The Renaissance Charter School supports the 2016 Advocacy Priorities initiated by the New York City Charter School Center. These include:

* Ensuring parity in funding – both with regard to per-pupil funding and facilities funding
* Continued co-location of charter schools in public facilities
* Protecting charter autonomy
* Monitoring and addressing system-wide operational issues that negatively affect charter schools

Community outreach and engagement – whether it be with elected, community groups, governmental agencies, etc. is vital to ensuring we achieve our goals. **Parent voice is a critical step in this process.**

**We will be reaching out to you asking for your help. This may include calling, emailing, writing or visiting elected officials, signing petitions and participating in Charter School Lobby Day.**

Our school’s continued success is dependent on these priorities being actualized in this upcoming budget season.

* Our students are PUBLIC school students and deserve to be funded equally. Our children are not worth less! More directly to our school, as a conversion charter school, our personnel costs are directly linked to the charter funding formula being turned back on since we follow all the same salaries and employee benefits as DOE schools. We need to get adequate funding to be able to pay these costs. The funding formula must be allowed to work and the lag in formula should be eliminated. Additionally, there should be a cap on rising pension costs to allow us to use our funds on programming.
* Allowing charter schools to access public school space is essential in keeping operational costs down. Schools that are forced to move into private space also must take funding away from programmatic needs to pay for building costs.
* Charter autonomy is essential in allowing us to innovate and act swiftly as needed. Every year we are seeing this freedom chipped away at by the various bureaucracies in play. The charter school promise of autonomy in exchange for accountability must be maintained so that we can best support all our students.
* This administration has put into place various operation policies and procedures that do not support charter schools. We need to push City Hall and DOE to treat charter schools fairly and support us by creating a climate conducive to innovation and autonomy – key ingredients to our success.