

---

# Pennsylvania Department of Education

---



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
**Department of Education**  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

**Charter Annual Report**  
**Tuesday, May 07, 2013**  
**(Last Accepted: Friday, October 28, 2011)**

**Entity:** Christopher Columbus CS  
**Address:** 916 Christian St  
North Bldg  
Philadelphia, PA 19147

# CHARTER SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY DATA

## Summary Data Part I

### Charter School Annual Report Summary Data 2011 - 2012

**Name of School:** Christopher Columbus CS

**Date of Local Chartering School Board/PDE Approval:** April 14, 2008

**Length of Charter:** 5 years    **Opening Date:** September, 1999

**Grade Level:** Kindergarten-Grade 8    **Hours of Operation:** 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

**Percentage of Certified Staff:** 100% (Instructional Staff)    **Total Instructional Staff:** 52

**Student/Teacher Ratio:** 21:1    **Student Waiting List:** 900

**Attendance Rate/Percentage:** 95.5%

## Summary Data Part II

**Enrollment:** 772 **Per Pupil Subsidy:** Regular Education- \$8773.00-Special Education- \$19,423.00

### Student Profile

<b>American Indian/Alaskan Native:</b>	1
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander:</b>	80
<b>Black (Non-Hispanic):</b>	212
<b>Hispanic:</b>	56
<b>White (Non-Hispanic):</b>	416
<b>Multicultural:</b>	7

**Percentage of Students from Low Income Families Eligible for a Free or Reduced Lunch:** 61%

**Provide the Total Unduplicated Number of Students Receiving Special Services (Excluding Gifted) as of Previous December:** 91

### Instructional Days and Hours

<b>Number of:</b>	<b>K (AM)</b>	<b>K (PM)</b>	<b>K (F.Time)</b>	<b>Elem.</b>	<b>Middle.</b>	<b>Sec.</b>	<b>Total</b>
Instructional Days	0	0	177	180	180	180	177 Kinder 180 Grades 1-8
Instructional Hours	0	0	1150	1170	1170	1170	1150-Kinder 1170-Grades 1-8

## SECTION I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Educational Community

The Christopher Columbus Charter School is a Philadelphia charter school, which is located in the South Philadelphia area. The school serves South Philadelphia and the surrounding communities. At its inception in 1999, the school served students in grades K, 1, 2, and 3. Each year a grade was added, until grade 8, which was added in 2004. Presently, the school is serving 772 students in grades K through 8. There are two facilities. The North Building, located at 916 Christian Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147, houses students in grades K-4, with two of the four 5th grades housed here. The South Building, located at 1242-46 South 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147, houses students in grades 5-8. Christopher Columbus Charter School students are from predominantly low income multicultural families. The students' family structures are varied. Many of the students are in the care of a single parent, or under the guardianship of a grandparent or other relative, or in some cases, a non-related guardian.

The founding board members' vision was the development of a school community in the heart of South Philadelphia's "Italian Market" area to be a source of hope in the ever-changing urban environment. Children from all cultural backgrounds, neighborhoods, and family situations would be welcomed to experience the joy of learning and to develop an innate love for learning. A major part of this vision was to promote the discovery of responsible citizenship and the skills for utilizing that citizenship in their families, communities, and in their world.

Over the past thirteen years, the administration and staff of Christopher Columbus Charter School have worked together to make the founding board members' vision a reality. They have collaboratively created a highly effective learning environment where the students succeed, feel safe, and learn to respect themselves and others. The students experience rigorous academic learning and the development of positive character traits through an on-going character development program. The administration makes every effort to see that all stakeholders in the school community are involved and accommodated, in order to ensure that all CCCS students will receive the best education possible.

The academic standards of Christopher Columbus Charter school have steadily improved. Teachers meet and plan units and collaborate in many areas of the instructional program. The challenging curriculum is implemented through the use of such instructional strategies as inquiry-based learning, one-on-one instruction, cooperative learning, differentiated instruction, and flexible grouping. These strategies help to ensure that all students are learning regardless of their individual ability levels. Students are able to demonstrate their abilities through the use of traditional assessments and performance-based assessments.

Christopher Columbus Charter School complies with state and local districts with regard to mandated testing. CCCS has school-wide improvement plans to strengthen areas in need of improvement, as indicated by previous test results. CCCS received the Keystone Award for meeting AYP for two consecutive years in 2006-2007. In 2008, 71.3% of all CCCS students performed at the Proficient/Advanced Levels for Reading and 58.7% in Math. AYP was not met in 2008, despite the achievement of such high Proficient/Advanced percentages by ALL students. This is due to the fact that performance thresholds were not met by the IEP sub-group only. Ayp was met in 2009. Proficient/Advanced percentages were 75% for Reading and 67.2 for Math. AYP was met in 2010. ALL students performed at the 69.4% Proficient/Advanced Levels for Reading and 64.3% in Math. On the 2010 PSSA Writing Assessment, 70% of Grade 5 students and 94% of Grade 8 students performed at the Proficient/Advanced Levels. CCCS again received the Keystone Award for making AYP for two consecutive years. AYP was not met for 2011. CCCS met 21 out of 22 targets. The IEP sub-group did not meet the requirement for Mathematics. The special education sub-group did meet AYP for Reading. All other sub-groups met AYP for both Reading and Math. PSSA results show that in Math 69.9% of ALL students performed at the Proficient/Advanced Levels for Reading and approximately 62.7% in Math. On the 2011 PSSA Writing Assessment approximately 66% of Grade 5 students and approximately 98% of Grade 8 students performed at the Proficient/Advanced Levels. In 2012, CCCS made AYP. Approximate Proficient/Advanced Percentages for Grades 3-8 were 63.4% in Mathematics and 70% in Reading. On the 2012 Writing Assessment, 68.2% of Grade 5 students performed at the Proficient/Advanced levels and 96.2% of Grade 8 students were Proficient or Advanced.

With regard to local mandated testing, in 2012, Grades 1 and 2 were not mandated by the School District of Philadelphia to take the ACUIITY Predictive 3 Assessments, nor were they offered as an option. CCCS used locally created testing to gauge progress in the primary grades. Results of this analysis can be found in the Student Assessment section of this report. In 2011, administration of the ACUIITY assessments was optional. Christopher Columbus did choose to administer the assessment in order to gauge student progress. Upon analyzing school assessment reports, for ELA (Reading/Language), 93% of Grade 1 students performed at the Tier 4 Performance Tier, which is the highest. The average % of points obtained was 89%. In Grade 2, 54% of students performed at Tier 4 with 39% performing at Tier 3. The average % of points obtained was 74%. In Math, 79% of Grade 1 students performed at Tier 4, with the average total points obtained at 84%. In Grade 2 Math, 68% performed at Tier 4, with the average % of points obtained at 79%. In both grades, almost all students performed at Tier 3 or 4 for both Reading and Math with the majority at Tier 4.

In 2010, only Grades 1 and 2 were required to take the ACUIITY Predictive 3 Assessments for the first time. Only District Percentile Rankings were analyzed. District refers to all tested charter schools. Analysis of ACUIITY data indicates that in Reading/Language (ELA), approximately 52%

of Grade 1 students ranked at the 87th District Percentile or above, with approximately 35% performing at the 95th and 100th District Percentiles. There were 79% of Grade 1 students ranking at the 55th District Percentile or above. In Math, approximately 47% of Grade 1 students ranked at the 77th district Percentile or above, with approximately 64% ranking at the 55th district Percentile or above.

In Grade 2, for Reading/Language (ELA) approximately 54% of CCCS students ranked at or above the 74th District Percentile, with approximately 67% ranking at or above the 58th District Percentile, with only 235 ranking below the 51st District Percentile. In Math, approximately 49% of grade 2 students ranked at or above the 64th District Percentile, with approximately 59% ranking at or above the 55th District Percentile.

Action improvement plans are used to strengthen both school-wide and grade level weaknesses. These plans are developed after careful analysis of test scores by administration and teachers. Teachers also create individual profile sheets for each student in order to differentiate effectively.

## **Mission**

The mission of Christopher Columbus Charter School is to provide students with a content-rich academic rigorous Core Knowledge education, with a well-defined, sequential curriculum in a safe, orderly, disciplined, and caring learning environment. CCCS students will learn to express themselves in at least one international language, and will utilize computer technology to support learning in all major subjects, and become literate in the technologies of the 21st Century.

## **Vision**

The vision of the founding board members of Christopher Columbus Charter School was the development of a school community in the ever-changing "Italian Market" area of South Philadelphia, which could be a source of hope for children from all cultural backgrounds and family situations. This vision included welcoming all children so that they could experience the joy of learning and develop an innate love for learning. One of the major goals of the founding board members' vision was to promote responsible citizenship and the skills for utilizing that citizenship throughout their lives.

All stakeholders in Christopher Columbus Charter School share in this vision. It is the vision of all involved in the school that our students succeed academically in a safe, orderly environment. A major part of the vision is that the children learn to respect themselves and others, and continuously develop positive character traits, in order to serve others in the community and in the world. In addition, all children will experience the true joy of learning and will become life-long learners. Since its inception, CCCS has made this dream a reality. All stakeholders envision that this dream will continue to be a reality and that future CCCS students will get the best education possible, become technologically proficient, and proficient in all areas, and grow in respect for themselves and others.

## **Shared Values**

Stakeholders in Christopher Columbus Charter School include board members, administration, teachers, staff, parents, students, and members of the community. All stakeholders share a vision or common beliefs concerning the growth and development of all students who pass through the doorways of the school. It is the shared belief that all students will learn and can be taught, in a safe, healthy, and effective learning environment. All stakeholders collaborate to plan and solve problems.

### Shared Beliefs -Academics

Curriculum is aligned to Pennsylvania Academic Standards and instructional techniques are adapted from research-based effective strategies, which include differentiated instruction techniques to ensure that all students are able to meet proficiency levels in Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, and the content areas, regardless of race, ethnicity, or ability level.

All students will become technologically proficient.

All students will be conversational in the Italian Language.

All students will be able to express themselves effectively through oral and written communication.

### Shared Beliefs-Social

All students will learn to respect themselves and others, and to show respect in word and deed.

All students will learn citizenship skills in order to serve others.

All students will learn through cooperative learning techniques to become team players.

All students will learn and internalize such values as truth, honesty, kindness, generosity, patience, consideration for others, and empathy.

## **Academic Standards**

The administration, teachers, and staff of Christopher Columbus Charter School hold very high standards and expectations for all students with regard to academics. All students are expected to reach proficiency in these standards regardless of ability level. All students are given equal educational opportunity through the use of individualized programs and differentiated instruction. Curriculum is directly aligned with Pennsylvania State Standards and Common Core Standards. The curriculum is a well-defined, sequential curriculum. Quarterly objectives aligned to state standards are established and correlate to content areas. Presentation of concepts is paced to a common timeline at each grade level. The curriculum guidelines identify when each skill is to be Introduced, Developed, Reviewed, and Maintained for each subject area.

All concepts in the curriculum fall under the categories outlined in the Common Core Standards and the Pennsylvania State Standards. For Language Arts, the standards are: Learning To Read Independently; Reading Critically In All Content Areas; Reading, Analyzing, and Interpreting Literature; Types of writing; Quality of Writing; Speaking and Listening; Characteristics and Function of the English Language; Research. The Language Arts, Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening are processes that students use to learn and make sense of their world. The standards define the skills and strategies needed by effective readers and writers. At CCCS, teachers will assist their students in learning these standards through an interdisciplinary approach. Concepts under each category are clearly outlined in curriculum guidelines. These standards provide a clear target for success in all academic areas for all stakeholders.

For Mathematics the standards are: Numeration; Whole Number Operations; Fractions/Computations; Decimals/Computations; Percents; Estimation; Measurement; Ratio; Mathematical Reasoning; Algebra; Geometry; Statistics; Problem Solving; Technology. Concepts in each category are presented according to grade level. It is our belief that children must be exposed to particular math skills at each stage of development. These skills should be

practiced until they are mastered, and then maintained. CCCS students are made aware of the impact of Mathematics in their everyday lives, and therefore, they are introduced to problem-solving skills in Kindergarten. Mathematics is also integrated into other areas of the curriculum, since math is present in every curriculum. While technology plays a major part in Mathematics education, we at CCCS maintain that these devices cannot take the place of a child's own intelligence, yet should be used to develop and support traditional learning. For this reason, Mathematics skills are introduced and developed, and then reviewed and maintained at each level.

## **Strengths and Challenges**

Christopher Columbus Charter School recognizes its areas of strength. Based on the most recent PSSA preliminary student file test score reports, one major strength is in the area of Reading/Language and Writing. On the 2012 PSSA Writing Assessment, approximately 96.2% of Grade 8 students performed at the Proficient/Advanced Level, and approximately 68.2% of all Grade 5 students performed at the Proficient or Advanced Levels. Portfolio contents at all grade levels show above average performance in the area of Writing. In reading, the approximate percentages of Proficient/Advanced were as follows: Grade 3-69%; Grade 4-62%; Grade 5-52%; Grade 6-64%; Grade 7-82%; Grade 8-90%.

Christopher Columbus Charter School also recognizes its areas of weakness. Based on recent PSSA preliminary results, Grade 5 needs to improve in both Reading and Mathematics, and Grade 6 in Mathematics. During the 2012-2013 school year an action improvement plan will remain in affect for improvement of mathematics skills for all grades, but especially Grade 6 mathematics and Grade 5 reading and math, with measurable goals directly linked to assessment results. The special education subgroups still need to show improvement in both Reading and Math. A school-wide action improvement plan will be put into effect to address the improvement of scores amongst special education students.

Generally, there is still a need for improvement in Science scores. On the 2012 Science PSSA Assessment, approximately 76% of all grade 4 students performed at the Proficient/Advanced Levels, while 54% of Grade 8 students performed at these levels, which is a 3% improvement. Improvement stills needs to be shown, especially in grade 8. One primary goal will be to continue to improve science achievement at all grade levels. A school-wide action improvement plan is in progress. A new textbook was purchased a few years back. Science lab periods have been placed in the schedule at each grade level. A daily science maintenance activity will continue to be used be used in grades 6-8. During the 2012-2013 school year, professional development opportunities in science instruction will continue to be offered to all teachers.

## **SECTION II. STRATEGIC IMPROVEMENT PLANNING**

### **Strategic Planning Process**

#### Christopher Columbus Charter School Strategic Planning Process

This comprehensive strategic planning process has been developed to foster a supportive learning environment and to promote higher student achievement for all students at Christopher Columbus Charter School. All stakeholders will be made aware of the process and will be reminded of their responsibility to help to educate all of our students.

#### Stage One: Access Readiness to Benefit

Ms. Rosemary Dougherty, CEO/Principal will lead the process and allow for planning committee members to plan and implement school-wide changes in order to improve the instructional program. The CEO and the other two administrators will support and nurture a school culture which is conducive to learning and satisfaction and growth amongst stakeholders.

Initial meetings will be held to establish the need for the strategic planning team and to familiarize the team with the stages of the process, and to prepare for the rest of the stages in the process.

It will be stressed that the school environment will remain safe and healthy to ensure an effective and stimulating learning environment. Students will continue to learn to respect themselves and one another and to experience respect from staff members in order to foster a comfortable atmosphere which is conducive to better learning.

Planning committee members will be aware of the planning process and will participate in plans as assigned by the CEO. Members of the committee represent various stakeholder groups. The committee includes:

- Two board members
- Four school administrators
- Two elementary teacher
- One middle-school teacher
- Two secondary teachers
- Two special education teachers
- One computer teacher
- One school counselor
- Two technology experts
- One business manager
- Two parents
- One community member

#### Stage Two: Collect, Sort, and Select Data

Strategic planning goals will be set after sources of data and research are collected, sorted, and selected.

Data sources will be presented in a clear, comprehensive manner and will include all domains: Student Achievement; Perception; Demographics; and Contextual Data.

Data will be collected from a variety of sources. Sources of data include:

- State Test Scores (PSSA)
- Local Test Scores (ACUITY)
- Performance on Cumulative Assessments
- Performance on Classroom Assessments
- Analysis of Portfolio Contents
- Analysis of Teacher Lesson Plans
- Monitoring of Lesson Implementation
- Research-based Teaching Strategies
- Research-based Differentiated Instruction  
and Cooperative Learning Techniques
- Analysis of Daily Attendance Records

#### Stage Three: Build and Analyze a Portfolio

The planning team will develop a district portfolio containing the following information:

Types of data  
Persons to be informed about data  
Ways to communicate data  
Persons responsible for reporting data

The portfolio will contain data sources from the following domains:

Student Achievement (PSSA, TerraNova, Portfolios, Class Assessments, etc...)

Perception (Surveys, Focus Groups, etc...)

Contextual Data (Discipline, Attendance, Parental Involvement)

Demographics (Enrollment, Economically Disadvantaged, Ethnicity, Language Proficiency etc...)

Data will be disaggregated according to sub-group performance.

The portfolio will show the demographic makeup of the district, student performance, roadblocks to achievement, and level of involvement of stakeholders.

#### Stage Four: Set and Prioritize Goals

Once data is selected and analyzed, planning team members will set and prioritize goals based on this data. Goals will be written in terms of student outcome and will include clear objectives, timelines, and performance indicators.

The goal setting process will include:

- 1) An analysis of valid, reliable data
- 2) Different sources of information
- 3) Comparisons of current and past data
- 4) Identification of strengths and weaknesses
- 5) Needs recognition from identified strengths and weaknesses
- 6) Setting priorities for needs based on impact on student learning

#### Stage Five: Research and Select Effective Practices

The strategic planning team will study and select strategies for each goal. The planning team will report the the research to the staff.

#### Stage Six: Craft Action Plan

School-wide action improvement plans will be created and implemented.

Action Plans will include the following steps:

- 1) Clear, well-defined goals will be set based on need from analysis of selected data
- 2) Strategies for attaining these goals will be developed using research-based techniques

- 3) Activities and materials will be chosen based on research
- 4) Professional development will be provided for teachers and other staff members to aid in the attainment of goals and will be aligned to the common focus and based on high need areas
- 5) Teachers will collaborate with one another, the administration, parents, and students to reflect upon practices and progress in the classroom-all will be involved and help to develop solutions to any problems

#### Stage Seven: Monitor Implementation of the Plan

Implementation of action plans will be monitored on a regular basis by the administration and other members of the team.

The team will model collaboration for the rest of the staff.

All staff members will be aware of the plans and will be actively involved. All will know and agree upon goals and achievement targets.

The planning team will provide data to guide changes to plans for further improvement.

Staff members will collaborate about effective classroom practices.

Staff will provide evidence of plan implementation via lesson plans, assessments etc...

#### Stage Eight: Evaluate Impact on Student Achievement

Action Plans will be evaluated based on student achievement results.

The staff will know how to analyze and use PSSA and TerraNova results and other measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan.

Goals will have various measures to aid in effective evaluation of strategies and activities.

All staff members will understand the need for student improvement.

The staff will understand that evaluation needs to be based on student achievement.

The staff will understand that strategic planning is on-going.

### **Strategic Planning Committee**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>Appointed By</b>
Adrienne Nave	Computer Teacher-CCCS	Ed Specialist - Instructional Technology	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Agnes Viso	Community Member	Community Representative	Rosemary Dougherty, CEO/CCCS
Anthony Matthews	Employee-CCCS	Parent	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Antoinette DiGiacomo	Classroom Teacher-CCCS	Middle School Teacher	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Caitlin O'Connell	Special Education Teacher-CCCS	Special Education Representative	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS

Charles Moore	Classroom Teacher-CCCS	Secondary School Teacher	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Cynthia Pinto	Employee-CCCS	Other	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Edward Poznek	Board Member-CCCS	Community Representative	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Erin Rex	Classroom Teacher-CCCS	Elementary School Teacher	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Florence Doyle	Principal-CCCS	Administrator	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Herbert Schectman	Foundations Inc.	Business Representative	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
John Hebert	Tech Support-CCCS	Other	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
John Torres	Owner C'entanni Restaurant	Parent	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Kathy Gibson	Special Education Teacher - CCCS	Special Education Teacher	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Maria Grassia	Vice-Principal- CCCS	Administrator	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Mary Faustino	Board Member-CCCS	Board Member	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Maryellen Porsia	Principal-CCCS	Administrator	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Michael Thomas	Classroom Teacher - CCCS	Secondary School Teacher	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Patricia Hickey	Counselor-CCCS	Ed Specialist - School Counselor	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Peggy Kaplan	Classroom Teacher-CCCS	Elementary School Teacher	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS
Rosemary Dougherty	Principal/CEO-CCCS	Administrator	Rosemary Dougherty-CEO/CCCS

## Goals, Strategies and Activities

**Goal:** To ensure that all students are receiving the most effective instruction regardless of ability level

**Description:** Add Goal Statement here..

**Strategy:** Professional development opportunities are provided in the areas of differentiated instruction, cooperative learning, and multiple intelligences

**Description:** We must provide continuous education for all faculty members in all subject areas as well as in social and developmental skills to enhance the education of our students. We must take advantage of all of the latest and most efficient technological tools to accomplish this goal.

With the use of the Promethean ActivBoard, grades 5 to 8 have shown visably increased grades and also increased interest in the subjects and subject matter. We need to make available the same educational advantage for K to 4th grade. This will include the interactive white board, laptops for every teacher, two PC's for every room including access to the internet and our current LAN and WAN.

We need to locate a software program that can be used to maintain a uniform grading system. It will be necessary to have instructional courses in order for the faculty to to become proficient in the use of the new software.

**Activity: Mentors are provided for teachers needing additional help with differentiation**

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$15,000.00
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity: Teachers attend workshops and seminars and read professional journals**

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$8,000.00
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Strategy: Teachers collaborate to share and discuss effective techniques for differentiation**

**Description:**

**Activity: Teachers meet at weekly grade unit meetings**

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007 Finish: Ongoing	\$2,500.00
------------------	------------------------------------	------------

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity: Teachers meet in collegial groups with teachers in other grade levels**

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007 Finish: Ongoing	\$2,500.00
------------------	------------------------------------	------------

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Strategy: Teachers use a variety of teaching techniques to meet the needs of different types of learners (kinesthetic, linguistic, etc...)**

**Description:** We must provide continuous education for all faculty members in all subject areas as well as in social and developmental skills to enhance the education of our students. We must take advantage of all of the latest and most efficient technological tools to accomplish this goal.

With the use of the Promethean ActivBoard, grades 5 to 8 have shown visably increased grades and also increased interest in the subjects and subject matter. We need to make available the same educational advantage for K to 4th grade. This will include the interactive white board, laptops for every teacher, two PC's for every room including access to the internet and our current LAN and WAN.

We need to locate a software program that can be used to maintain a uniform grading system. It will be necessary to have instructional courses in order for the faculty to to become proficient in the use of the new software.

**Activity: Lessons are presented in various ways (Kinesthetic activiities, Linguistic activities, Spatial activities, etc...)**

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007 Finish: Ongoing	\$10,000.00
------------------	------------------------------------	-------------

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Strategy:** Teachers use both traditional and performance-based assessments

**Description:**

**Activity:** Traditional written assessments are used in conjunction with allowing students to demonstrate knowledge in a way that is best for them

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007 Finish: Ongoing	\$7,500.00
------------------	------------------------------------	------------

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Goal:** To have all grade levels scoring at least 60% for Proficient/Advanced Levels on the 2012 PSSA Assessments in both reading and math

**Description:** Add Goal Statement here..

**Strategy:** Provide professional development opportunities for teachers in areas of highest need

**Description:** We must provide continuous education for all faculty members in all subject areas as well as in social and developmental skills to enhance the education of our students. We must take advantage of all of the latest and most efficient technological tools to accomplish this goal.

**Activity:** Teachers attend workshops and seminars and read professional journals

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$22,000.00
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Strategy:** Teachers focus on reinforcing generally weak skills determined by analysis of score reports

**Description:**

**Activity:** Teachers analyze score reports and focus on generally weak skills and develop strategies to improve these skills

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$30,750.00
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity:** Teachers use daily skills maintenance sheets to reinforce skills

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Rosemary Dougherty	Start: 1/1/2007	-
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Strategy:** Teachers use various instructional strategies for improving use of constructed responses to questions and in explaining how word problems are solved

**Description:**

**Activity:** Teachers use test prep materials for practice in this area

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Rosemary Dougherty	Start: 1/1/2007	-
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity:** Test prep materials are used for practice in this area

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$55,000.00
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Strategy:** Teachers use various techniques for improvement in achievement of individual students

**Description:**

**Activity:** Differentiated instruction, cooperative learning, peer tutoring, small group instruction, and one-on-one instruction is used

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$60,000.00
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

# **Goal: To increase PSSA Proficient/Advanced levels by 5% or more in Reading and Mathematics on 2012 Assessments**

Description: Add Goal Statement here..

**Strategy:** Differentiated instruction is used to accommodate students needing individual skill remediation

Description:

**Activity:** Cooperative learning, small group instruction, one-on-one instruction, and peer tutoring are used

Description:

## **Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007 Finish: Ongoing	\$48,775.00
------------------	------------------------------------	-------------

Status: In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity:** Teachers create individual skills profile sheets for each student

Description:

## **Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007 Finish: Ongoing	\$12,200.00
------------------	------------------------------------	-------------

Status: In Progress — Upcoming

**Strategy:** Teachers focus on having students answer open-ended questions using constructed responses

Description:

**Activity:** Teachers use test prep materials for practice in this area

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007 Finish: Ongoing	\$20,000.00
------------------	------------------------------------	-------------

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Strategy:** Teachers format classroom testing to be aligned to format of PSSA Assessment

**Description:**

**Activity:** Classroom assessments are designed in alignment with the test format to help students to become familiar with the format

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007 Finish: Ongoing	\$15,000.00
------------------	------------------------------------	-------------

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Goal:** To increase Science scores on 2012 PSSA Assessment, specifically in Grade 8, by at least 5% or more

**Description:** Add Goal Statement here..

**Strategy:** Professional development opportunities are provided for teachers

**Description:** We must provide continuous education for all faculty members in all subject areas as well as in social and developmental skills to enhance the education of our students. We must take advantage of all of the latest and most efficient technological tools to accomplish this goal.

**Activity:** Teachers attend seminars and workshops and read professional books and journals

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$45,000.00
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Strategy:** Teachers focus on using inquiry-based approaches to teaching Science concepts

**Description:**

**Activity:** Test prep materials are used for practice in this area

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$10,000.00
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Strategy:** Teachers integrate science with other areas by using an interdisciplinary approach

**Description:**

**Activity:** Science concepts are integrated into Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics lessons

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$55,550.00
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Strategy:** Teachers provide daily maintenance of the steps of the scientific method

**Description:**

**Activity:** Daily lab manual activities are used for practice and maintenance

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$7,500.00
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Strategy:** Teachers use more "hands-on" activities

**Description:**

**Activity:** Science lab activities are conducted often using the scientific method

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Rosemary Dougherty	Start: 1/1/2007	-
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity:** Science lab activities are used more frequently

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$15,000.00
------------------	-----------------	-------------

Finish: Ongoing

Status: In Progress — Upcoming

## **Goal: To meet Adequate Yearly Progress for 2012 PSSA Assessments**

**Description:** Add Goal Statement here..

To increase PSSA Proficient/Advanced levels by 5% or more in Reading and Mathematics

**Strategy: To continue to utilize school-wide action improvement plan which includes professional development, use of collaborative collegial groups, curriculum evaluation and revision, instructional evaluation, and more intense maintenance of mastered skills**

**Description:**

**Activity: Grade unit teachers meet weekly to discuss strategies for improving weak areas**

**Description:**

### Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources

Rosemary Dougherty	Start: 1/1/2007	-
	Finish: Ongoing	

Status: In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity: Grade unit teachers meet weekly to discuss strategies for improving weak skills**

**Description:**

### Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$5,000.00
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity:** Professional development workshops and seminars are provided as needed

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$27,500.00
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity:** Teachers attend professional development seminars and workshops in areas of high need

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Rosemary Dougherty	Start: 1/1/2007	-
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity:** Teachers meet in collegial groups to share effective ideas and practices

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$32,500.00
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity: Teachers use a scheduled test prep period for test preparation**

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Rosemary Dougherty	Start: 1/1/2007	-
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity: Teachers use daily skills maintenance sheets to reinforce skills**

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia	Start: 1/1/2007	\$5,100.00
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity: Teachers use differentiated instruction to accommodate the needs of all students**

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Rosemary Dougherty	Start: 1/1/2007	-
	Finish: Ongoing	

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity: Teachers use differentiated instruction, cooperative learning, and other strategies to accommodate all students**

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia      Start: 1/1/2007      \$53,500.00  
Finish: Ongoing

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Activity:** Teachers use inquiry-based instruction and focus on extending meaning and critical thinking

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Rosemary Dougherty      Start: 1/1/2007      -  
Finish: Ongoing

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Goal: To meet AYP for Attendance Rate and to maintain 95% Attendance Rate**

**Description:** Add Goal Statement here..

**Strategy:** To enforce school attendance policy

**Description:**

**Activity:** Send warning notices to parents of students who are not in compliance with the policy

**Description:**

**Person Responsible Timeline for Implementation Resources**

Maryellen Porsia      Start: 1/1/2007      \$2,000.00  
Finish: Ongoing

**Status:** In Progress — Upcoming

**Statement of Quality Assurance**

Charter school has met AYP.

There are currently no supporting documents selected for this section.

## **SECTION III. QUALITY OF SCHOOL DESIGN**

### **Rigorous Instructional Program**

The Christopher Columbus Charter School curriculum is a well-defined, sequential curriculum. It is a standards-based curriculum. All concepts in the curriculum are directly aligned to the Common Core Standards and the Pennsylvania Academic Standards. Teachers in all grades (K-8) are provided with curriculum guidelines in each subject area. These guidelines are reviewed and refined each year using the Pennsylvania Academic Standards as a reference.

The Christopher Columbus Charter School curriculum establishes objectives which are aligned to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards and correlate to the content areas presented in curriculum guidelines. The presentation of all concepts is paced according to a common timeline at each grade level. The curriculum identifies when each skill in Language, Reading, Mathematics, and the content areas of Social Studies, Science, Art, Music, Computer, Library, Physical Education, and the Italian Language, would be presented according to the following objectives: Introduce, Develop, Review, and Maintain. Appropriate grade level daily skills practice sheets are provided. These correspond to skills being taught at each grade level in Language Arts and Mathematics. The curriculum is directly integrated with the Core Knowledge Curriculum. It contains resource materials for differentiated instruction and teaching through multiple intelligences.

Christopher Columbus Charter School fosters a learning environment which is student-centered. Inquiry-based learning is used at all grade levels. Students are encouraged to use critical thinking skills and to expand their thinking across the curriculum. Administrators encourage teachers to facilitate the extension of knowledge and to help their students to feel comfortable with inquiring and seeking additional knowledge. Chosen textbooks contain strategies and activities which promote the use of inquiry-based instruction. An interdisciplinary approach to learning is implemented in order to facilitate the understanding of the linkage of skills between different subject areas. Students are taught to answer questions by using constructed responses and to explain what they have learned and how they have solved problems. Assessment is both traditional and authentic. Performance-based assessments are used frequently to allow students to demonstrate the true depth of their learning.

Christopher Columbus Charter School strives to accommodate students performing below standards. CCCS has four full-time special education teachers, and three reading specialists. Federal regulations are followed in determining special education services. Students who are performing below standards in their academic skill development are recommended for testing completed by the school psychologist. If a learning disability is discovered, an IEP is prepared by the individual child's IEP team, and the recommended accommodations are carefully implemented. If no learning disability is found, the struggling student is instructed via differentiated instruction in the classroom, and one-on-one or small group instruction with the reading specialist. The student is also given individualized attention by the instructional paraprofessional assigned to that student's particular grade level.

The teachers at Christopher Columbus Charter School use various techniques for imparting skills and facilitating learning. The following types of strategies are used to ensure accommodation of all types of learners:

- \* Differentiated Instruction and Cooperative Learning

- \* Inter-disciplinary lessons
- \* Inquiry-based instruction
- \* Hands-on experiences in all subject areas
- \* Independent and group research projects
- \* Class meetings and discussion circles
- \* Educational field trips
- \* Use of technological resources

## **Rigorous Instructional Program - Attachments**

- Rigorous Instructional Program
- Rigorous Instructional Program
- Rigorous Instructional Program

## **English Language Learners**

Christopher Columbus Charter School does have a plan in place for accommodating ELL students. All parents of enrolled students must complete the Home Language Survey in order for the school to identify students as being in need of an instructional program. This survey is maintained in each student's file. If a student is identified as ELL, the W-APT test is administered, and if the student is eligible, instruction will begin within 30 days.

Christopher Columbus Charter School makes every effort to provide equal educational opportunity for each ELL student. All ELL students have full and complete access to the school's curriculum at his or her grade level. A PA certified ESL teacher provides appropriate instruction to facilitate the student's achievement of the academic standards and helps that student to become proficient in English, using a variety of instructional models.

As mandated by law, the formal State English Language Proficiency Assessment (WIDA Access) is administered to all ELL students annually. A record is maintained for all ELL students containing the English proficiency level for that student. These will be amended annually. If a student meets the state required exit criteria in the school's plan, that student's progress will continue to be monitored for at least two years following his/her release from the program.

Parents of ELL students receive a description of their child's instructional program. Information for parents will be provided in the native language if necessary. Interpreters and/or translators will be used as needed.

During the 2011-2012 school year, 43 students were identified as ELL. All ELL students received instruction from an ESL teacher throughout the school year. The WIDA Access for ELLs English Language Proficiency Test was administered to all ELL students in February 2012. At the Kindergarten Cluster, approximately 64% of ELL students performed at or above the Developing Proficiency Level, which indicates knowledge and use of social English and some specific academic language with visual and graphic support, with over 13% at the Bridging Level, which indicates knowledge and use of social English and academic language working at grade level. In Grade 1, approximately 92% of Grade 1 ELL students performed at or above the Developing Level with 17% at the Bridging Level, which indicates proficiency at grade level. For Grade 2, ELL students, 80% have performed at or above the Expanding Proficiency Level, which indicates good progress towards working proficiently at grade level. In Grade 3, 100% of all ELL students performed at the Bridging Level. In Grade 4, 75% of students performed at or above the Expanding Level. One Grade 4 student entered CCCS in October with almost no knowledge of the English Language. She performed at the Beginning Level showing some social English and general academic language given visual and graphic support. In grades 5 and 6 all students

performed at the Bridging Level. All students receiving services showed average to above average academic performance during the school year.

The W-APT is administered by Natalie DiFrancesco. Ms. DiFrancesco holds a PA certification in Elementary Education with a Program Specialist for ESL add-on, and has completed the coursework for ESL through Global Classroom. She is eligible to administer the W-APT and WIDA Access tests. Also attached is a list of all ELL students including NEW students who received ESL services this year as a result of the Home Language Survey and W-APT eligibility.

## **English Language Learners - Attachments**

- English Language Learners
- English Language Learners
- English Language Learners

## **Graduation Requirements**

NA

## **Special Education**

Christopher Columbus Charter School follows federal regulations in determining special education placement. According to the regulations, if a student is diagnosed with a disability and it has been determined that the disability affects the student's learning in the general education classroom, that student has a right to special education services. When an at-risk student is referred for psycho-educational testing by the classroom teacher, he or she is first informally evaluated by the special education teacher, the reading specialist, and in some cases the school counselor, the speech therapist, and the occupational therapist. This takes place only after various interventions have been utilized by the classroom teacher. Pertinent information is gathered, including samples of class work, standardized test scores, and behavior observations. After documents and observation reports are reviewed, a meeting is held to decide if testing is recommended. The meeting is attended by the special education teacher, an administrator, the classroom teacher, and any other persons involved in the observation and evaluation of the student.

If psycho-educational testing is recommended, the parent/guardian is contacted, and if all are in agreement an evaluation is administered by a certified school psychologist. After testing, a formal evaluation report is written. If a student is diagnosed with a disability, an Individualized Education Program or IEP is designed. The entire IEP team is involved including the parents/guardians. The IEP is created with specific goals and strategies for meeting the individual student's needs. Related services, such as speech therapy and occupational therapy are outlined as well. The student's progress is carefully monitored and documented throughout the school year.

In accordance with federal regulations, students with mental retardation are re-evaluated every two years. Students with speech and language impairments are re-evaluated annually. All others are re-evaluated every three years.

Students with special needs are included in the regular classroom. Additional remedial support and implementation of IEP goals is provided by the special education teachers, counselors, and instructional paraprofessionals. The speech therapist and occupational therapist provide support to students according to students needing those services.

Special education students are given individual and small group attention. In the regular classroom, differentiated instruction and cooperative learning techniques are used to facilitate learning for these students and to ensure that they are given every opportunity to learn. Performance-based assessments are used to offer students the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned in ways that accommodate their individual learning abilities and styles.

## Special Education - Attachment

- Special Education

### Special Education Program Profile - Chart I

Teacher	FTE	Type of class or support	Location	# of Students	Other Information
Ms. Lauren Anello-Renzi	1.00	Inclusion	CCCS South Building	13	School has inclusion. This teacher works only with students with specific learning disabilities in grades 7 and 8. Students with speech only IEP's or Speech IEP's with OT goals, work with a contracted speech therapist and/or OT. These are listed in Chart IV. This is why there is a discrepancy in the numbers on this chart.
Ms. Katherine Gibson	1.00	Inclusion	CCCS South Building	6	School has inclusion. This teacher only works with students with specific learning disabilities in grades 5 and 6. Students with speech only IEP's or speech only IEP's with OT goals work with a contracted speech therapist and/or OT. These are listed in Chart IV. This is why there is a discrepancy in the numbers on this chart.
Ms. Caitlin O'Connell	1.00	Inclusion	CCCS North Building	15	School has inclusion. This teacher works only with students with specific learning disabilities in grades 3, 4, and 5. Students with speech only IEP's or speech only IEP's with OT goals work with a contracted speech therapist and/or OT. These are listed in Chart IV. This is why there is a discrepancy in the numbers on this chart.
Ms. Danielle Colancecco	1.00	Inclusion	CCCS North Building	16	School has inclusion. This teacher works only with students with specific learning disabilities in grades Kindergarten to grade two. Students with speech only IEP's and speech only IEP's with OT goals work with a contracted speech therapist and/or OT. These are listed in Chart IV. This is why there is a discrepancy in the numbers on this chart.

### Special Education Program Profile - Chart II

**Organization FTE Type of class or support Location # of Students Other Information**

None          None None                                  None      0                                  None

### Special Education Program Profile - Chart III

Title	Location	FTE
Instructional Teacher Aides (7)	CCCS North/South Buildings	1.00

### Special Education Program Profile - Chart IV

IU, Public Agency, Organization, or Individual	Title/Service	Amount of Time Per Week
Pediatric Therapeutic Services	School Psychologist	As needed
Speech Therapists Inc.	Speech Therapist (North Bldg.)	.80
Speech Therapists Inc.	Speech Therapist (South Bldg.)	.20
Therapy Solutions Inc.	Occupational Therapist	.40

## SECTION IV. ACCOUNTABILITY

### Student Assessment - Primary

Test/Classification	K	1	2	3	4	5
PSSA Reading and Mathematics	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
PSSA Writing	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Mid-Year and End-Year Cumulative Assessments	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

### Student Assessment - Secondary

Test/Classification	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
PSSA Reading and Mathematics	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
PSSA Writing	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Mid-Year and End-Year Cumulative Assessments	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No

### Student Assessment

The PSSA is used in grades 3 through 8 as mandated. For local testing, the ACUITY assessments were not offered by the Philadelphia School District, therefore progress in the primary grades was gauged via a Grade 1 Readiness Assessment for kindergarten students and through analysis of end-year cumulative tests in Grades 1 and 2 for Reading, Language, and Math. State and local test results are analyzed by the administrators to determine school-wide strengths and weaknesses. These results are very instrumental in the collaborative development of annual measurable goals and targets for the coming school year. This information is shared with the faculty and all work together to set annual goals and to create a school-wide action improvement plan which includes strategies that will be used to strengthen the weaknesses and

reinforce the strengths. Test results are carefully analyzed by the teachers before the school year begins. The teachers are given individual student summary reports for the students that they will be teaching. Each skill is analyzed for partial mastery or non-mastery by each student. Teachers use a test analysis chart to record targeted weaknesses for each individual student. This serves as a resource for facilitating the use of differentiated instruction throughout the school year. Teachers also receive class summaries of the classes they taught the prior year. This enables them to identify general areas of weakness for which they may need to seek additional professional development in order to improve their own teaching skills and effectiveness.

Christopher Columbus Charter School students have shown steady progress in state and local testing scores. AYP was met in 2010. In 2010, PSSA AYP Data Files showed that 69.4% of ALL students performed at the Proficient/Advanced Levels in Reading and 64.3% in Mathematics. AYP was not met for 2011. The IEP sub-group did not meet AYP for Mathematics. In 2011, the IEP sub-group did meet AYP for Reading and all other sub-groups did meet AYP for both Reading and Mathematics. AYP was met for 2012.

The preliminary analysis of 2012 Student PSSA Data performance shows the following approximations for percentages of students performing at the Proficient/Advanced Levels: Grade 3: Reading- 65% Math 69% ; Grade 4: Reading-62% Math-69% ; Grade 5: Reading- 52% Math-33%; Grade 6: Reading-64% Math-56%; Grade 7: Reading-82% Math 82% ; Grade 8: Reading-90% Math 72%. The CCCS annual goal of Proficient/Advanced levels of at least 60% at each grade level, was met for both reading and math at all tested grade levels, except for Grade 5, and for math in Grade 6. On the 2012 PSSA Writing Assessment, preliminary analysis shows that approximately 68% of all Grade 5 students and 96% of all Grade 8 students performed at the Proficient/Advanced Levels. For ALL students 69.9% performed at the Proficient/Advanced Levels for Reading and 63% for Math. These percentages do not meet the CCCS annual goal of improvement in both reading and math Proficient/Advanced levels by 5% in ALL grades.

ACUITY Predictive 3 assessments were not mandated by the School District of Philadelphia for grades 1 and 2 in 2012, nor were they offered. In order to gauge student progress in the primary grades, CCCS used locally constructed assessments. Analysis follows later in this section. In 2011, administration of the ACUITY tests was optional. Christopher Columbus Charter School chose to administer the assessments. For ELA (Reading/Language), 93% of Grade 1 students performed at the highest level, Tier 1, with the average % points obtained at 89%. For grade 2, 54% performed at Tier 4 and 39% at Tier 3, with the average % of points obtained at 74%. In Math, 79% of Grade 1 students performed at Tier 4, with the average % points obtained at 84%. In Grade 2, 68% performed at Tier 4, with the average % of points obtained at 79%. School Assessment Reports for ACUITY Predictive 3 Assessments for Grades 1 and 2 are attached.

One of the major goals of the Christopher Columbus Charter School action plan was to see overall improvement in Science performance, but especially in Grade 8. On the 2012 PSSA Science assessment, approximately 76% of all Grade 4 students performed at the Proficient/Advanced levels. In Grade 8, approximately 54% of all students performed at this level. This shows a 3% increase from 2011 scores. While grade 4 performance was good, there is still a need for significant improvement in grade 8.

Christopher Columbus Charter School also uses locally developed mid-year and end-year cumulative tests in Grades 1-8. These tests are used to assess the effectiveness of the curriculum and to determine if proper pacing is taking place with regard to the scope and sequence of the curriculum. Results impact which revisions will be made to the curriculum, and help to develop the school-wide action improvement plan. The tests are also used as a tool for gauging student achievement, and to aid the teachers in determining weak skills for differentiated instruction purposes. Locally developed end-year tests for Reading/Language Readiness and

Mathematics are used for kindergarten. In June, 2012, Reading/Language Readiness scores were analyzed in order to see student progress and results of early intervention efforts. Results showed that 88% of all students were Proficient/Advanced in Alphabet Recognition and Proper Letter Formation, 91% were Proficient/Advanced in Word Recognition (which included 125 sight words, color words, number words and any specialized vocabulary taught), 96% were Proficient/Advanced in Phonics, 100% were Proficient/Advanced in Visual Discrimination, 86% were Proficient/Advanced in Written Communication Skills (Writing complete sentences), and 98% were Proficient/Advanced in Syntax.

Grade 1 2012 End-Year Cumulative Tests showed that in Reading, 27% performed within the Outstanding Range (96-100), 58% performed within the Good to Very Good Range (86-95), 11% performed within the Satisfactory Range (78-85), 4% performed within the Needs Improvement (At-Risk) Range (70-77), and no students performed within the Unsatisfactory Range (Below 70%). Grade 2 2012 For Math, 22% of Grade 1 students performed within the Outstanding Range, 48% performed within the Good -Very Good Range, 15% performed within the Satisfactory Range, 11% performed within the Needs Improvement (At-Risk) Range, and only 4% performed within the Unsatisfactory Range.

Grade 2 2012 End-Year Cumulative Tests showed that in Reading, 40% performed within the Outstanding range, 53% performed within the Good to Very Good Range, 6% performed within the Satisfactory Range, 1% performed within the Needs Improvement (At-Risk) Range, and no students performed within the Unsatisfactory Range. For Math, 37% of Grade 2 students performed within the Outstanding Range, 47% performed at the Good to Very Good range, 6% performed at the Satisfactory Range, 7% performed at the Needs Improvement (At-Risk) Range, and 3% performed at the Unsatisfactory Range.

At Christopher Columbus Charter School, student progress is assessed in various ways. Traditional testing is used in conjunction with authentic assessment. Authentic assessments include portfolio assessment, running records, teacher observations, anecdotal records, independent projects, group projects, and choices of methods for demonstrating knowledge so that different learning abilities and styles are accommodated.

Students who are at risk of failure, or who are not making reasonable progress are provided with many opportunities to help them be successful. CCCS has one full-time reading specialist, and two part-time reading specialists. The reading specialists evaluate teacher-referred students to determine what type of remediation is necessary. The reading specialists provide support and keep careful records of student progress. There is frequent and direct communication between the reading specialists and the classroom teachers regarding the individual student's needs and progress. The reading specialists work with these students both individually and within a small group setting. Students experiencing difficulty in Mathematics or the content areas are carefully observed and informally evaluated by the special education teachers. After observation and evaluation, the special education teachers develop strategies and interventions for use by the classroom teacher to help address the problem. In addition, students at all grade levels are given individualized attention by instructional paraprofessionals on a daily basis. All instructional aides at Christopher Columbus Charter School have an Associate's Degree or have passed an assessment. Classroom performance and standardized test performance of these students have improved as a result of the extra support afforded to them. Almost all at-risk students receiving support from the reading specialists have reached a higher reading level. Students given additional support by instructional aides have shown significant gains in Reading, Language, and Mathematics. In addition, ELL students receive ESL instruction on both an individual and small group basis. The ESL curriculum is directly linked to the regular curriculum at each grade level. All are making good progress.

## **Student Assessment - Attachments**

- Student Assessment
- Student Assessment
- Student Assessment

## **Teacher Evaluation**

Teachers at Christopher Columbus Charter School receive an annual summative performance evaluation at the end of the school year. The criteria for evaluation is clearly explained at the beginning of the year. At this time, teachers meet with administrators to set goals for the school year. Teachers set personal professional goals and academic goals with strategies for achieving those goals for their students.

The Christopher Columbus Charter School Teacher Evaluation contains six sections for evaluation. These areas are School Community Relationships, Teaching Techniques, Effective Planning, Pupil/Teacher Relationships, Classroom Environment, and Personal Attributes. Teachers met with administration in May to discuss the evaluation and to determine the status of their goals.

In addition to the annual summative evaluation, periodic formative observations are conducted by the administration. The purpose of these observations is to offer suggestions for effective teaching techniques and improvement where needed. The formative evaluation objectives are aligned to the formal summative evaluation. This provides teachers with a clear picture of their individual strengths and weaknesses with regard to the criteria by which they are evaluated.

The administration is responsible for teacher and staff evaluation. Formative observations and summative evaluations are completed by the Campus Principal/CEO, Ms. Rosemary Dougherty, the Site Principals, Ms. Florence Doyle and Mrs. Maryellen Porsia, and the Vice-Principal, Mrs. Maria Grassia. All four administrators are Pennsylvania state certified administrators, and all have master's degrees in educational leadership. Ms. Dougherty's master's degree is from Widener University. Ms. Doyle's master's degree is from Immaculata University. Mrs. Porsia's master's degree is from Holy Family University. Mrs. Grassia's master's degree is from Saint Joseph's University. All four have satisfied Act 45 (PILS) and Act 48 requirements for the July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2010 window.

Administrators have had extensive course work in supervision and evaluation, and in the area of promoting effective techniques for differentiating instruction for students of varying abilities and learning styles, and data-driven instruction. All four administrators continuously explore professional journals, texts, and visual aids to learn more effective techniques for providing formative support to teachers.

Evaluators attend workshops related to special education. Administrators meet weekly with special education units (special education teachers, counselors, school nurse) at each site to discuss specific issues and to collaborate on addressing any concerns and solving any problems. Periodic meetings are also held with contracted personnel (speech therapists, occupational therapists, and school psychologists). In addition, evaluators are in direct contact with our liaison from PATTAN, Walter Howard, and our special education attorney.

## **Teacher Evaluation - Attachment**

- Teacher Evaluation

## **SECTION V. GOVERNANCE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Leadership Changes**

For the 2011-2012 school year, the following changes were made to the structure of the school administration:

Ms. Rosemary Dougherty served as Campus Principal/CEO

Ms. Florence Doyle served as Site Principal-South Building

Mrs. Maryellen Porsia served as Site Principal-North Building

Mrs. Maria Grassia served as Vice-Principal

### **Board of Trustees**

<u>Name of Trustee</u>	<u>Office (if any)</u>
Mr. Raymond Pescatore	Board Chair
Dr. Jules Mingroni	Acting Treasurer
Ms. Diane Pirolo	Secretary
Ms. Mary Faustino	None
Ms. Adrienne H. Thomas	None
Mr. Edward Poznek	None
Mr. Mark Myers	None
Mr. Bob O'Donnell	None
Mr. Herbert Schectman	None
Ms. Rosemary Dougherty	Principal/CEO
Ms. Kelli Woods	None

### **Professional Development (Governance)**

Board of Trustees' training is provided by Drexel University/Foundations Inc.. Training is provided in many areas including, FERPA, Title I, Sunshine Law, Public Officials Act, Act 22, Special Education Law, and NCLB, as is recorded in the minutes of the Board Meetings. Christopher Columbus Charter School Board members attend an annual meeting held outside of the normal board meeting schedule. At this time, board members review school programs and reassess the school's missions and goals.

### **Coordination of the Governance and Management of the School**

Christopher Columbus Charter School is organized under the Instructional Leader who chairs two councils- the Staff Advisory Council and the Parent Advisory Council. These two councils have the responsibility for the respective concerns of their constituents, and for reconciling concerns while striving to achieve the mission of the school. The Staff Advisory Council meets with the Principal/CEO monthly to discuss staff concerns. The Parent Advisory Council meets with the administration every six weeks to discuss any parental concerns and the needs of the

students. Any questions or concerns are taken to the Board of Trustees at their monthly meeting. All issues are always addressed and resolved in a timely manner.

The Board of Trustees of Christopher Columbus Charter School adheres to all of the regulations and requirements of the School District of Philadelphia. The Board cooperates fully with all of its relations and requests.

## **Coordination of the Governance and Management of the School - Attachments**

- Coordination of the Governance and Management of the School
- Coordination of the Governance and Management of the School

## **Community and Parent Engagement**

The Parent Advisory Council of Christopher Columbus Charter School meets with the administration every six weeks to discuss any parental concerns and any needs of the students. Any questions or concerns are taken to the Board of Trustees at their monthly meetings. All issues are addressed and resolved in a timely manner. Board members are invited to participate in all parent meetings and functions. The Board of Trustees participates in parental and community engagement activities whenever possible. Involvement of all stakeholders in school activities is always encouraged.

Parental involvement is strongly encouraged at CCCS. Every effort is made to include parents and other community members in all school activities. All are invited to school functions. Parents serve as volunteers at all school functions. Most parents volunteer in classrooms or do work at home for teachers. Communications between parents and teachers and parents and administration is on-going. Parents feel comfortable coming into the school and are an integral part of the school community. There are parent representatives on the Christopher Columbus Charter School Strategic Planning Committee.

Community members are also encouraged to become involved in the school community. Many local businesspeople and community workers are involved in student activities and attend school functions on a regular basis. School functions are always heavily attended by neighborhood people, and at times, by tourists visiting the popular South Philadelphia "Italian Market" area. There are community representatives on the Christopher Columbus Charter School Strategic Planning Committee.

Board members' lists are posted in public areas at both sites. In addition, Board Member lists and meeting schedules are posted on the CCCS web site.

## **SECTION VI. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Major fund-raising activities**

There have been no fund-raising activities.

### **Fiscal Solvency Policies**

Christopher Columbus Charter School is able to assure that all expenditures and revenue categories remain within budget through careful monitoring of expenditures and revenues. Fiscal solvency is maintained via the following:

- adherence to an adopted budget
- an approved purchase order system
- separation of financial duties
- review and monitoring of all payroll transactions
- time reporting payments and relevant tax reporting
- selection of approved vendors and consultants
- best practices of cash management and reporting

## **Accounting System**

The accounting system is The Financial Edge loaded with the State Chart of Accounts. All Pennsylvania State Report Guidelines and (GAAP) are followed. All reports are generated in compliance with the state requirements. Transactions are posted by the Business Agent's Office, which is staffed by experienced school business administrators. A trial balance, statement of revenue and expenditures, and a statement of disbursements are prepared as required.

## **Preliminary Statements of Revenues, Expenditures & Fund Balances**

## **Preliminary Statements of Revenues, Expenditures & Fund Balances - Attachment**

- Preliminary Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balances

## **Audit Firm, Date of Last Audit, Auditor's Opinion, and Any Findings Resulting From the Audit**

Christopher Columbus Charter School's auditing firm is Citrin, Cooperman and Company. The last audit is dated June 30, 2010, and has a clean, unqualified opinion with no findings. The final draft of the auditor's report is attached.

## **Audit Firm, Date of Last Audit, Auditor's Opinion, and Any Findings Resulting From the Audit - Attachment**

- Audit Firm, Date of Last Audit, Auditor's Opinion, and Findings Resulting From Audit

## **Citations and follow-up actions for any State Audit Report**

There were no citations or follow-up actions.

## **SECTION VII. FACILITY RESPONSIBILITIES**

## **Acquisition of Facilities, Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment During the Last Fiscal Year**

Christopher Columbus Charter School leases two facilities- 916 Christian Street and 1242-46 South 13th Street in Philadelphia. All furniture and equipment was purchased after obtaining quotes from various vendors. No furniture, fixtures, equipment, or facilities were acquired.

## **Future Facility Plans and Other Capital Needs**

The current facilities of Christopher Columbus Charter School provide adequate space for the future enrollment throughout the life of the charter. The leases currently in place are within the limits of the school's future projected budgets.

It is the strategic posture of Christopher Columbus Charter School to acquire a facility that will accommodate our entire student population, thus combining both sites at one facility.

## **SECTION VIII. HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Compliance With Health and Safety Requirements and Maintenance of Health and Immunizations Records for Students**

Christopher Columbus Charter School holds a safety and fire drill monthly. CCCS has complied with state and local regulations to design and maintain various plans in the case of emergency. Currently, CCCS has a **shelter- in- place plan, fire drill plan, bomb threat and chemical/biological threat checklist, and an intruder emergency plan**. All are located in the school office. Fire drill and shelter-in-place drills are located in all classrooms and all other areas throughout the school.

Health and immunization records for all students are carefully and confidentially filed in the nurse's office. The school nurse updates records as needed and complies with mandated regulations with regard to health record contents. The nurse also submits the required Request for Reimbursement and Report of School Health Services.

### **Compliance With Health and Safety Requirements and Maintenance of Health and Immunizations Records for Students - Attachments**

- Compliance with Health and Safety Requirements and Maintenance of Health and Immunization Records for Students
- Compliance With Health and Safety Requirements and Maintenance of Health and Immunization Records for Students

### **Current School Insurance Coverage Policies and Programs**

Christopher Columbus Charter School's insurance coverage policies and programs include the following:

Personal Choice  
Keystone Health Plan  
Worker's Compensation

General Liability  
Corporate Officers Error and Omissions Contents Insurance  
Wage Continuation  
Life Insurance

Student Accident Insurance Policy

Hartford Insurance  
Boardman-Hamilton Brokers

## **Current School Insurance Coverage Policies and Programs - Attachment**

- Current School Insurance Coverage Policies and Programs

## **SECTION IX. ADMINISTRATIVE NEEDS**

### **Quality of Teaching and Other Staff**

Christopher Columbus Charter School presently has fifty-nine professional staff members, including administration. There are four administrators, as the CEO also serves as principal, thirty-six classroom teachers, four special education teachers, one full-time reading specialist, two part-time reading specialists, two Art, Music, Physical Education, and Italian teachers, and one Computer teacher. In addition, there are two counselors and one certified school nurse. The professional staff at Christopher Columbus Charter School has remained very stable since its inception. More than 95% of the professional staff members at CCCS returned this year from the 2010-2011 school year. For the 2012-2013 school year, 98% of all professional staff are returning. Since the school's inception, staff retention rates have been in excess of 90%. For the 2011-2012 school year, 100% of the instructional staff at Christopher Columbus Charter School were highly qualified.

There is a very high level of satisfaction reported by the professional and paraprofessional staff members at CCCS. Most employees consistently express feelings of comfort and satisfaction at CCCS. Staff members appreciate that their opinions and ideas are respected. Teachers also appreciate the well-defined, clear curriculum guidelines, numerous teaching materials, and supplementary resources that are provided. These enable them to develop their skills and to accommodate all students via differentiated instruction. For these reasons, the teacher retention rate at Christopher Columbus Charter School remains very high.

### **Quality of Teaching and Other Staff - Attachments**

- Quality of Teaching and Other Staff
- Quality of Teaching and Other Staff
- Quality of Teaching and Other Staff

### **Student Enrollment**

All of the policies and procedures for student enrollment comply with the state law. All children who meet Pennsylvania residency requirements may apply. CCCS admits students in 4 sections

of each grade level from Kindergarten through Grade 8. A child who has reached his or her fifth birthday on or before September 1 is eligible for kindergarten. A child who has reached his or her sixth birthday on or before September 1 is eligible for first grade. Registration takes place in early spring. Registration announcements are placed in city and local neighborhood newspapers. Students are placed on a waiting list after an intent to enroll application has been fully completed. If applications exceed space availability, it is the policy of Christopher Columbus Charter School to invite new students from the waiting list using the following selection process:

- Children of parents on the Founding Board or current Board of Directors
- Children of staff members
- Siblings of students currently enrolled as CCCS students will be admitted before any new family applicants.
- Students awaiting enrollment from the designated geographical boundaries as indicated in the original charter
- Students awaiting enrollment outside of the designated boundaries
- If the number of applications exceeds the space available in a given grade level, selection is determined by a lottery.
- The lottery for the 2013-2014 school year will take place sometime between February 1, 2013 and February 15, 2013 as application submission closes on January 31, 2013. Lottery date and time will be communicated via the school web-site.

Enrollment History for the 2011-2012 school year by grade level:

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u># Initially Enrolled</u>	<u># Transferred out</u>	<u># Added</u>
K	89	5	8
1	91	0	1
2	82	1	2
3	91	0	0
4	83	1	1
5	85	2	2
6	85	1	0
7	84	1	1
8	78	3	3

Number of Students who transferred out and schools to which they transferred:

\* SDP indicates transferred to School District of Philadelphia school.

Kindergarten

Student A	Meredith
Student B	Unknown- Out of state
Student C	Jackson Elementary, SDP
Student D	Bethlehem School District
Student E	Unknown

Grade 1

Grade 2

Student A	Stephen Girard, SDP
-----------	---------------------

Grade 3

Grade 4

Student A	Stephen Girard, SDP
-----------	---------------------

Grade 5

Student A	Lindenwold, NJ SD
Student B	Stephen Girard, SDP

Grade 6

Student A	Marion Illinois, SD
-----------	---------------------

Grade 7

Student A Jackson, SDP

Grade 8

Student A Taggart, SDP

Student B Smith, SDP

Student C Marion Illinois, SD

The number of students who completed the 2011-2012 school year and are currently enrolled to return for the 2012-2013 school year is 680. This number excludes the Grade 8 graduates who completed the 2011-2012 school year, but are enrolled in high-school for next year.

During the 2011-2012 school year, CCCS had 14 students transfer. All left voluntarily. There were no expulsions.

The student retention rate at Christopher Columbus Charter School is very stable. There is not a great deal of turnover. Most students who transfer out do so due to re-location or change in family circumstances. The student retention level is high due to student and parental satisfaction with curriculum, instruction, discipline, administrative and teacher support, and school safety. For these reasons students return to CCCS. There is a waiting list to enter the school which is in excess of 900 students.

## **Student Enrollment - Attachment**

- Student Enrollment

## **Transportation**

Christopher Columbus Charter School does not have a transportation program. Travel reimbursements and transpasses are provided through the School District of Philadelphia. Transportation was provided for one special education student during the 2011-2012 school year. The child was transported to and from school by private taxi.

## **Food Service Program**

Food Services were provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for the 2011-2012 school year. Christopher Columbus Charter School does participate in the (FRL) program.

## **Student Conduct**

It is the expectation of the Board of Directors, the administration, and staff of Christopher Columbus Charter School that each student develops the appropriate behaviors to ensure growth

in every area of good citizenship and to assist our students to understand and use behaviors which are appropriate in different social contexts. Our belief is that all discipline is a sense of respect-respect for self, respect for others, respect for authority, and respect for the environment. Primarily, the teacher manages the discipline in his/her classroom. Teachers make every effort to help to modify student behavior to correlate to the acceptable norm. If strategies such as behavior modification are unsuccessful, help will be sought from the guidance counselor and/or the administration. Parental support and cooperation is encouraged.

With regard to due process, Christopher Columbus Charter School acts in accordance with 22 PA Code, Chapter 12. CCCCS has set forth procedures as a means for all students who violate school rules to be afforded every opportunity to be heard and understood, and to ensure that their rights to due process have been fairly and correctly applied.

During the 2011-2011 school year, 14 students were involved in 19 suspension incidents. No students were expelled. A copy of the CCCS Discipline Policy has been attached.

## **Student Conduct - Attachments**

- Student Conduct
- Student Conduct

## **Signature Page**

## Assurance for the Operation of Charter School Services and Programs

School Year: 2012

The Christopher Columbus CS within Philadelphia IU 26 assures that the charter school will comply with the requirements of 22 Pa. Code Chapter 711 and with the policies and procedures of Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). PDE will specify, in writing, policies and procedures to be followed. Requests for any deviations from these regulations, policies, and procedures must be made in writing to PDE. The charter school assures:

1. There are a full range of services, programs and alternative placements available for placement and implementation of the special education programs in the charter school.
2. The charter school has adopted a "child find" system to locate, identify and evaluate children who are thought to be a child with a disability eligible for special education residing within the charter school's jurisdiction. "Child find" data is collected, maintained, and used in decision-making. Child find process and procedures are evaluated for effectiveness. The charter school implements mechanisms to disseminate child find information to the public, organizations, agencies, and individuals on at least an annual basis.
3. The charter school has adopted policies and procedures that assure that students with disabilities are included in general education programs and extracurricular and non-academic programs and activities to the maximum extent appropriate in accordance with an Individualized Education Program.
4. The charter school will comply with the PA Department of Education annual report requirements including special education information.
5. The charter school follows the state and federal guidelines for participation of students with disabilities in state and charter school-wide assessments including the determination of participation, the need for accommodations, and the methods of assessing students for whom regular assessment is not appropriate.
6. The charter school assures the Pennsylvania Department of Education that funds received through participation in the medical assistance reimbursement program, ACCESS, will be used to enhance or expand the current level of services and programs provided to students with disabilities in this local education agency.

**This assurance must be signed by the Board President and the Chief Executive Officer for the charter school to operate services and programs.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer  
2011 - 2012 Annual Report for Pennsylvania Charter Schools

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Verify that all DATA reports to PDE are complete

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

## Assurance for Compliance with the Public Official & Employee Ethics Act

The original Public Official and Employee Ethics Act (the "Ethics Act") was amended and reenacted in 1989 by Act 9 of 1989 and in 1998 by Act 93 of 1998. (See Act 9 of 1989, 65 P.S. §401, et seq. and Act 93 of 1998, Chapter 11, 65 Pa.c.s. §1101 et seq.) The Act provides that public office is a public trust and that any effort to realize personal financial gain through public office is a violation of that trust. The Act was passed to strengthen the faith and confidence of the people of the Commonwealth in their government. The Act established the State Ethics Commission to administer and enforce the provisions of the Act and to provide guidance regarding the standards established by the Act.

The Christopher Columbus CS assures that it will comply with the requirements of the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act (the "Ethics Act") and with the policies, regulations and procedures of the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission. Additional information about the "Ethics Act" is available on the Ethics Commission's website at: <http://www.ethics.state.pa.us/ethics/site/>

**The assurance must be signed by the Chief Executive Officer and Board of Trustees President of the charter school.**

*Identify the charter school's Chief Executive Officer.*

**Name:** Rosemary Dougherty **Title:** Principal/CEO  
**Phone:** (215) 389-6000 **Fax:** (215) 389-3732  
**E-mail:** roseydoc2229@aol.com

---

*Signature of the Chief Executive Officer and Date*

*Identify the charter school's President of the Board of Trustees.*

**Name:** Raymond Pescatore **Title:** Board Chair  
**Phone:** (215) 735-7434 **Fax:** (215) 790-0238  
**E-mail:** RPescatore@CATCH.com

---

*Signature of the President of the Board of Trustees and Date*

*Identify the charter school's Special Education Contact Person.*

**Name:** Maryellen Porsia **Title:** Special Education Director  
**Phone:** (215) 925-7400 **Fax:** (215) 925-7491  
**E-mail:** princesscccs@aol.com

---

*Signature of the Special Education Contact Person and Date*

### Signature Page - Attachments

- Signature Page
- Signature Page