



The School District of Philadelphia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA LAUNCHES RENAISSANCE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE – YEAR III

Request for Proposal Invites Turnaround Teams to Submit Proposals for Year III

PHILADELPHIA – Today, with the release of the Renaissance Schools Initiative Year III Request for Proposal (RFP) the School District of Philadelphia is beginning the third consecutive year of its successful school turnaround program. The RFP is the competitive procurement process by which the District will determine which applicants will be selected as Renaissance Turnaround Teams to operate Renaissance Charter Schools for Year III of the initiative.

The Renaissance Schools initiative is a major reform program that is designed to turn around the District's low-performing schools, by working with school communities to recruit and select individuals and organizations that have proven track records of operating and supporting high-achieving schools. The ultimate goal is to turn underperforming schools into highly effective schools that provide exceptional opportunities for student academic achievement and preparedness for success in college and the workforce.

In the last two years of this initiative thirteen low-performing schools, representing over 11,000 seats, were converted to Renaissance Charter Schools. In the 2010-2011 school year, Renaissance Charter Schools registered gains on state proficiency exams above the District average.

By continuing this initiative the District underlines its commitment to The Philadelphia Great Schools Compact that was recently signed by Mayor Michael Nutter, Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Ronald Tomalis, School Reform Commission Chair Pedro Ramos, Acting Superintendent Leroy Nunery and other education leaders. The compact calls for the replacement of approximately 50,000 seats in the lowest-performing schools in the city of Philadelphia with high quality seats by 2016-17.

Turnaround Teams are invited to submit proposals in response to this RFP by February 7, 2012. An evaluation committee will review proposals from RFP respondents and select Turnaround Teams' finalist by February 20, 2012.

Anyone interested in responding to the RFP may acquire a copy from the District's Office of Procurement Services website at <https://webapps.philasd.org/procurement/view>. Further information regarding the Renaissance School Initiative can be found at www.philasd.org/renschoools.

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