

Renewal Inspection Report

**LYNN COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL
LYNN, MA**

SchoolWorks

November 4-7, 2001

About the renewal process and site visit report

Beginning in the spring of the third year of its charter (and ending August 1st following its fourth year), a school may apply for renewal of its charter for another five-year term. Following guidelines set forth in the *Application for Renewal of a Public School Charter*, an application for renewal should be an articulate, affirmative response, based on clear, credible evidence, to the questions that guide charter school accountability. It must also offer compelling answers to questions about the school's plans for the future. The application should be a sound, well-supported explanation of why the Board of Education should renew a school's charter.

Once this application has met a minimal review of its clarity and coherence, the Department of Education will appoint an evaluation team to conduct a 3-4 day visit of the school to corroborate and augment the school's application for renewal. This report is the result of one such evaluation.

The renewal site visit process and report provide a detailed and current portrait of a public charter school at the time of its application for renewal. While the renewal site visit report itself is a vital source of information within the renewal process, it is most effective when used in conjunction with the longitudinal school performance data available to the Department of Education. The combination of more general long-term data with the detailed information gathered by the renewal visit constitutes an evidence base rigorous enough to inform decisions about the future of public charter schools responsible for the education of students in the Commonwealth. In keeping with the Massachusetts Board of Education's commitment to a public charter school accountability system that is based in robust and diverse performance data, the renewal site visit report does not make recommendations about whether or not a school should be renewed. It presents a detailed picture of the present state of the school as one of several key sources of information to be considered by the Board of Education in its renewal decision.

How to read this report

The first section of this report presents the Renewal Site Visit Team's findings. Findings are the school's strengths and areas for improvement that, in the visiting team's judgment, have the greatest bearing on the school's answer to the four renewal questions: *Is the school an academic success? Is the school a viable organization? Is the school faithful to the terms of its charter? If the school's charter is renewed, what are its plans for the next five years?* Each finding is a bolded statement followed by an explanatory paragraph. At the bottom of each finding are references to paragraphs in the full narrative report where the reader can find more information on the topic in question.

The second section is a full narrative report that describes the school in a more comprehensive way than the findings section. All of the information in the first section is presented again in the full narrative report along with additional details.

