

# REACH ACADEMY FOR GIRLS

## Charter School Renewal Report

This report summarizes the charter school's performance to date as measured by the Performance Framework through 2012-2013. 2013-2014 data will be available prior to the charter school's submission of a charter renewal application and Annual Report (both due September 30) and will inform the charter renewal process. Current law (14 Del C. §514A(c)) requires that the renewal report be based, among other things, on the charter contract. However, the requirement that the Department of Education present a charter contract to an applicant upon approval of a charter school application was not in existence at the time this charter was approved. If the charter renewal application is approved, a charter contract will be presented to the applicant for the renewal period.

### **Academic Performance Framework: (Exceeds Standard, Meets Standard, Does Not Meet Standard, or Falls Far Below Standard):**

2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Falls Far Below Standard	Falls Far Below Standard	Falls Far Below Standard

Reach Academy for Girls received an overall rating of "Falls Far Below Standard" in 2010-2011 with an underlying score of 29 points, Falls Far Below Standard in 2011-2012 with an underlying score of 37 points, and Falls Far Below Standard in 2012-2013 with an underlying score of 28 points. The school is trending in a negative direction with regard to overall academic performance, with academic performance in 2012-2013 below what it was in 2010-2011. With regard to student growth, fewer students met their growth targets in both ELA and Math in 2012-2013 than in 2011-2012 with only 26.8% meeting their growth targets in Math and 36.4% meeting their growth targets in ELA. All growth measures of the Academic Framework show regression from 2011-2012 to 2012-2013, and only 41% of students are on a trajectory to be proficient in Math within 3 years or by 10<sup>th</sup> grade, whichever comes first.

Student proficiency is far below the state average and below the average proficiency of the state's 20<sup>th</sup> percentile. The state's Annual Measurable Objectives were not met in Math, nor were they met in ELA. This trend has been consistent since 2010-2011 with a regression in the percentage of students proficient noted. Low Socioeconomic Status (SES) students, African-American students and White students are all performing below the state average and below the state's 20<sup>th</sup> percentile in 2012-2013 in both Math and ELA, with significant regression in proficiency in both content areas noted for Low-SES students and African-American students between 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. White students performed below the state's 20<sup>th</sup> percentile for the 2012-2013 school year, which has resulted in a "Falls Far Below Standard" rating for both Math and ELA in 2012-2013. Finally, when compared to student performance in the district in which Reach is located (Brandywine School District), students at Reach are performing significantly below Brandywine School District's students in both Math and ELA.

Reach has not met AYP in the past two years (2011-2012 and 2012-2103).

**Financial Performance (Meets Standard, Does Not Meet Standard, or Falls Far Below Standard):**

2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Does Not Meet Standard	Does Not Meet Standard	Meets Standard

Reach received an overall rating of “Meets Standard” for the 2012-2013 school year, and an overall rating of “Does Not Meet Standard” for both the 2010-2011 and 2011-12 school years. Over the last three years, Reach’s financial viability has trended in a positive direction, both overall and across individual measures.

Since the 2010-2011 school year, Reach’s current ratio has improved from .97 (“Does Not Meet Standard”) to 3.06 (“Meets Standard”) in 2011-2012 and 10.12 (“Meets Standard”) in 2012-13, indicating that the school is in an increasingly stronger financial position to meet its current obligations. Unrestricted days cash rose from 19 (Does Not Meet Standard) in 2010-2011 to 70 (“Meets Standard”) in 2011-2012 and to 112 (“Meets Standard”) in 2012-2013, indicating that the school was in an increasingly stronger position to meet its current expenses without an influx of funds.

Reach’s 1-Year and 3-Year total margins were 13.94% and 9.63% respectively, indicating that the school’s long-term financial position is stable. The school showed positive 1-Year and 3-Year cash flows. Additionally, Reach has not been in default of any obligations.

However, Reach has consistently failed to meet Enrollment Variance standards, with only 88% of its target student enrollment (“Does Not Meet Standard”) in 2010-11, 79% (“Falls Far Below Standard”) in 2011-12, and 90% (“Does Not Meet Standard”) in 2012-13, indicating that the school was at risk of not having the operating funds necessary to meet all expenses.

**Organizational Performance (Meets Standard or Does Not Meet Standard):**

2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Not calculated this year	Meets Standard	Meets Standard

Reach earned an overall rating of “Meets Standard” on the Organizational Framework Report for the 2011-2012 school year. All measures earned a rating of “Meets Standard” which indicated that there were no identified compliance issues.

Reach received an overall rating of “Meets Standard” on the Organizational Framework in for the 2012-2013 school year, despite earning “Does Not Meet Standard” ratings on two indicators. With respect to average daily student attendance, Reach’s average daily attendance rate was 94%, and the statutory requirement is 95%. With respect to teacher certification, only 92% of Reach’s teachers met state requirements, which is below the required 100%. All other areas were in compliance.

During the 2013-14 school year, some issues which are currently still under investigation or review came to the attention of the Department of Education. These issues might, in addition

to the concerns with performance noted above, jeopardize Reach's position in seeking renewal if not resolved in favor of the school or timely rectified.

The Charter School Office has not yet concluded the process of gathering information about compliance for the 2013-14 school year. There may be additional compliance issues that have yet to be brought to the attention of the Charter School Office by other DOE workgroups.

**CONFIDENTIAL ADDENDUM**

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**Charter School Renewal Report**

The following matters, still under investigation or review, are issues currently known to the Department of Education, which, if not resolved in favor of Reach or timely rectified, might also jeopardize the school's position in seeking renewal:

- Allegations of test security violations, which are delineated in a March 27, 2014 letter from the Director of the Office of Assessment of the Department of Education
- Improper use of a state Procurement Card issued to Tara Allen
- Compliance with expectations for the 2013-14 school year, which are delineated in a January 31, 2014 letter from the Executive Director of the Charter School Office of the Department of Education