

**School Information and Cover Page**

**School Name:** Southside Academy Charter School \_\_\_\_\_

**School Leader:** Christine Mevec \_\_\_\_\_

**School email address:** 44.cmevec@heritageacademies.com \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary address:** 2200 Onondaga Creek Blvd, Syracuse NY, 13207 \_\_\_\_\_

**School website:** www.southsideacademy.heritageacademies.com \_\_\_\_\_

**School email:** N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** (315) 476-3019 \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** (315) 476-6639 \_\_\_\_\_

**BEDS #** 421800860845 \_\_\_\_\_

**District/CSD of Location:** Syracuse City School District \_\_\_\_\_

**Charter authorizer:** State Education Department \_\_\_\_\_

**Chair, Board of Trustees:** Kevin Walsh \_\_\_\_\_

**Date school first opened for instruction:** September 2002 \_\_\_\_\_

**2010-11 Enrollment:** 649 \_\_\_\_\_

**2010-11 Grades Served:** K-8 \_\_\_\_\_

Our signatures below attest that all of the information contained herein is truthful and accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name, Head of Charter School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Date

*Kevin E. Walsh*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name, President, Board of Trustees

*Kevin E. Walsh 8/1/11*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Date

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BEDS # 421800860845

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Our signatures below attest that all of the information contained herein is truthful and accurate.

Christine Mevec
Print Name, Head of Charter School

Christine Mevec 8/1/11
Signature and Date

Print Name, President, Board of Trustees

Signature and Date

**Southside Academy Charter School  
Annual Report 2010-11**

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**Southside Academy Charter School  
Annual Report 2010-11**

**New York State School Report Card**

The 2009-10 New York State School Report Card for Southside Academy Charter School is available online at:

<https://www.nystart.gov/publicweb/School.do?county=ONONDAGA&district=&school=421800860845&year=2010>

This report provides school-level enrollment and demographic information, staff qualifications, electronic student records, and attendance rates, as prescribed by New York State statute.

**Southside Academy Charter School  
Annual Report 2010-11**

**Progress toward Charter Goals**

Per guidance from the New York State Education Department, this data for the 2010-11 school year will be submitted approximately three weeks after the test data is released.

**Southside Academy Charter School  
Annual Report 2010-11**

**Instructional Timetable**

<b>2010-11 Instructional Time</b>	
Total number of instructional days for the 2010-11 school year	180
First and last day of the 2010-11 school year	First: September 9, 2010 Last: June 23, 2011
Length of school day (please note if schedule varies throughout the week or the year)	8:15am to 3:30pm 8:15 to 11:30am on half days

**Southside Academy Charter School  
Annual Report 2010-11**

Balance Sheet

	Governmental Fund Types:			
	General Fund	General Fixed Assets Acct Group	School Services Fund	Total (Memorandum Only)
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current Assets				
Cash	75,312	-	-	75,312
Accounts Receivable	1,675,083	-	-	1,675,083
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,750,396</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,750,396</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>				
LIABILITIES				
Deferred Revenue	458	-	-	458
Due To NHA - Contracted Services	1,749,938	-	-	1,749,938
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,750,396</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,750,396</b>
FUND BALANCE				
Beginning Fund Balance(7/1)	-	-	-	-
Current Year Activity	-	-	-	-
Ending Fund Balance	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>1,750,396</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,750,396</b>

**Southside Academy Charter School  
Annual Report 2010-11**

Statement of Activities

	Program Services		Supporting	Total
	Basic Instruction	Special Educ.	Services Mgmt and General	
Contracted Service Fee:				
Salaries & wages	2,135,104	82,455		2,217,559
Retirement contributions	44,737	2,791		47,528
Other employee benefits	404,694	15,264		419,958
Payroll taxes	186,622	7,309		193,931
Accounting fees	12,096		211,306	223,402
Curriculum, textbooks, and supplies	312,279	2,678		314,957
Postage and shipping	5,041			5,041
Occupancy	1,694,843		21,520	1,716,364
Food service	411,591			411,591
Equipment and maintenance	36,032	660		36,692
Printing and publications	32,501			32,501
Travel	1,662			1,662
Conferences and meetings	115,130	4,133		119,264
Professional fees	77,079	87,583		164,662
Instructional Support			212,888	212,888
Academic and general support			844,558	844,558
Enrollment and parent relations			92,006	92,006
Board support			200,587	200,587
Human resources			527,333	527,333
Support services			196,641	196,641
Technology	21,026		478,677	499,703
Marketing and business development	1,215		97,038	98,254
Insurance	16,086			16,086
Miscellaneous	22,338			22,338
<b>Total Contracted Service Fee</b>	<b>5,530,076</b>	<b>202,873</b>	<b>2,882,554</b>	<b>8,615,503</b>

**Southside Academy Charter School  
Annual Report 2010-11**

A Resolution of the Board of Trustees  
2011-2012 Proposed Budget

**Fiscal Year 2011-2012.**

	<u>General</u>	<u>School Services</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>(Memorandum Only)</u>
<b>REVENUE</b>			
State Aid	7,813,132	-	7,813,132
Other State Sources	30,188	15,837	46,025
Local Sources	-	-	-
Federal Grants	533,200	400,884	934,084
Private Sources	-	16,281	16,281
Contribution from Management Company	-	-	-
<b>Total Revenues and Transfers</b>	<b>8,376,520</b>	<b>433,002</b>	<b>8,809,522</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES - CONTRACTED SERVICE FEE:</b>			
Instruction			
Basic Instruction	2,638,416	-	2,638,416
Added Needs	469,291	-	469,291
Special Education	131,518	-	131,518
Support Services			
Pupil Support	102,810	-	102,810
Instructional Staff Support	833,105	-	833,105
Board of Education	239,142	-	239,142
Executive Administration	398,196	-	398,196
Grant Procurement	78,404	-	78,404
School Admin - Office of the Principal	290,787	-	290,787
Other School Administration	379,494	-	379,494
Business & Internal Services	225,721	-	225,721
Central Services	969,359	-	969,359
Operations & Maintenance	1,598,835	-	1,598,835
Food Services	-	454,443	454,443
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>8,355,079</b>	<b>454,443</b>	<b>8,809,522</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>21,441</b>	<b>(21,441)</b>	<b>-</b>
Transfer between funds	(21,441)	21,441	-
<b>CURRENT FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**State Education Department  
Annual Report Requirement**

**Southside Academy Charter School**

Expenses Per Pupil

13,420

**State Education Department  
Annual Report Requirement**

**Southside Academy Charter School**

Administrative expenditures  
per pupil:

727

**Southside Academy Charter School  
Annual Report 2010-11**

**Charter Revisions**

Southside Academy Charter School did not have any material or non-material changes to its charter during the 2010-11 school year.

**Southside Academy Charter School  
Annual Report 2010-11**

**Board of Trustees Membership Table**

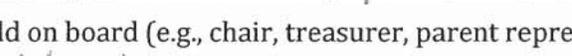
<b>Current Board Members</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position on the Board</b>	<b>Committee affiliation(s)</b>	<b>Area of expertise, and/or additional role at school (parent, staff member etc.)</b>	<b>Number of terms served and length of each, including date of election and expiration</b>
James Duah-Agyeman			Education	Appointed on March 17, 2009 for a three year term.
Carol Hill	Vice President		Vocational education, Governance	Reappointed on March 16, 2004 through May 31, 2007. Reappointed on January 9, 2007 through June 30, 2010. Reappointed on January 19, 2010 through June 30, 2013.
Tracy Miller	Secretary		Parent, community member	Appointed on June 17, 2008 through June 30, 2011. Reappointed on January 18, 2011 through June 20, 2014.
Leonese Nelson	Treasurer		Education	Appointed on June 13, 2006 through May 31, 2009. Reappointed on January 20, 2009 through June 30, 2012.
Kevin Walsh	President		Governance, Law enforcement	Reappointed on January 18, 2005 through May 31, 2008. Reappointed on

				January 15, 2008 through June 30, 2011. Reappointed on January 18, 2011 through June 20, 2014.
<b>Total Members joining the board the 2010-11 school year</b>				0
<b>Total Members departing the board during the 2010-11 school year</b>				0

**Appendix F: Disclosure of Financial Interest Form**

**Disclosure of Financial Interest by a New York Charter School Board of Trustees Member  
Annual Report 2010-11**

*\*Note: This Disclosure is a public record, but asterisked data fields will be redacted.*

- 1. Trustee Name (print) Carol Hill
- 2. Charter School Name SOUTHSIDE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
- 3. Charter Authorizer Entity NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
- 4. Home Address\* 
- 5. Business Address\* 
- 6. Daytime Phone\* 
- 7. E-Mail Address\* 
- 8. List all positions held on board (e.g., chair, treasurer, parent representative)  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
BOARD MEMBER

9. Is the trustee an employee of the school? \_\_\_ Yes  No

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position you hold and your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

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10. Is the trustee an employee or agent of the management company or institutional partner of the charter school? \_\_\_ Yes  No

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position you hold and your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

---

**11.** Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you or any of your immediate family members or any persons who live with you in your house have held or engaged in with the charter school during the time you have served on the board, and in the six-month period prior to such service. If there has been no such financial interest or transaction, write **None**. Please note that if you answered **Yes** to Question 2-4 above, you need not disclose again your employment status, salary, etc.

Date(s)	Nature of Financial Interest/Transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to yourself
<p><i>Please write "None" if applicable. Do not leave this space blank.</i></p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin-left: 100px;">NONE</p>			

**12.** Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, committee proprietorship, franchise holding company, joint stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member or person living in your house had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer or employee of an organization formally partnered with the school that is doing business with the school through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization as well as the relationship between such organization and the school. If there was no financial interest, write **None**.

Organization conducting business with the school	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school and the nature of the interest	Steps Taken to Avoid Conflict of Interest
<p><i>Please write "None" if applicable. Do not leave this space blank.</i></p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; margin-left: 100px;">NONE</p>				

Carol Hill

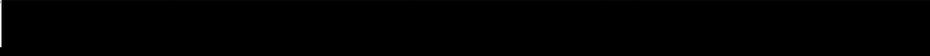
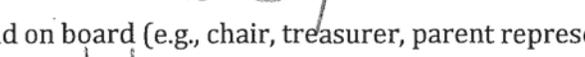
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Signature Date 7/21/11

**Appendix F: Disclosure of Financial Interest Form**

**Disclosure of Financial Interest by a New York Charter School Board of Trustees Member  
Annual Report 2010-11**

*\*Note: This Disclosure is a public record, but asterisked data fields will be redacted.*

- 1. Trustee Name (print) Tracy R. Miller
- 2. Charter School Name Southside Academy Charter School
- 3. Charter Authorizer Entity NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
- 4. Home Address\* 
- 5. Business Address\* 
- 6. Daytime Phone\* 
- 7. E-Mail Address\* 
- 8. List all positions held on board (e.g., chair, treasurer, parent representative)  
Parent representative  
Secretary
- 9. Is the trustee an employee of the school?  Yes  No

If Yes, please provide a description of the position you hold and your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

---

- 10. Is the trustee an employee or agent of the management company or institutional partner of the charter school?  Yes  No

If Yes, please provide a description of the position you hold and your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

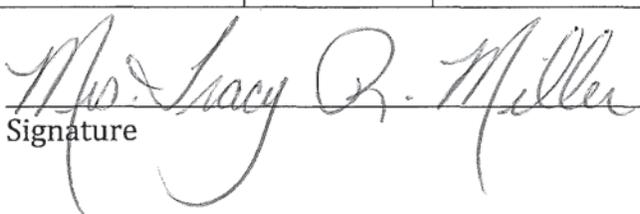
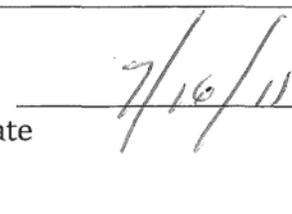
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11. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you or any of your immediate family members or any persons who live with you in your house have held or engaged in with the charter school during the time you have served on the board, and in the six-month period prior to such service. If there has been no such financial interest or transaction, write **None**. Please note that if you answered **Yes** to Question 2-4 above, you need not disclose again your employment status, salary, etc.

Date(s)	Nature of Financial Interest/Transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to yourself
<i>Please write "None" if applicable. Do not leave this space blank.</i>			
7/16/11	NONE	NONE	NONE

12. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, committee proprietorship, franchise holding company, joint stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member or person living in your house had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer or employee of an organization formally partnered with the school that is doing business with the school through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization as well as the relationship between such organization and the school. If there was no financial interest, write **None**.

Organization conducting business with the school	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school and the nature of the interest	Steps Taken to Avoid Conflict of Interest
<i>Please write "None" if applicable. Do not leave this space blank.</i>				
7/16/11	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE


Date


**Appendix F: Disclosure of Financial Interest Form**

**Disclosure of Financial Interest by a New York Charter School Board of Trustees Member  
Annual Report 2010-11**

*\*Note: This Disclosure is a public record, but asterisked data fields will be redacted.*

- 1. Trustee Name (print) Dr. Leonese Nelson
- 2. Charter School Name Southside Academy Charter School
- 3. Charter Authorizer Entity SED
- 4. Home Address\* [REDACTED]
- 5. Business Address\* [REDACTED]
- 6. Daytime Phone\* [REDACTED]
- 7. E-Mail Address\* [REDACTED]
- 8. List all positions held on board (e.g., chair, treasurer, parent representative)  
Treasurer

- 9. Is the trustee an employee of the school? \_\_\_ Yes X No

If Yes, please provide a description of the position you hold and your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

- 10. Is the trustee an employee or agent of the management company or institutional partner of the charter school? \_\_\_ Yes X No

If Yes, please provide a description of the position you hold and your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

11. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you or any of your immediate family members or any persons who live with you in your house have held or engaged in with the charter school during the time you have served on the board, and in the six-month period prior to such service. If there has been no such financial interest or transaction, write **None**. Please note that if you answered **Yes** to Question 2-4 above, you need not disclose again your employment status, salary, etc.

Date(s)	Nature of Financial Interest/Transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to yourself
NONE			

12. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, committee proprietorship, franchise holding company, joint stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member or person living in your house had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer or employee of an organization formally partnered with the school that is doing business with the school through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization as well as the relationship between such organization and the school. If there was no financial interest, write **None**.

Organization conducting business with the school	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school and the nature of the interest	Steps Taken to Avoid Conflict of Interest
NONE				

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

Dr. Leonese Nelson

7/14/11  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

**Appendix F: Disclosure of Financial Interest Form**

**Disclosure of Financial Interest by a New York Charter School Board of Trustees Member  
Annual Report 2010-11**

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1. **Trustee Name (print)** James Kenneth Duah-Agyeman \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Charter School Name** Southside Academy Charter School \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Charter Authorizer Entity** National Heritage Academy State Education Department \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Home Address\*** \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Business Address\*** \_\_\_\_\_

6. **Daytime Phone\*** \_\_\_\_\_

7. **E-Mail Address\*** \_\_\_\_\_

8. List all positions held on board (e.g., chair, treasurer, parent representative)

NONE \_\_\_\_\_

9. Is the trustee an employee of the school? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_X\_\_\_No

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position you hold and your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

10. Is the trustee an employee or agent of the management company or institutional partner of the charter school?  
\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_X\_\_\_No

If **Yes**, please provide a description of the position you hold and your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.

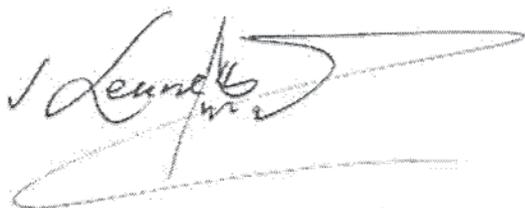
N/A \_\_\_\_\_

11. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you or any of your immediate family members or any persons who live with you in your house have held or engaged in with the charter school during the time you have served on the board, and in the six-month period prior to such service. If there has been no such financial interest or transaction, write **None**. Please note that if you answered **Yes** to Question 2-4 above, you need not disclose again your employment status, salary, etc.

Date(s)	Nature of Financial Interest/Transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to yourself
<p>NONE Please write "None" if applicable. Do not leave this space blank.</p>			

12. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, committee proprietorship, franchise holding company, joint stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member or person living in your house had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer or employee of an organization formally partnered with the school that is doing business with the school through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization as well as the relationship between such organization and the school. If there was no financial interest, write **None**.

Organization conducting business with the school	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school and the nature of the interest	Steps Taken to Avoid Conflict of Interest
<p>NONE</p>				



Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date July 14, 2011 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please write "None" if applicable. Do not leave this space blank.

**Appendix F: Disclosure of Financial Interest Form**

**Disclosure of Financial Interest by a New York Charter School Board of Trustees Member  
Annual Report 2010-11**

*\*Note: This Disclosure is a public record, but asterisked data fields will be redacted.*

- 1. **Trustee Name (print)**                    Kevin E. Walsh
- 2. **Charter School Name**                    Southside Academy Charter School
- 3. **Charter Authorizer Entity**            SED
- 4. **Home Address\***                            [REDACTED]
- 5. **Business Address\***                      [REDACTED]
- 6. **Daytime Phone\***                         [REDACTED]
- 7. **E-Mail Address\***                         [REDACTED]
- 8. **List all positions held on board (e.g., chair, treasurer, parent representative)**  
      President

9. **Is the trustee an employee of the school?**     **Yes**     **No**

**If Yes, please provide a description of the position you hold and your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.**

10. **Is the trustee an employee or agent of the management company or institutional partner of the charter school?**     **Yes**     **No**

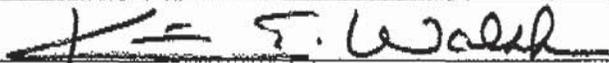
**If Yes, please provide a description of the position you hold and your responsibilities, your salary and your start date.**

11. Identify each interest/transaction (and provide the requested information) that you or any of your immediate family members or any persons who live with you in your house have held or engaged in with the charter school during the time you have served on the board, and in the six-month period prior to such service. If there has been no such financial interest or transaction, write **None**. Please note that if you answered **Yes** to Question 2-4 above, you need not disclose again your employment status, salary, etc.

Date(s)	Nature of Financial Interest/Transaction	Steps taken to avoid a conflict of interest, (e.g., did not vote, did not participate in discussion)	Name of person holding interest or engaging in transaction and relationship to yourself
None			

12. Identify each individual, business, corporation, union association, firm, partnership, committee proprietorship, franchise holding company, joint stock company, business or real estate trust, non-profit organization, or other organization or group of people doing business with the school **and** in which such entity, during the time of your tenure as a trustee, you and/or your immediate family member or person living in your house had a financial interest or other relationship. If you are a member, director, officer or employee of an organization formally partnered with the school that is doing business with the school through a management or services agreement, please identify only the name of the organization, your position in the organization as well as the relationship between such organization and the school. If there was no financial interest, write **None**.

Organization conducting business with the school	Nature of business conducted	Approximate value of the business conducted	Name of Trustee and/or immediate family member of household holding an interest in the organization conducting business with the school and the nature of the interest	Steps Taken to Avoid Conflict of Interest
None				

  
 Signature

7/14/2011  
 Date

**Southside Academy Charter School  
Progress toward Goals  
2010-11**

**Academic Goals Table**

<b>2010-11 Progress Toward Attainment of Academic Charter Goals</b>			
Academic goal or objective	Measure used to evaluate progress toward attainment of goal or objective	2010-11 progress toward attainment of goal or objective	If not met, describe efforts to be undertaken to meet goal or objective
Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their third year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State exams.	NYS Testing Program	Not met.	Please see below.
Each year, Southside Academy Charter School will be in the 65 <sup>th</sup> percentile or higher of public schools nationally as measured by the percentage of students that meet or exceed the beginning of year to end of year Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) growth on the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessments administered (all students using a pooled mean.).	NWEA-MAP	Not met.	Please see below.
Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their third year and performing at or above Level 3 on the state exams will be greater than that of students in the same tested grades in Syracuse City School District.	NYS Testing Program	Met.	Please see below.

### Goal #1

Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their third year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State exams.

### Performance:

Southside Academy Charter School did not meet this accountability measure. On the 2010-11 New York State Testing Program assessments, 29% of students performed at or above Level 3 in English language arts and 47% performed at or above Level 3 in math. These overall percentages represent a slight decline in both subjects since 2009-10. Please see the charts below for a grade-level breakdown of the data.

Subject	Grade	# < Level 3	# Level 3+	% Level 3+	Goal	Difference
ELA	03	34	12	26%	75%	-49%
ELA	04	34	16	32%	75%	-43%
ELA	05	34	11	24%	75%	-51%
ELA	06	35	22	39%	75%	-36%
ELA	07	41	11	21%	75%	-54%
ELA	08	23	10	30%	75%	-45%
<b>ELA</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>-46%</b>

Subject	Grade	# < Level 3	# Level 3+	% Level 3+	Goal	Difference
Math	03	30	17	36%	75%	-39%
Math	04	23	27	54%	75%	-21%
Math	05	36	9	20%	75%	-55%
Math	06	21	36	63%	75%	-12%
Math	07	27	25	48%	75%	-27%
Math	08	13	20	61%	75%	-14%
<b>Math</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>-28%</b>

### Goal #2

Each year, Southside Academy Charter School will be in the 65<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher of public schools nationally as measured by the percentage of students that meet or exceed the beginning of year to end of year Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) growth on the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessments administered (all students using a pooled mean.).

### Performance

Southside Academy Charter School did not meet this accountability measure. In 2010-11, students scored in the 37<sup>th</sup> percentile in math, the 34<sup>th</sup> percentile in reading, and the 38<sup>th</sup> percentile in language usage. These numbers represent a slight increase in math, no change in reading, and a decline in language usage.

<b>Student Growth Percentile Among Public Schools Nationally Northwest Evaluation Association Measure of Academic Progress</b>			
School Year	Math	Reading	Language Usage
2006-07	84 <sup>th</sup>	73 <sup>th</sup>	67 <sup>th</sup>
2007-08	56 <sup>th</sup>	73 <sup>th</sup>	52 <sup>th</sup>
2008-09	61 <sup>th</sup>	73 <sup>th</sup>	64 <sup>th</sup>
2009-10	35 <sup>th</sup>	34 <sup>th</sup>	47 <sup>th</sup>
2010-11	37 <sup>th</sup>	34 <sup>th</sup>	38 <sup>th</sup>

### Goal #3

Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their third year and performing at or above Level 3 on the state exams will be greater than that of students in the same tested grades in Syracuse City School District.

### Performance

Southside Academy Charter School met this measure, exceeding Syracuse City School District proficiency rates by 22 percentage points in math and by 7 percentage points in English language arts. In addition, Southside Academy students outperformed Syracuse City School District students in every subject and grade level except for fifth grade math. Please see the charts below for a grade-level breakdown.

<b>Percent of Students Scoring at or above Level 3 in Math</b>			
Grade	Southside Academy	Syracuse	Difference
03	36%	25%	<b>11%</b>
04	54%	32%	<b>22%</b>
05	20%	29%	<b>-9%</b>
06	63%	22%	<b>41%</b>
07	48%	28%	<b>20%</b>
08	61%	15%	<b>45%</b>
Total	47%	25%	<b>22%</b>

<b>Percent of Students Scoring at or above Level 3 in ELA</b>			
Grade	Southside Academy	Syracuse	Difference
03	26%	25%	<b>1%</b>
04	32%	26%	<b>6%</b>
05	24%	23%	<b>2%</b>
06	39%	24%	<b>15%</b>
07	21%	17%	<b>4%</b>
08	30%	20%	<b>11%</b>
Total	29%	22%	<b>7%</b>

### School Improvement Plan

Southside Academy's educational program is grounded in the principles of Effective Schools Research, originally developed by Harvard and Michigan State faculty member Ronald R. Edmonds. Effective Schools Research recommends research-based school attributes that are associated with quantifiably improved student learning. By definition, an "Effective School" is one in which all children obtain at least the essential knowledge, concepts, and skills needed to be successful at the next higher level. Within an Effective School, there are seven unique characteristics that correlate with school effectiveness. Southside Academy has adopted these characteristics as part of its promise to deliver a high-quality educational option for parents of the Syracuse community. A summary of the Effective School correlation is as follows:

- Clear School Mission

- High Expectations for Success
- Instructional Leadership
- Frequent Monitoring of Student Progress
- Opportunities to Learn and Student Time-on-Task
- Safe and Orderly Environment
- Strong Home-School Relations

In addition to adopting these characteristics of Effective Schools Research, the educational program includes a “Back to Basics” approach, a longer school day, structured discipline, and the curriculum includes a moral focus component based on the Greek cardinal virtues. The educational program utilizes a curriculum that is based in scientific research, aligned with State standards, and designed to ensure college opportunity for each child that Southside serves.

While Effective Schools Research serves as the foundation of Southside’s educational program, it has adopted a number of school wide reform strategies to ensure that it:

- Provides opportunities for all children to meet the State’s proficient and advanced levels of student academic achievement;
- Uses effective methods and instructional strategies that are based on scientific research; and
- Addresses the needs of all children in the school, but particularly the needs of low-achieving children and those at risk of not meeting the State student academic achievement standards.

One research-based school wide reform strategy that Southside has adopted is the utilization of a master schedule that provides teachers with opportunities to differentiate instruction in order to meet the varied learning needs of students. The school uses differentiated instruction by implementing regularly-scheduled workshop sessions and flexible grouping in order to meet each student’s individual learning needs.

Another research-based school wide reform strategy that Southside has adopted is the development of what Richard DuFour calls a *Professional Learning Community*. Specifically, the school has worked to develop a teaching environment in which all teachers work together to ensure that students learn, where collaboration among teachers is prevalent, and where there is a focus on student learning and results (DuFour, 2004).<sup>1</sup> The school has adjusted its class and teacher schedules to ensure that grade-level teachers share a common planning time—at minimum on a weekly basis—in which each member of the instructional team participates in dialogue about student learning and develops strategies to improve both teaching and learning.

The school has also adopted a system that ensures that teachers and students can establish and communicate about student learning goals and track student progress through the formative assessment process. It is imperative to identify student learning goals, or

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<sup>1</sup> DuFour, R. (2004). What Is a “Professional Learning Community”? *Educational Leadership*, 61(8), 6-11.

educational objectives, so that teachers and students can gauge learning with respect to those goals and celebrate student success they make progress toward mastery. More important, because the school is utilizing specific student learning goals—which align with the State’s learning standards—teachers can effectively provide feedback on student learning through the use of formative assessment.

Finally, the school has adopted as a school wide reform strategy for students who need to grow in their *background knowledge*. Where students do not have background knowledge sufficient to ensure academic success, Southside works to provide increased opportunities for students to enhance their background knowledge so that their learning can be accelerated; such opportunities may include tutoring, mentoring, vocabulary instruction, and other interventions that ensure students have increased time to learn the knowledge and skills they need to be academically successful.

In the 2011-12 school year, these practices will be strengthened through a number of concrete changes. First, the school has hired a new dean to fill a vacant dean position for K-2. This dean will observe teachers and provide feedback to teachers in grades K-2, assist the grade level team in year-long, unit, and lesson planning, and provide support for teachers in using data to design lessons to meet the needs of all students. The school is also in the process of recruiting an additional fourth dean. With four deans in total, three deans can provide support for K-2, 3-5 and 6-8 grade levels and the fourth dean can lead the school’s services for students who are at-risk of academic failure. The dean of intervention services will help all teachers use data, formative assessments, and observations to identify students who need additional assistance in order to meet grade-level expectations. This dean will meet with teachers and paraprofessional to design interventions to serve the individual needs of these students.

In addition to these staffing positions, the school will also receive more intensive support from the Director of School Quality—an educator with a strong record of success in school leadership who mentors the principal and guides efforts for school improvement. The DSQ will visit Southside Academy at least three times per month, meet with the principal, conduct walk throughs, and provide coaching. The principal will also intensify support and accountability for classroom teachers, with daily classroom observations and walk-throughs and a strong emphasis on mid-year staff evaluations.

Instructional rigor will be a focused priority during the 2011-12 school year. Students will have increased frequency of writing activities (guided by the 6+1 Traits of Writing) and respond to higher-order thinking questions. Students will also spend increased time reading non-fiction, leveled material.

Finally, extended instructional time will also be offered. Southside Academy will begin offering Saturday School starting on October 15, 2011. In addition, the school will offer after school tutoring for one hour every week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Students will be identified for these services based on NWEA data, NYSTP data, and teacher recommendation.