

**The State Education Department**  
The University of the State of New York

**Office of Innovative School Models**

Charter Schools Office

462 EBA

Albany, New York 12234

518-474-1762

**CHARTER SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2009 – 2010**

Name of Charter School: **The Renaissance Charter School**

Primary Address: **35-59 81st Street, Jackson Heights, New York 11372**

Telephone: **718-803-0060** / Fax: **718-803-3785**

BEDS #: **343000860822**

District/CSD of Location: **D84 705Q**

Charter Entity: **NYC Dept. of Education/Chancellor**

Date School First Opened for Instruction: **Conversion Charter – 9/2000**

School Leader: **Stacey Gauthier**

E-mail Address of School Leader: **sgauthier@renaissancecharter.org**

President, Board of Trustees: **Sandra Geyer**

E-mail Address of Board President: **sloup2@verizon.net**

Phone Number of Board President: **718-803-0060**

**Goal 1: By year four of the charter, 70% of K-8 students will meet or exceed standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics state examinations.**

- A. **Measure:** 70% of students in grades 3-8 will meet or exceed standards on the English Language Arts and Mathematics state examinations.
- B. **Method:** New York State administers annual ELA and Mathematics examinations to grades 3-8. This exam is a cumulative assessment measuring student mastery of skills at each grade level as determined by NYS standards. The goal is for students to demonstrate proficiency in meeting or exceeding standards by achieving levels 3 or 4 on the exam.

This year the NYSED raised the cut-off score for meeting standards across all grades. Renaissance, along with most other schools, saw a decline in the number of students scoring proficient on both examinations. For purposes of comparison and analysis, we have included charts with data showing both the old and new cut-off scores and percentages of students deemed proficient.

**C. Results:**

**Grade 3-8 NYS Mathematics – 2010 Test Results: All Students**

Year of Test	Grade 3				Grade 4				Grade 5				Grade 6				Grade 7				Grade 8			
	L1	L2	L3	L4	L1	L2	L3	L4	L1	L2	L3	L4	L1	L2	L3	L4	L1	L2	L3	L4	L1	L2	L3	L4
2009-10	2	10	7	6	0	2	19	4	0	8	27	18	1	19	19	13	0	11	20	21	0	9	27	16
2009-10*	2	0	17	6	0	1	20	4	0	4	31	18	1	3	35	13	0	2	29	21	0	1	35	16
2008-09	0	0	22	2	0	0	13	12	0	2	34	14	0	2	36	12	0	0	30	19	0	6	31	13

\* Referred to previous year threshold of 650

**Grade 3-8 NYS English Language Arts – 2010 Assessment Results: All Students**

Year of Test	Grade 3				Grade 4				Grade 5				Grade 6				Grade 7				Grade 8			
	L1	L2	L3	L4	L1	L2	L3	L4	L1	L2	L3	L4	L1	L2	L3	L4	L1	L2	L3	L4	L1	L2	L3	L4
2009-10	4	10	4	7	0	5	20	0	3	18	26	6	3	22	24	3	2	22	23	5	0	13	38	1
2009-10*	4	2	12	7	0	2	23	0	3	0	44	6	3	4	42	3	2	2	43	5	0	6	45	1
2008-09	0	1	23	0	0	2	20	3	0	6	39	5	0	0	46	4	0	5	43	1	0	9	38	3

\* Referred to previous year threshold of 650

**Grade 3-8 NYS Mathematics – 2010 Percent Meeting Standards**

Grade	Total Tested	Level 3 & 4		% Meets Standards	
		Prior Cut-Off	Level 3 & 4	Prior Cut-Off	% Meets Standards
3	25	23	13	92%	52%
4	25	24	23	96%	92%
5	53	49	45	92%	85%
6	52	48	32	92%	61.5%
7	52	50	41	96%	79%
8	52	51	43	98%	82%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>94.60%</b>	<b>76.10%</b>

**Grade 3-8 NYS English Language Arts – 2010 Percent Meeting Standards**

Grade	Total Tested	Level 3 & 4		% Meets Standards	
		Prior Cut-Off	Level 3 & 4	Prior Cut-Off	% Meets Standards
3	25	19	11	76%	44%
4	25	23	20	92%	80%
5	53	50	32	94%	60%
6	52	45	27	86.5%	52%
7	52	48	28	92%	53%
8	52	46	39	88%	75%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>89.18%</b>	<b>60.61%</b>

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*Under the old cut-off scores, Renaissance met its goals in every grade for both mathematics and ELA. The new, more rigorous cut-off scores, show that we did not meet the cumulative goal in ELA.*

**D. Action Plan:**

The charter goals for our second renewal charter term, the new more rigorous cut-off scores, the upcoming implementation of common core national standards and our changing school population, requires that Renaissance reevaluate our school-wide comprehensive education plan and instructional program. Our Collaborative School Governance Committee, School Management Team and faculty, in consultation with The Board of Trustees, has already begun this process to ensure that we are able to meet and exceed our performance targets during this next five-year charter.

**Goal 2. The average passing rate of Renaissance students on New York State required Regents examinations will be above the average passing rate of students in similar schools.**

- A. **Measure:** The average passing rate of Renaissance students on the NYS required Regents examinations (ELA, Global History and Geography, U.S. History, Math and Science) will be above the average passing rate of similar schools.

Similar School data is no longer available on the NYSED website. In order to evaluate performance toward this goal, we applied a more rigorous standard and compared our regents data to the regents data of NYC Geographic District 30 (Source: The NYS District Report Card - Comprehensive Information Report, 2008-2009). This goal always uses comparison data from prior years due to the lag in time in posting current data for schools.

According to the published Regents Exams guidance, Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Senior Deputy Commissioner of Education P-16, states “each subsequent test is then equated to the established scale. If there is a greater or lesser number of difficult questions one year, the number of questions that must be answered correctly is adjusted. This helps ensure that all tests in a subject are equated – no test is harder or easier to pass from year to year.” Source: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/conch/scoring-regents.html>. Lacking more recent comparison data, we must use the results posted on nySTART.

- B. **Method:** New York State administers Regents examinations three times per year in various high school subjects. These exams are cumulative assessments measuring student mastery of skills within each subject as determined by NYS standards.

C. **Results:**

EXAM	REN % Standards	CSD % Standards
ELA	90.2	71
Integrated Algebra	75	61
Geometry	100	93
Global History	84	60
US History	83.02	69
Living Environment	77.78	70
Earth Science	79.17	68
Chemistry	71.43	65

*Percent meeting standards included all students scoring a 65 and above. In all exams, Renaissance students outperformed students in CSD 30.*

**Goal 3. By year four of the charter, 80% of Renaissance Charter School high school seniors will graduate.**

- A. **Measure:** 80% of high school seniors will graduate.

- B. **Method:** Analysis of high school graduation results.

- C. **Results:** There were 45 seniors in the class of 2010. Of the 45, 44 graduated in June or August, 2010 having completed all requirements for graduation. This is an 97.8% graduation rate.

**Goal 4: By year four of the charter, there will be a 70% cohort graduation rate for students who started ninth grade together (excluding students who transferred out.)**

- A. **Measure:** 70% of the 2006 cohort will graduate.
- B. **Method:** Examination of the 2006 cohort graduation data.
- C. **Results:** There were 47 students from the 2006 cohort. Of those 47, 44 students graduated in June and August 2010. This results in a 93.6 % cohort graduation rate.

Renaissance has met this goal.

**Goal 5: 85% of the graduating class will be accepted to institutions of higher learning.**

- A. **Measure:** 85% of the graduating class will be accepted to institutions of higher learning.
- B. **Method:** Examination of college acceptance rates of graduating seniors.
- C. **Results:** Of the 44 graduating seniors, all of the students applied and were accepted to institutions of higher learning. Therefore, 100% of the graduating class has been accepted to institutions of higher learning.

**D. Listing of Colleges / Universities that students from the Class of 2010 will be attending:**

CUNY - Hunter College	Adelphi University
CUNY - Lehman College	Barnard College
CUNY - Queens College	Boston College
CUNY - New York City College of Technology	Delaware State College
CUNY - LaGuardia Community College	Fordham University
CUNY - Queensborough Community College	Franklin and Marshall College
CUNY - Kingsborough Community College	Nyack College
CUNY - Borough of Manhattan Community College	Pace University
CUNY - John Jay College	Pratt Institute
CUNY - Brooklyn College	Santa Monica College
Nassau Community College	Skidmore College
Academy of Arts	Wellesley College

**Goals 6 and 7: The average attendance rate of students, K-8, at Renaissance will be above 90%. The average attendance rate at Renaissance of students 9-12, will be above 90%.**

- A. **Measure:** 90% average attendance rate for students in grades K-8 and students in grades 9-12.
- B. **Method:** Attendance is recorded into ATS which calculates percentages by individual grades. Weighted averages for grade ranges are then calculated to determine the percentage for each goal.
- C. **Results:**

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
<b>Grades K-8</b>	95.99%	96.01%	96.32%	95.29%	96.08%
<b>Grades 9-12</b>	91.6%	92.73%	92.91%	91.51%	92.23%

**Goals 8, 9, 10: Parent, Student and Community Partner satisfaction as measured by surveys in year four of the charter will be above 85%.**

- A. **Measure:** 85% satisfaction by constituent members in a year four survey.
- B. **Method:** Diverse qualitative measures in years one to three, survey instrument in year four. Qualitative methodologies allow us to understand issues from the perspective and actions of the major stakeholders. Additionally, qualitative research makes it possible to study phenomena as they naturally evolve. (Downing, Spencer and Cavallaro, The Development of an Inclusive Charter Elementary School: Lessons Learned: California State University, Northridge 2004)

For the last three years, Renaissance parents, students and teachers participated in the New York City Department of Education’s Learning Environment Survey (complete results of the survey can be found on the New York City Department of Education’s website) which also provided us with information about progress toward this goal and was used as the survey instrument to demonstrate parent and student satisfaction in year four. Renaissance created a survey instrument to measure community partner satisfaction. We continue to refine a solid definition of what satisfaction “looks like” in a school. While survey instruments can provide us with some measurable data, they are limited by the scope of the question, the response rate and the point in time.

**Parent satisfaction indicators other than surveys analyzed in past annual reports (years 1-4) –**

- 1) Retention rate of students
- 2) Sibling application and enrollment
- 3) Waiting list for admissions
- 4) Participation in school-wide decision-making activities, events and associations (parental involvement)
- 5) Parent discussions with faculty and administration

**Student satisfaction indicators other than surveys analyzed in past annual reports (years 1-4) –**

- 1) Retention rate of students
- 2) Participation in student activities

**Community satisfaction indicators other than surveys analyzed in past annual reports (years 1-4) –**

- 1) Number of Partnerships
- 2) Number of Partnerships that have been in effect for more than one year.

**C. Results:**

**Parent Satisfaction –**

*Results from the overall survey categories from the 2010 New York City Department of Education Parent Survey were as follows -*  
The following specific questions were asked addressing satisfaction - the outcome of this goal -

How satisfied are you with the following things about your child’s school?

(Percentages are those who answered satisfied or very satisfied.)

The quality of you child’s teacher(s) this year.	95%
The education your child has received this year.	95%
The level of assistance your child receives when he or she needs extra help with class work or homework.	90%
How well the school communicates with you.	92%
My child’s school communicates with me in a language that I can understand.	97%
Your opportunities to be involved in your child’s education.	94%
You feel welcome in your child’s school.	97%
My child is safe at school.	96%
<b>Summary of Parent Satisfaction Questions</b>	<b>95%</b>

**Student Satisfaction –**

*The Department of Education Learning Environment Survey did not specifically address satisfaction in its questions. There were six questions that could be considered as related indicators of student satisfaction (Percentages are those who answered strongly agree or agree) -*

The adults at my school help me understand what I need to do to succeed in school.	91%
My teachers expect me to continue my education after high school.	94%
My teachers encourage me to succeed.	91%
I feel welcome at my school.	92%
I am safe in my school. (Three questions.)	92%
Most of the teachers, counselors, school leaders, and other adults I see at school every day know my name or who I am.	91%.
<b>Summary of Student Satisfaction Questions</b>	<b>92%</b>

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### Community Partnerships:

*Renaissance continues to work with and benefit from a large number of community, arts, cultural and educational organizations. Most of our partnerships are on-going and long-standing. Additionally, many new partnerships have come out of relationships with existing partners. Current partnerships include:*

- Bank Street College of Education
- CEI-PEA PICCS Grant Consortium
- Queens College – Middle Grades Initiative
- Charter School Athletic League
- The Children’s Museum of the Arts
- New York City Center for Arts Education
- Supporting Women Artists Project
- New York City Geographic Alliance / New York Geographic Alliance – National Geographic Education Foundation
- City-at-Peace
- Long Island City YMCA
- Sadie Nash Leadership Project
- B.R. Guest Restaurants, Inc.
- PENCIL – Principal for a Day
- Latin American Cultural Center of Queens
- Metropolitan Opera Guild
- Young Playwrights, Inc.
- Creative Forces
- The After-School Corporation
- Repertorio Espanol
- Performing Arts Center of New York
- Queens Council on the Arts
- The Isamu Noguchi Museum
- The TAPROOT Foundation
- Assemblyman Jose Peralta – Annual Hispanic Book Fair
- Folk Music Society of New York
- Colgate University – Summer Science and Sports Camp
- Archi-Kids
- Queens College Jazz Program
- Carnegie Hall- Weill Music Institute
- Barco de Papel Libreria
- KISS Robotics
- National School Reform Faculty
- Arts for All
- Queens International Film Festival
- Stella Adler School of Acting/NYU Tisch School of the Arts

D. **Analysis and Evaluation:** As part of our charter renewal process, in year 4, Renaissance emailed surveys to our community partners. We had a 70% response rate.

1. Partnership History

How long have you been associated with The Renaissance Charter School?

Less than one year	0%
One to three years	38.1%
Three to five years	38.1%
Over five years	23.8%

2. If applicable, have you felt that our partnership has allowed time and space for effective collaboration and planning?

Yes, always	90.5%
Sometimes	9.5%
Never	0%

3. How satisfied have you been with our partnership?

Very satisfied	90%
Satisfied	10%
Not Satisfied	0%

### Comments –

*Renaissance has always bent over backwards to support our work with their students. We always feel that our work is deeply appreciated and welcomed at Renaissance. Communication is clear and open and we work well with the Renaissance staff to accommodate their needs and accomplish our programmatic goals.*

*One of the best partnerships we have.*

*There is great collaboration between the teachers, the administration and ourself.*

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*When we look to build partnership programming, the first school we turn to is Renaissance. They are excellent network leaders because they are so generous in their collaboration.*

*The students we have placed have not only gone on to be enriched by the experience but have made career choices based on the experience.*

*We have worked in several schools throughout the city, while we have had successful programs in those schools there is an element missing. In our work with Renaissance we've always felt like we are part of the Renaissance community. There's a sense of synergy and belonging at Renaissance that we don't get elsewhere.*

*The village atmosphere at Renaissance is welcoming for our teacher candidates from Queens College as well as faculty.*

*Renaissance has and continues to be one of the Guild's most valuable partnerships. We look forward to continuing our collaboration and hope to expand our work within the school in the future.*

*Not only are the staff easy to work with, we have watched with pride how the jazz band at Renaissance has grown both in size and quality over the years, in good part due to the support it receives from their administration.*

*Truly one of the most fulfilling professional partnerships I've had the privilege of taking part in.*

*Renaissance helps us meet our goals for geographic education.*

- E. **Summary:** Renaissance has met its goals in year five as indicated by the results of the 2009-2010 New York City Department of Education Learning Environment Survey and our qualitative indicator of retaining partnerships surveyed last year as well as adding new partners, to measure community partner satisfaction.

**Goal 11: Through qualitative measures, the school will live its motto, "Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York."**

- A. **Measure:** This goal will be measured through various qualitative measures that we have determined provide evidence for leadership development among students, parents and staff.
- B. **Method:** Anecdotal evidence about leadership development has been collected.
- C. **Results:** Renaissance continues to live its motto as indicated by the initiatives and outcomes below.

**Staff:**

- Teacher leadership continued to grow and develop with the creation of additional teacher coordinator and coach positions.
- Two teacher leaders, Janna Ostroff and Dennis Gereritz, were accepted and are engaging in the 2010-2011 Emerging Leader Fellowship Program through the New York City Charter School Center.
- Renaissance completed its third year as part of the PICCS consortium of schools (Teacher Incentive Fund Grant). Staff participated in model peer review, professional development and created an innovative compensation plan for teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals who meet established student performance targets.
- Staff members are full participants in the collaborative governance of the school serving on the Board of Trustees, School Management Team, and as Cluster leaders, Coordinators, Project Managers, Collaborative School Governance Committee Representatives, Critical Friends Coaches and Committee Members.
- Teacher retention rates are one of the highest in the city. Approximately 93% of our teachers will be returning in the fall of 2010. This rate increases to 95% when you remove the one teacher who is retiring.
- Teachers continue to participate actively in professional development activities to further enhance their practice.
- Director, Nicholas Tishuk, successfully opened a new charter high school modeled after Renaissance's best practices, in CSD 4 in East Harlem. Co-Principal Stacey Gauthier sits on the new school's Board of Trustees.
- Renaissance staff led major grant initiatives in Peer Review, geography education, school safety and after-school programming that involve a consortium of schools across the city.

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- Staff participate actively in educational and charter school advocacy locally, statewide and federally. Our leadership and staff were instrumental in developing The Coalition of Queens Charter Schools.
  - Co-Principal Stacey Gauthier has been asked to sit on numerous panels and discussion boards around charter policy, including the NYC Charter School Center’s New School Development Program.
  - Renaissance continues to be cited as a model program, and is visited often by school leaders from across the country and the world.
  - Renaissance SMT member Rebekah Oakes was asked by National Geographic Education Foundation to participate in a Strategic Planning process for the New York Geographic Alliance, and sits on the NYGA board.

**Parents:**

- Active Parent-Teacher Association.
- Parents are full and active members on the Board of Trustees and Collaborative School Governance Committee.
- Parents are members of hiring committees, Co-Principal Review Committee, Board Bylaws Committee, Board Development, Board Legal Committee, Grievance, Appeals and Finance and Audit Committee.
- Parents support the school by hosting events, participating in school-wide activities and sharing their expertise.
- Parents/Guardians participated actively in out-of-town trips to upstate New York, Pennsylvania and Louisiana.
- Parents are activists in the Charter School movement, public education and community affairs.
- One of our parents was appointed by Queens Borough President Helen Marshall to the Community Education Council for CSD 30.
- Parents host school visits and tours.

**Students:**

- Middle and high school students have seats on the Collaborative School Governance Committee.
- Many students are community activists serving as members of YELL, TREA and the service learning trip to New Orleans to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. In addition, many students work in leadership capacities with outside organizations.
- High School students plan and implement Social Justice Day and Career Day.
- Active high school student government.
- Students actively and articulately engaged in political advocacy events including the Charter School Lobby Day in Albany, and the Queens Charter School Coalition Rally hosted by Queens College and Renaissance.
- Middle school advisories create and implement programmatic and community service initiatives.
- Several students participate in activities beyond the regular school day that expand their independent learning opportunities including:

National Honor Society  
 Botball / Robotics  
 Basketball  
 Baseball  
 Teens for Racial and Ethnic Awareness (TREA)  
 Young Eclectic Liberation Leaders  
 Student Government  
 Collaborative School Governance Committee  
 Fine Art  
 Instrumental Music

Recording Studio  
 Spanish Theatre Company  
 Yearbook  
 Chess Club  
 Social Justice Day  
 Career Day  
 K-12 Performances and Exhibitions  
 Supporting Women Artists Program  
 After-School Performances and Exhibitions  
 Drama Club



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Science Club  
Culinary Arts  
Pre-Teaching  
City-At-Peace  
Latin American Cultural Center of Queens Art Program  
Sadie Nash Leadership Project  
Colgate Summer Science and Sports Camp  
College Now  
LaGuardia, STEM - City College  
Fashion Institute of Technology Summer Program  
Parsons Summer Program

Venture Scholars  
Peer Mediation  
Book Clubs  
School Organized College Visits  
Art Program - Noguchi Museum  
School Newspaper  
Bridge to Medicine Program  
Children's Museum of Manhattan - Family Animation Program  
Charter School Lobby Day  
Future Farmers of America  
Road Runners

**Student Internships and Programs:**

- Cooper Union Saturday Art Academy
- New York Historical Society
- Weill Cornell Medical Program
- Chinatown Youth Initiative
- Department of Education Summer Art Institute
- Elmhurst Hospital
- Queens Community House Photography Program
- Global Kids
- Guggenheim Museum
- Museum of Modern Art
- Renaissance School Internships such as:  
K-3rd Mighty Milers  
3rd-5th Planting Club  
4th-5th Grade Science Plus
- Access for Young Women's Leadership
- BR Guest Restaurant
- Casa Frela Art Gallery
- Global Action Project
- Whitney Museum
- Queens Garden Shop
- Queens Hospital Center
- READ Program
- Sadie Nash Young Women's Leadership Program
- Sadie Nash Visual Agitation Program
- Team Up
- Young Men's Media Project
- TREA Interns
- YMCA Interns
- New York Geographic Alliance Annual Conference

**Board Members:**

- All board members participate in one or more committees.
- Board members are active in their respective lives and affiliations beyond Renaissance.
- Board members demonstrate commitment through active and regular participation in school events, board meetings and school initiatives.
- Board members participated actively in political advocacy to fight the funding freeze imposed on charter schools in the state budget.

**School-Wide Achievements –**

- Renaissance was granted a second 5-year renewal because of our exemplary record, as of May 17, 2010.
- Renaissance was awarded one of three Urban Initiative grants nationwide from the National Geographic Education Foundation.
- Renaissance continues to be viewed as a model school. We host numerous site visits per year and advise countless individuals in the charter school and education reform movement.