

## **Update to The Renaissance Charter School's (TRCS') ARP Spending Plan (July 2022)**

TRCS has updated its ARP Spending Plan, in compliance with NYS law, with this addendum to the original ARP Spending Plan posted on its website in December 2021. This update is based on the NYSED-approved activities and expenditures in TRCS' ARP application, the school's analysis of the implementation and effectiveness of ARP-funded supports and feedback from members of the school community regarding various ARP-funded supports.

### **Analysis of Public Comment**

As described in the original ARP Spending Plan, TRCS' strategy for using ARP funds was developed with the input and involvement of key members of our school community, including school leadership, faculty and parents. As TRCS established its ARP Spending Plan, it relied heavily on the stated preferences and recommendations of parents and teachers in online surveys and allocated funding to support activities and resources identified as "high-priority" by the school community. For instance, TRCS' allocation of ARP funds to support small-group tutoring and related academic enrichment programs was recommended by 91% of respondent parents, and our allocation of ARP funds to support after-school programs was recommended by 62% of respondent teachers. TRCS' allocation of funds to strengthen its social-emotional supports for students, including expanding counseling staff, was recommended by nearly 100% of respondent parents and students.

TRCS has engaged the school community in post-award planning and implementation of all ARP-funded activities, including the summer school program, the after-school program and tutoring. For instance, ARP funded programs and supports were discussed during monthly virtual town hall meetings that were attended by parents and other school stakeholders. Use of ARP funds was an agenda item at the town hall meetings, and attendees were informed about implementation of ARP-funded activities and supports—e.g., ARP-funded after school and summer school programs and the use of ARP funds to support hiring of a social worker and academic intervention specialists. Parent comments during and following these town hall meetings were positive, and parents particularly expressed interest in having their children participate in summer and after-school programs.

There is evidence of community support and satisfaction with ARP-funded activities. For instance, the ARP-funded summer program had full enrollment, and there were high levels of student engagement. This indicates that parents, who voluntarily enrolled their children, supported the program. Parents also expressed strong interest in continuing the summer school program in future years. In response to this demand, TRCS will implement a summer school program in 2022 using private foundation funds.

## Goals and Ratios for Pupil Support

Our key ARP spending goals are:

- 1) Implementing Health and Safety Protocols. ARP funds were used to cover costs of COVID testing (Access Nursing) in May-June 2021 and in Summer 2021.
- 2) Accelerating Student Learning. ARP funds were used to cover costs of: a) Summer school programming in Summer 2021; b) After-school programming (82<sup>nd</sup> Street Academics) in 2021-22; c) Tutoring (82<sup>nd</sup> Street Academics) in May-June 2021; and d) Improved access to and use of assessment data (Achievement Network—ANet)
- 3) Expanding Instructional Support. ARP funds were used to cover costs of additional instructional staff and to provide stipends to instructional leaders. Specifically, ARP funds were used to cover costs of: a) Salary for a Response-to-Intervention (RTI) Teacher for one year (2021-22); b) Salary for an English as a New Language (ENL) Teacher for one year (2021-21); c) Supporting salaries for two instructional paraprofessionals for one year (2021-22); d) Stipends for Cluster Coordinators for Teaching and Learning for one year(2021022); e) Stipends for RTI Coordinators for one year (2021-22); f) Stipends for Advisory Coaches for one year (2021-22); and g) Stipends for Co Facilitators of the Collaborative School Governance Committee (CSG) for one year (2021-22).
- 4) Expanding Social-Emotional Support. ARP funds were used to cover the salary of a Social Worker for 18 months (January 2021 through the 2021-22 school year).

Pupil: Teacher Ratios

Goal 1—NA

Goal 2—1 teacher per 9.5 students

Goal 3—NA

Goal 4—NA

## Summaries of Investments in Current Year Activities

The ARP fund investments are summarized in the discussion of Program Goals.

Balance of Funds Spent in Priority Areas

All TRCS ARP funded activities and supports were implemented during or prior to the 2021-22 academic year, and all TRCS ARP funds have been allocated or spent.