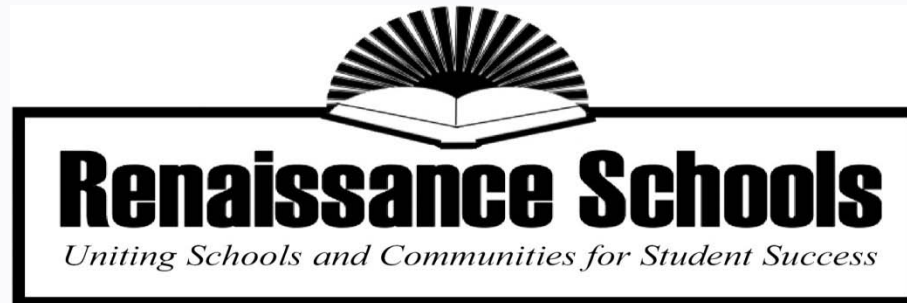




# Renaissance Charter School Turnaround Process – Year Four (2013-14 School Year)





## Meeting Agenda

6-6:05 p.m. – Welcome and Introductions

6:05-6:30 p.m. – Overview of Renaissance Charter School turnaround process, including school selection, community role and next steps

6:30-8 p.m. – Questions and Answers



## Overview of School Turnaround Renaissance Charter Model

- **Goal:** Transform chronically underperforming schools into highly effective neighborhood schools, with **strong academic achievement** and readiness for college and career.
- **Method:** Convert school to a Renaissance Charter School, which will be operated by a Turnaround Team with a proven track record of both **turning around** low-performing schools and also running **high-achieving** schools.
- **Who benefits:** Current students, who are **guaranteed admission** to Renaissance Charter Schools, and also students who live within the school's neighborhood attendance zone. (Renaissance Charter Schools are required to enroll all students who live in the school's neighborhood attendance zone up to enrollment limits.)



## Overview of School Turnaround Renaissance Charter Model

- All Renaissance Charter Schools are held to rigorous performance standards, including specific targets for:
  - ✓ **Improved academic performance**
  - ✓ **Improved school climate**
  - ✓ **Increased neighborhood attendance**
- The District reviews how each Renaissance Charter School is performing against its school-specific targets throughout the five-year charter term.
- Each charter agreement establishes consequences for failure to meet performance targets.



## Guiding Principles for Renaissance Charter School Turnaround Model

1. Our lowest performing schools should be transformed to provide families with **high-quality educational options**.
2. School communities, led by parents, must play an **active role** in the Renaissance Charter School turnaround process.
3. The identification of Renaissance Charter Schools must be **clear and fair**.
4. The process for identifying Turnaround Teams to work in Renaissance Charter Schools must be **objective and clear**.
5. Renaissance Charter Schools will serve the same neighborhoods and educate **all children** currently enrolled in the school.
6. Students will receive a variety of **additional supports and programming**.
7. Renaissance Charter Schools will be required to achieve dramatic improvements in student achievement and school climate, and **will be held accountable** for results.



## Key Required Elements of Renaissance Charter Schools

- Targeted academic supports and interventions for students performing below grade level
- Programs to meaningfully and appropriately serve ELL, Special Education and mentally gifted students
- Programming to ensure school culture promotes safe and secure learning environment
- Longer school day and year
- Parent involvement including a parent association and School Advisory Council (SAC)
- Specialized services for children with social, emotional and behavioral issues
- Ongoing assessments of student performance and data-driven instruction
- Access to at least one foreign language
- Afterschool enrichment programs, extracurricular activities and athletics
- Proactive efforts to retain current students and attract additional students from neighborhood attendance zone
- School uniforms for all students



## The Results So Far...

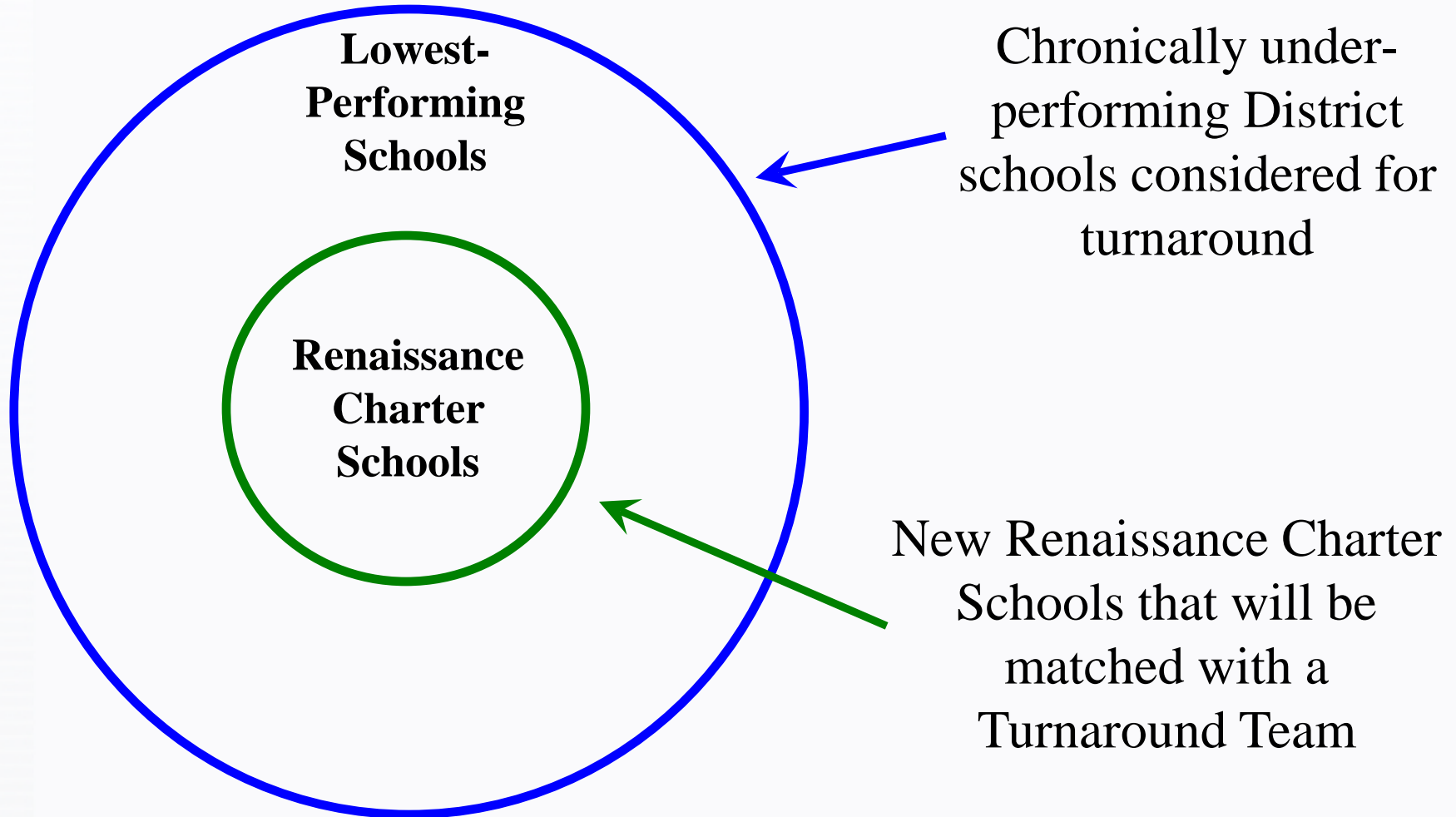
- The Year I and Year II Renaissance Charter Schools are already showing significant gains in academic achievement, important school climate indicators and enrollment of students from within the neighborhood attendance zone:
  - ✓ Nine of 13 (more than two-thirds) schools increased by double-digits the number of students scoring proficient or advanced on state assessments in math and/or reading.
  - ✓ All schools have increased average daily attendance, reduced the out-of-school suspension rate and/or reduced the serious incident rate.
  - ✓ 10 of 13 (more than three-quarters) schools have increased the enrollment of students who live within the school's neighborhood attendance zone, with three schools increasing neighborhood attendance by more than 20%.



## School Selection Process

- School turnaround efforts (both Renaissance Charter School conversion and District-managed turnaround) for 2013-14 will be focused on the **lowest-performing** District schools.
- To identify potential schools for turnaround, the District analyzed **all District schools** using key academic performance and climate measures including:
  - ✓ Annual academic growth (in both math and reading) compared to standard
  - ✓ Percent of students reading at grade level (K-3 only)
  - ✓ PSSA math performance
  - ✓ PSSA reading performance
  - ✓ Average daily attendance
  - ✓ Truancy rate
  - ✓ Out-of-school suspensions rate
  - ✓ Violent incidents rate







## School Selection Process

- For each academic/climate measure, the District determined whether a school was in the bottom 10% of performance.
- The potential turnaround schools were those that were in the **bottom 10%** of performance **on two-thirds (66.6%) or more** of the measures.
- For these potential turnaround schools, the District also considered current and potential enrollment, building utilization and condition, and community interest in turnaround.
- For the 2013-14 turnaround, the District is focusing on **K-8 schools** in the lowest-performing schools group for conversion under the Renaissance Charter School model.
  - ✓ Turning around K-8 schools offers the opportunity to impact a wider grade span and thereby have a **more lasting impact** on student outcomes.



## Community Role in Turnaround Process

- School communities are **essential partners** in the Renaissance Charter School turnaround process.
- School Advisory Councils (SACs) will be formed at each turnaround school.
- The SACs will be led by parents/guardians whose children attend the school and will include parents and community members.
- Over the coming weeks, recruiters will be at your school during student drop-off and pick-up times to provide information about the SAC and encourage you to **get involved**.
  - ✓ SAC applications are due by March 8!



## Community Role in Turnaround Process

- Each SAC will:
  - ✓ Evaluate all Turnaround Team finalists
  - ✓ Host community meetings to collect input on the finalists' proposals
  - ✓ Recommend to the District which Turnaround Team can best meet the needs of the school and should be matched with the school
- The School Reform Commission will make the final decision about matches between schools and Turnaround Teams.
  - ✓ In the first three years of the Renaissance Charter School turnaround process, the SAC's first-choice Turnaround Team has been selected in the majority of cases.



## Community Role in Turnaround Process

- SACs also play a crucial role in **monitoring** the Turnaround Teams after the schools are converted to Renaissance Charter Schools.
- The charter agreements between the School District and the Turnaround Teams require the Teams to work with the SACs to address concerns.
- Twice a year, SACs prepare written reports on how well the Turnaround Teams are doing.
- SAC have the opportunity to recommend whether or not the Turnaround Team's charter recommendation should be renewed at the end of the five-year charter term.
- The **input and perspective** of parents and community members matters in this process.



Key Dates in Turnaround Process	
Request for proposals (RFP) released	February 1
Turnaround schools announced	February 22
Meetings with staff and community at turnaround schools	February 25-27
Recruitment for School Advisory Councils (SACs) – SAC applications deadline	February 22-March 8
RFP responses due from potential Turnaround Teams	March 8
Training for SACs	March 8-22
RFP finalists announced	March 22
Matching process between RFP finalists and SACs	March 23-April 15



Key Dates in Turnaround Process	
SACs submit match recommendations to District	April 16
Finalization of District match recommendations to SRC	April 19
SRC votes on match recommendations	Late April/early May
Charter applications due from RFP finalists matched by SRC with schools	Early May
SRC votes on charter agreements	Late May/early June
School transition period	June through July
New Renaissance Charter Schools open	August/September



## Questions & Answers