



## 2021-2022 Charter Renewal Application Packet – Renaissance Secondary

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### **RENEWAL RECOMMENDATION:**

It is the recommendation of DCSD staff that the charter contract between Douglas County School District (DCSD) and Renaissance Secondary be renewed for a term of 5 years.

### **RENEWAL APPLICATION PROCESS & EVALUATION:**

The renewal process provides an opportunity for schools to (1) present any new or supplemental evidence of school performance and (2) articulate school plans and capacities for the next charter term. The charter renewal recommendation to the Board will be based on an array of evidence gathered over the charter term, including data and information collected by Douglas County School District Office of Choice Programming, the Colorado Department of Education, and any supplemental information that the applicant group provides.

The renewal process begins in September when the charter school declares its intent to apply for renewal. No later than September 1, the charter school submits its Renewal Application to the DCSD Office of Choice Programming. All information is presented to the Superintendent’s Cabinet through a compilation of evidence collected through the school’s site visit, an analysis of the school’s educational, operational, and financial health, and any feedback provided to the DCSD Office of Choice Programming by the applicant team upon initial review of this final report.

### **SCHOOL OVERVIEW**

**Mission:** Through authentic, integrated learning experiences, Renaissance will empower students to become modern learners who are critical thinkers and problem solvers, communicators, collaborators, and creative innovators who contribute to the world around them.

#### **Key Design Elements:**

- Elements of Project-Based Learning (PBL), Expeditionary Learning (EL), Design Thinking, Service Learning, and Adventure Education allowing students to “dig deep” into compelling and relevant topics.
- Culture of Crew is based on the EL model, and inspired by Outward Bound founder Kurt Hahn’s quote, “We are crew, not passengers.” Crew is a space for students and staff to develop relationships and monitor academics.
- Deeper Learning is PBL and EL are the guiding pedagogies of RSS, encouraging students to actively engage in their learning.
- Personalized Learning enables students to receive differentiated instruction based on their needs and interests.
- Adventure Education provides students the opportunity to attend at least one overnight “voyage” per school year, as well as additional adventure-focused day trips.
- Social Emotional Learning Curriculum is delivered through multiple programs.

Email address: [Info@rensec.org](mailto:Info@rensec.org)

Website:

<https://www.renaissancesecondary.org>

Address: 3954 Trail Boss Lane

Castle Rock, CO 80104

Year Opened: 2017

School Model: PBL, Expeditionary learning, Design Thinking, Service Learning and Adventure Education.

Grades Served: 6-12

Total Enrollment: 334



Subgroup	This School (%)	DCSD (%)
FRL	9.6%	10.7%
SPED	19.7%	10%
ELD	2%	6%
504	11%	4.2%
Gifted	12.9%	10%

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ANALYSIS

<p><b><i>Is the school implementing the material terms of the education program as defined in the current charter contract?</i></b></p> <p>The school is implementing the essential terms of the education program in all material respects and the educational program in operation reflects the essential terms as defined in the charter, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructional days or minutes requirements</li> <li>• Graduation and promotion requirements</li> <li>• State assessments</li> </ul>	Yes
<p><b><i>Is the school protecting the rights of all students?</i></b></p> <p>The school is protecting student rights pursuant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act relating to the treatment of students with identified disabilities and those suspected of having a disability, consistent with the school's status and responsibilities as a school in a district LEA</li> <li>• Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and US Department of Education authorities relating to English Language Learner requirements</li> <li>• Law, policies and practices related to admissions, lottery, waiting lists, fair and open recruitment, enrollment, the collection and protection of student information</li> <li>• Conduct of discipline procedures, including discipline hearings and suspension and expulsion policies and practices, in compliance with CRS 22-33-105 and 22-33-106</li> <li>• Recognition of due process protections, privacy, civil rights and student liberties requirements, including 1st Amendment protections and the Establishment Clause restrictions prohibiting public schools from engaging in religious instruction</li> </ul>	Yes

### School Performance Framework Ratings (Retrieved from: Colorado Department of Education)

DCSD Charter School	SY 20-21 & 19-20	SY 18-19	SY 17-18	SY 16-17
Renaissance Secondary - High	No Score (COVID-19)	Performance Plan	Performance Plan	Performance Plan
Renaissance Secondary- Middle	No Score (COVID-19)	Priority Improvement Plan	Priority Improvement Plan	Performance Plan

## OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS

<p><b>Is the school complying with governance requirements?</b></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to governance by its board including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board policies</li> <li>• Board bylaws</li> <li>• Conflicts of interest</li> <li>• Board composition and membership requirements, if applicable</li> </ul>	Yes
<p><b>Is the school holding management accountable?</b></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to oversight and evaluation of school leadership.</p>	Yes
<p><b>Is the school complying with reporting requirements?</b></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to relevant reporting requirements to the authorizer, CDE, and/or federal authorities.</p>	Yes
<p><b>Is the school meeting teacher and other staff credentialing requirements?</b></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to state certification requirements and background checks.</p>	Yes
<p><b>Is the school complying with facilities and transportation requirements?</b></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to the school facilities, grounds, and transportation, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire inspections and related records</li> <li>• Certificate of occupancy</li> <li>• Documentation of insurance coverage</li> <li>• Student transportation</li> </ul>	Yes
<p><b>Is the school complying with health and safety requirements?</b></p> <p>The school complies with applicable laws, rules, regulations and provisions of the charter relating to governance by its board including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate nursing services</li> <li>• Food services requirements, if applicable</li> <li>• Emergency management plan</li> </ul>	Yes

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

A review of the past three years shows Renaissance Secondary School has not met all benchmarks set forth by Douglas County School District. The school missed the Operating Margin Ratio the last 3 years. Operating Margin Ratio indicates the amount added to reserves for every \$1 in total general fund gross revenue. Operating Margin has a benchmark of  $\geq .01$ . RSS has gone from a 0.00 in 2019 to a -.02 in 2020 and -.05 in 2021. This ratio indicates that the school is utilizing fund balance to operate each year, this is not sustainable long term. Renaissance missed the Change in Fund Balance ratio for 2021, this benchmark has a benchmark of  $> 0$ , with a .45 in 2020 and a -.24 in 2021. This is related to the previous missed benchmark showing a decrease in fund balance. Change in Fund Balance Ratio indicates the change in the fund balance of the general fund from one year to the next in relation to the prior year fund balance. Management should not depend on fund balance for operations each year.

Asset Sufficiency Ratio (ASR) Benchmark $\geq 1$			Operating Reserve Ratio (ORR) Benchmark $\geq .0192$			Operating Margin Ratio (OMR) Benchmark $\geq .01$			Change in Fund Balance Ratio (CFBR) Benchmark $> 0$			Default of loan covenant or delinquent on payment	Accreditation Issues Current Year	Accreditation Issues Prior Year	CDE Comment 19-20
2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019				
3.69	3.41	3.90	0.164	0.219	0.138	-0.05	-0.02	0.00	-0.24	0.45	0.00	No	None	None	Fund balance breakout on pipeline does not tie to audit

**COLORADO LAW - GROUNDS FOR NONRENEWAL**

Colorado law (C.R.S. 22-30.5-110) specifies the grounds for revoking or not renewing a charter. A charter may be revoked or not renewed by the chartering local board of education if it determines that the charter school did any of the following:

A. Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter contract;	No
B. Failed to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the goals, objectives, content standards, pupil performance standards, targets for the measures used to determine the levels of attainment of the performance indicators, applicable federal requirements, or other terms identified in the charter contract;	No
C. Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management;	No
D. Violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted.	No

**Considerations Placed on the School:**

Renaissance Secondary School should identify, evaluate, and institute systemic measures of academic success beyond state-mandated testing. School leadership will work to implement systems where academic success can be measured to ensure students are on track to graduate college, career, and military ready.	
Management should not depend on fund balance for operations each year to address Fund Balance Ratio as explained above.	

