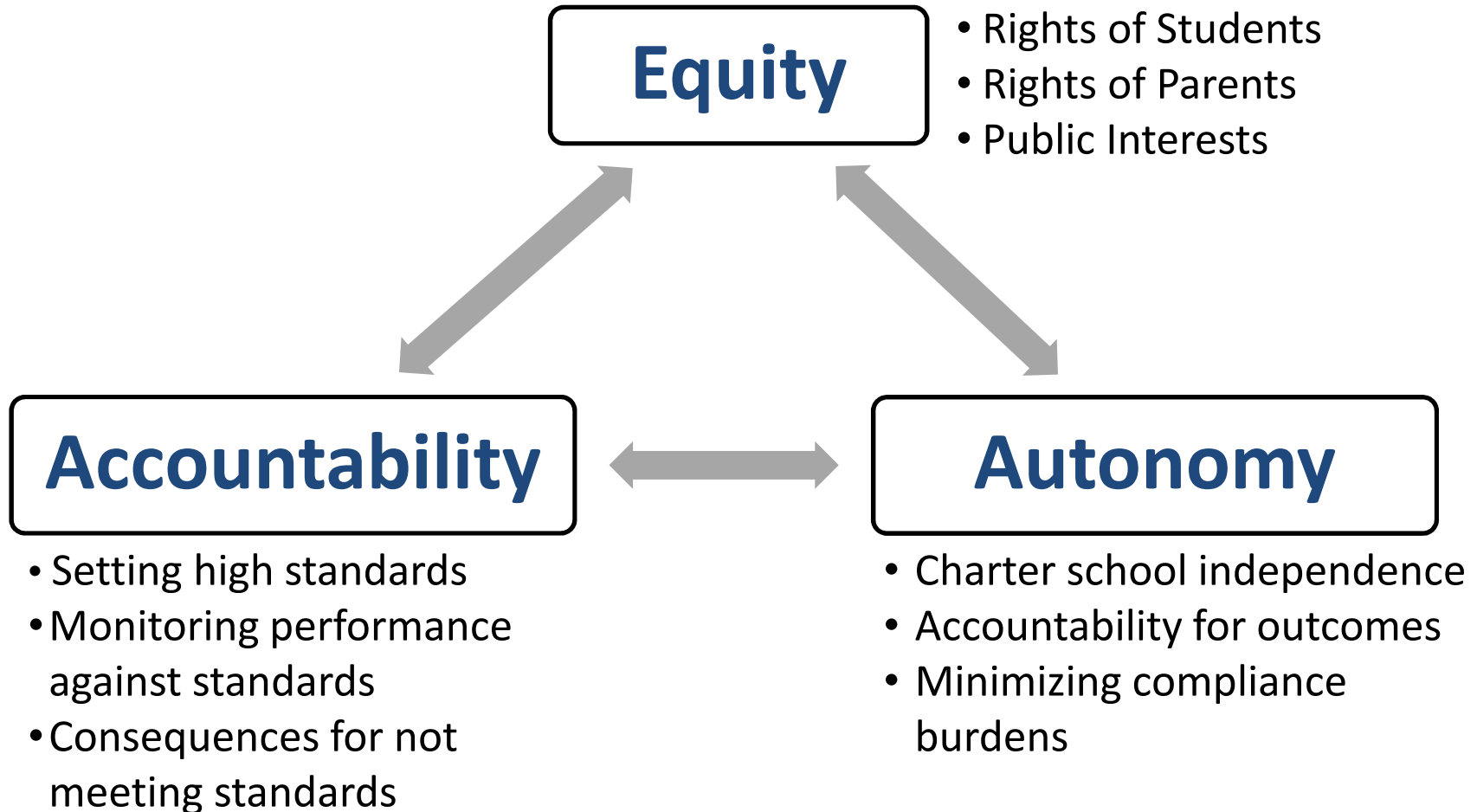
Presentation to the School Reform Commission

Thursday, April 24, 2014

Overview of Charter Schools in Philadelphia

- 86 “brick and mortar” charter schools in Philadelphia serving over 60,000 students
- 20 Renaissance charter schools operate in former District-run schools
- Cyber charter schools (authorized by the State) serve an additional 7,000 students
- Overall, 35% of Philadelphia public school students attend charter schools

The Authorizing Quality Initiative is guided by three principles:



AQI – Stakeholder and Community Engagement

- Launched in November 2012 with research and review of national best practices
- Working group meetings in Summer 2013 with District and charter leaders to discuss standards
- 30 follow-up meetings in Fall 2013 to review policy and standards questions
- Draft charter policies made available for public comment in February 2013; the District received over 40 formal submissions and made substantive revisions based on public comment

Major Revisions After Public Comment Period

- Added policy defining SRC suspension authority (section 405B)
- The Charter Schools Office reports directly to the School Reform Commission (section 401)
- Requires Renaissance Charter Schools to share best practices with the District (section 407)
- Permits the SRC to impose penalties to schools that erect impermissible barriers to entry (section 408)
- Requires charters to share data and information necessary for annual monitoring (section 404)

Proposed Charter School Policy

Policy	Content
Introduction (400)	Describes the mission, vision and approach to the SRC's authorizing policy
Charter Schools Office (401)	Outlines responsibilities and guidelines for the SRC's authorizing unit
New Applications (402)	Sets forth standards and procedures to establish new charter schools
Signed Charter Policy (403)	Requirements for charter agreements between District and charter schools
Monitoring (404)	Framework to provide schools and the public with annual performance data and assessments

Proposed Charter School Policy (cont.)

Policy	Content
Renewal (405)	Standards and procedures to renew charter agreements
Non Renewal and Revocation (405A)	Establishes grounds and procedures for nonrenewal proceedings
Suspension (405B)	Establishes grounds for the SRC's suspension authority
Modifications (406)	Standards and procedures to modify a charter agreement
Renaissance Charter Schools (407)	Objectives, guidelines and procedures for the Renaissance Charter Schools Initiative
Barriers to Entry (408)	Requires monitoring to ensure equal access and treatment of students in charter schools

Charter School Renewal Recommendations

April 24, 2014

Franklin Towne Charter High School

Recommendation: 5-Year Renewal with Conditions

Student Body: Serves 1,183 students in grades 9-12
10% special education students
0% English language learners
58% economically disadvantaged

Location: Northeast Philadelphia

Mission: FTCHS is a college preparation program willing to do whatever it takes to provide a warm and encouraging family-like atmosphere for all students.

Opening Date: 2000

Franklin Towne Charter High School





I. Academic Success





Rating	Exceeds Domain Standard			
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	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
AYP/SPP	Made AYP	Made AYP	Made AYP	SPP: 89
Math Proficiency	63%	70%	82%	87%
Reading Proficiency	76%	76%	80%	87%
Math Growth			Exceeded Growth Standard	Exceeded Growth Standard
Reading Growth			Exceeded Growth Standard	Exceeded Growth Standard

Franklin Towne Charter High School





II. Organizational Compliance (1 of 2)





Rating	Approaching Domain Standard	
Special Education Compliance		ID & placement procedures, resources, and training are appropriate.
ELL Compliance		Not assessed. Attendance zone schools are on average 10% ELL.
Admissions Policies		Hard copy applications at school included race and parent registration statement. Transcripts were requested in 2013-14 pre-lottery. Attendance zone preferences are not being met.
Student Retention & Discipline		Consistent, equitable discipline policy and minimal attrition; 4% to 7% within year attrition and 99% of students returned in 2013-14.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Franklin Towne Charter High School



II. Organizational Compliance (2 of 2)





Rating	Approaching Domain Standard	
Mission Fulfillment		Mission is understood by stakeholders and operationalized in school systems and activities.
Board Oversight & Compliance		Board possesses knowledge of school and finances and complies with bylaws. Statements of financial interest not always signed before deadline during charter term.
Timely Reporting Requirements		Annual report, audited financial statements, and special education reporting is timely.
Personnel Compliance		At least 75% staff certified; not meeting 100% highly qualified teachers requirement.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Franklin Towne Charter High School

III. Financial Viability

Rating	Approaching Domain Standard	
Financial Health		Sound financial health; meeting standard industry indicators and ratios.
Business Practices		No audit findings or deficiencies. Guarantor of bonds for related organization of Franklin Towne Elementary Charter School.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Franklin Towne Charter High School

Charter agreement conditions include:

- Revise admissions policy to ensure application is compliant and academic data are not requested.
- Revise enrollment preference for students actually attending neighborhood District schools in attendance zone and provide documentation of recruitment efforts.
- Ensure at least 75% certified and 100% highly qualified teachers with appropriate background checks and clearances.
- Board of Trustees complies with Ethics and Nonprofit Acts and Conflict of Interest policy.
- Board of Trustees statements of financial interest submitted on time annually.

Global Leadership Academy Charter School

Recommendation: 5-Year Renewal with Conditions

Student Body: Serves 727 students in grades K-8
15% special education students
0% English language learners
80% economically disadvantaged

Location: West Philadelphia

Mission: GLA is a holistic teaching and learning program. The goal is to provide a solid educational program developed through global studies and leadership development in an effort to develop future leaders of the world.

Opening Date: 2000

Global Leadership Academy Charter School





I. Academic Success





Rating	Meets Domain Standard
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	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
AYP/SPP	Made AYP	Made AYP	Warning	SPP: 74
Math Proficiency	56%	64%	62%	89%
Reading Proficiency	52%	56%	57%	57%
Math Growth			Exceeded Growth Standard	Exceeded Growth Standard
Reading Growth			Exceeded Growth Standard	Exceeded Growth Standard

Global Leadership Academy Charter School





II. Organizational Compliance (1 of 2)





Rating		Meets Domain Standard
Special Education Compliance		Placement procedures, personnel, and resources and are appropriate.
ELL Compliance		Not assessed. Application does not request ELL information and a home language survey is included in enrollment packet.
Admissions Policies		Compliant application can be submitted online; a downloadable or hard copy application is less readily available. Application only available in English on website.
Student Retention & Discipline		Consistent, grade-level appropriate discipline policy that is clearly communicated to families; 95% of students returned in 2013-14.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Global Leadership Academy Charter School



II. Organizational Compliance (2 of 2)





Rating		Meets Domain Standard
Mission Fulfillment		Mission is understood by stakeholders and operationalized in school systems and activities.
Board Oversight & Compliance		Board possesses knowledge of school and budget and complies with bylaws, Sunshine Act, and submits statements of financial interest timely.
Timely Reporting Requirements		Annual report, audited financial statements, and special education reporting is timely.
Personnel Compliance		At least 75% staff certified; not meeting 100% highly qualified teachers requirement.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Global Leadership Academy Charter School

III. Financial Viability

Rating	Approaching Domain Standard	
Financial Health		Sound financial health; meeting standard industry indicators and ratios.
Business Practices		Audit deficiencies in 2009-10 related to appropriate employee documentation, late bank reconciliations, and a prior period adjustment. No audit findings or deficiencies in 2010-11 through 2012-13.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Global Leadership Academy Charter School

Charter agreement conditions include:

- Revise admissions policy to ensure application is readily available through multiple avenues, in multiple languages.
- Ensure at least 75% certified and 100% highly qualified teachers with appropriate background checks and clearances.
- Board of Trustees complies with Ethics and Nonprofit Acts and Conflict of Interest policy.
- Board of Trustees statements of financial interest submitted on time annually.

Philadelphia Montessori Charter School

Recommendation:	5-Year Renewal with Conditions
Student Body:	Serves 181 students in grades K-6 20% special education students 2% English language learners 80% economically disadvantaged
Location:	Southwest Philadelphia
Mission:	To provide early childhood and elementary school children in Philadelphia with a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate educational environment that will enable them to become young adults possessing strong self-discipline, independent and analytic thinking skills and an enduring love of learning.
Opening Date:	2004





Philadelphia Montessori Charter School





I. Academic Success

Rating	Approaching Domain Standard			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
AYP/SPP	Making Progress	Corrective Action	Corrective Action	SPP: 77
Math Proficiency	34%	35%	34%	54%
Reading Proficiency	29%	43%	39%	47%
Math Growth			Exceeded Growth Standard	Exceeded Growth Standard
Reading Growth			Exceeded Growth Standard	Exceeded Growth Standard

Philadelphia Montessori Charter School





II. Organizational Compliance (1 of 2)





Rating	Approaching Domain Standard	
Special Education Compliance		Identification and placement procedures, staffing, and training are sufficient.
ELL Compliance		Support for ELL students is not yet sufficient. Required instructional time can be increased and communication between staff improved.
Admissions Policies		Application only requests basic information; available and can be submitted through multiple avenues in English and Spanish.
Student Retention & Discipline		Discipline policies are equitable and understood by all stakeholders. While attrition varied over the charter term due to changes in the discipline policy, attrition rates have decreased this year.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Philadelphia Montessori Charter School



II. Organizational Compliance (2 of 2)





Rating	Approaching Domain Standard	
Mission Fulfillment		Mission is understood by stakeholders and operationalized in school systems and activities.
Board Oversight & Compliance		Board possesses knowledge of school and financial operations and complies with bylaws and the Sunshine Act. Statements of financial interest not always signed timely.
Timely Reporting Requirements		2010 annual report not submitted timely; all other years were submitted by deadline.
Personnel Compliance		Did not meet 100% highly qualified teachers requirement. 2011-2013 audits found personnel files missing appropriate clearances and checks. 2011 PSERS payment was missed.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Philadelphia Montessori Charter School

III. Financial Viability

Rating	Approaching Domain Standard	
Financial Health		Negative fund balance and current ratio below 1.0 across charter term.
Business Practices		Audit deficiencies in 2011-2013 related to incomplete timesheets and missing student enrollment documentation. Auditor was not independent in FY10-12.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Philadelphia Montessori Charter School

Charter agreement conditions include:

- Implement a revised English Language Learner policy that aligns with state instructional requirements.
- Ensure timely PSERS payments.
- Ensure at least 75% certified and 100% highly qualified teachers with appropriate clearances and background checks and copies in all personnel files.
- Board of Trustees complies with Ethics and Nonprofit Acts and Conflict of Interest policy.
- Board of Trustees statements of financial interest are submitted on time annually.
- Implement procedures to evaluate the performance of the Chief Executive Officer, Board members, and the Charter School.
- Ensure all student files include appropriate student enrollment documentation.
- Ensure that, by July 1, 2016, 100% of classrooms have a Montessori- and PA-certified teacher.
- The Board Finance Committee shall meet at least four times a year and prepare a five-year financial plan to assist in ensuring sustained financial health.

Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School

Recommendation: 5-Year Renewal with Conditions
Grade Reconfiguration from 6-12 to K-12

Student Body: Serves 1,194 students in grades 6-12
18% special education students
13% English language learners
85% economically disadvantaged

Location: North Philadelphia

Mission: All students draw upon their passion, motivation and life experience to become independent, adaptive problem solvers, powerful thinkers, effective communicators and meaningful contributors to the larger community. The school community is committed to leveraging every resource to ensure all students are prepared for college and career success.

Opening Date: 2000





Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School





I. Academic Success

Rating	Approaching Domain Standard			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
AYP/SPP	Corrective Action	Making Progress	Corrective Action	SPP: 59
Math Proficiency	53%	57%	60%	55%
Reading Proficiency	31%	39%	42%	40%
Math Growth			Exceeded Growth Standard	Exceeded Growth Standard
Reading Growth			Exceeded Growth Standard	Exceeded Growth Standard

Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School





II. Organizational Compliance (1 of 2)





Rating	Meets Domain Standard	
Special Education Compliance		Identification and placement procedures, staffing, and training are appropriate.
ELL Compliance		Identification and placement procedures, training, and resources are appropriate.
Admissions Policies		Application only requests basic information; available and can be submitted through multiple avenues in English and Spanish.
Student Retention & Discipline		Discipline policies are implemented consistently and understood by all stakeholders. 78% of students were retained last year and strategies to actively minimize attrition could not be articulated at renewal site visit.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School



II. Organizational Compliance (2 of 2)





Rating	Meets Domain Standard	
Mission Fulfillment		Mission is understood by stakeholders and operationalized in school systems and activities.
Board Oversight & Compliance		Board possesses knowledge of school and financial position, complies with bylaws and Sunshine Act, and submits statements of financial interest timely.
Timely Reporting Requirements		Annual report, audited financial statements, and special education reporting is timely.
Personnel Compliance		At least 75% staff certified; meeting 100% highly qualified teachers requirement.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School

III. Financial Viability

Rating	Approaching Domain Standard	
Financial Health		Declining fund balance and operating deficit in 2012 and 2013 largely due to purchasing a new school building.
Business Practices		No audit findings or deficiencies in 2009-10 through 2012-13.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School

Charter agreement grade reconfiguration

- MBA's grade span has been revised from 6 – 12 to K – 12 with the same enrollment limit of 1,155 students.

Charter agreement conditions include:

- Draft and implement a student retention plan in an effort to minimize attrition.
- Board Finance Development Committee shall meet at least four times a year and prepare a five-year financial plan.
- Ensure at least 75% certified and 100% highly qualified teachers with appropriate background checks and clearances.
- Board of Trustees complies with Ethics and Nonprofit Acts and Conflict of Interest policy.
- Board of Trustees statements of financial interest submitted annually on time.

Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School

Recommendation:	5-Year Renewal with Conditions Enrollment cap of 1,125 in K-8 and 1,400 in 9-12 changed to 2,525 in K-12
Student Body:	Serves 1,489 students in grades K-9 12% special education students 0% English language learners 48% economically disadvantaged
Location:	South Philadelphia and Center City
Mission:	Every child is gifted and has talent in some area. Our individual and collective responsibility is to discover, nurture, and encourage the development of that talent, so that every student will meet or exceed world-class standards, both academically and in the arts. In order to reach this vision, Philadelphia Performing Arts will offer a comprehensive education program which equally emphasizes academic and artistic excellence.
Opening Date:	2000





Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School





I. Academic Success

Rating	Exceeds Domain Standard			
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
AYP/SPP	Made AYP	Made AYP	Made AYP	SPP: 84
Math Proficiency	80%	78%	86%	81%
Reading Proficiency	75%	76%	79%	75%
Math Growth			Exceeded Growth Standard	Met Growth Standard
Reading Growth			Exceeded Growth Standard	Exceeded Growth Standard

Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School





II. Organizational Compliance (1 of 2)





Rating	Approaching Domain Standard	
Special Education Compliance		Identification and placement procedures, staffing, and resources are appropriate.
ELL Compliance		Not assessed. Neighboring District elementary and middle schools are 2%, 9%, 22%, and 36% ELL.
Admissions Policies		Application only requests basic information; available and can be submitted through multiple avenues in 4 languages.
Student Retention & Discipline		Discipline policies are effective and communicated to families. Attrition is minimal – 1% of students did not return this year.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School



II. Organizational Compliance (2 of 2)





Rating	Approaching Domain Standard	
Mission Fulfillment		Mission is understood by stakeholders and operationalized in school systems and activities.
Board Oversight & Compliance		Board possesses general knowledge of school and finances. The number of Board members does not comply with bylaws and members frequently missed meetings according to minutes.
Timely Reporting Requirements		Annual report, audited financial statements, and special education reporting was timely.
Personnel Compliance		At least 75% staff certified; met 100% highly qualified teachers requirement.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School

III. Financial Viability

Rating	Approaching Domain Standard	
Financial Health		Sound financial health; meeting standard industry indicators and ratios.
Business Practices		No audit findings or deficiencies in 2009-10 through 2012-13. 2012 outstanding real estate taxes; tax exemption not fully processed by city.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School

Charter agreement enrollment cap

- Philadelphia Performing Arts previously had an enrollment cap of 1,125 in K-8 and 1,400 in 9-12. This cap has been revised to 2,525 in K-12.

Charter agreement conditions include:

- Submit and implement a plan to increase the diversity of the charter school to better reflect the District's student population.
- Submit procedures to evaluate performance of the CEO, school, and Board.
- Submit schedule of Board trainings.
- Add Board members to come into compliance with Bylaws.
- Ensure Board members attend meetings in accordance with Bylaws.
- Board of Trustees complies with Ethics and Nonprofit Acts and Conflict of Interest policy.
- Board of Trustees statements of financial interest submitted annually on time.
- All public signs and references on website reflect school's registered name.
- Ensure at least 75% certified and 100% highly qualified teachers with appropriate background checks and clearances.

Walter D. Palmer Leadership Learning Partners Charter School

Recommendation:

WDP Charter School is recommended for revocation and suspension. The suspension will be effective July 1, 2014.

Grounds for Revocation and Suspension:

- 1) Failure to meet student performance requirements of 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4.
- 2) Violation of the Charter School Law, signed Charter, or other provisions of law from which a charter school is not exempt.
- 3) Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management and audit requirements.

Walter D. Palmer Leadership Learning Partners Charter School

Student Body: Serves 1,289 students in grades K-12
12% special education students
5% English language learners
99% economically disadvantaged

Location: Northern Liberties and Frankford campuses

Mission: To promote dynamic partnerships that allow administrators, social workers, parents, teachers, and students the educational and social options and techniques relevant to social growth and academic excellence.

Opening Date: 2001

Walter D. Palmer Leadership Learning Partners

I. Academic Success




Rating	Does Not Meet Domain Standard						
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	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
AYP/SPP	Not Met: Corrective Action II	Not Met: Corrective Action II	Not Met: Corrective Action II	Not Met: Making Progress	Not Met: Corrective Action II	Not Met: Corrective Action II	SPP: 39.7
WDP Math Proficiency	28.1%	31.8%	46.5%	57.5%	61.1%	41.6%	30.5%
WDP Reading Proficiency	23.7%	28.3%	46.5%	56.5%	57.1%	37.8%	32.8%
Math Growth 4-8th Grade						Did Not Meet Standard	Did Not Meet Standard
Math Growth 11th Grade						Met Standard	No Data Available
Reading Growth 4-8th Grade						Did Not Meet Standard	Did Not Meet Standard
Reading Growth 11th Grade						Did Not Meet Standard	No Data Available

	Lower than District average
	Higher than District average

Walter D. Palmer Leadership Learning Partners



II. Organizational Compliance





Rating	Does Not Meet Domain Standard	
Admissions Policies		Contrary to law, WDP requires proof of a student's social security number for admission.
Timely Reporting Requirements		2012 and 2013 annual reports were not submitted on time. WDP has refused requests by parents/guardians to drop students from the School Computer Network so students could enroll in other SDP schools.
Personnel Compliance		Failed to meet 100% highly qualified teacher requirement in 2010 and 2013. Not reported in 2011 or 2012. WDP failed to make PSERS payments amounting to nearly \$520,000 from 2008-09 to 2013-14.

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Walter D. Palmer Leadership Learning Partners

III. Financial Viability

Rating		Does Not Meet Domain Standard
Financial Health		At the close of FY12, WDP had a general fund deficit of \$2.87 million, no working capital, and 2 days of cash on hand. WDP spent in excess of revenue per student of approximately \$1,800.
Business Practices		<p>SDP investigation has found that WDP intentionally invoiced and was paid more than \$770,000 for students not attending WDP or for students billed at the special education rate without required documentation during 2012-13.</p> <p>WDP defaulted on bonds in 2010 for covenant violations.</p> <p>IRS revoked tax-exempt status of WDP's Foundation in 2010 and was reinstated in 2012. If not retroactively reinstated, the Foundation could incur liabilities that could be passed to the school.</p> <p>A company related to a Board member provided curriculum services for fees of \$144,000 in 2010 and \$183,000 in 2012.</p>

-  Meets Standard
-  Approaching Standard
-  Does Not Meet Standard
-  Not Assessed

Walter D. Palmer Leadership Learning Partners Charter School

Student Transition: If the SRC approves the notice of revocation and suspension of the charter, the School District will assist WDP students and families in transitioning to neighborhood, special admissions, citywide, and charter schools.

- 85% of WDP students live in neighborhoods where the District school has better academic outcomes on student achievement and student growth, according to the PA School Performance Profile.
- Letters and accompanying FAQs have been sent to all WDP families.
- The District is currently working on a plan to provide all WDP families with dedicated, special enrollment support for both District and charter options.
- Phone and email contact information for immediate questions has been provided to families.