



CHAD Talking Points You Should Know:

- CHAD is the first charter high school for Architecture and Design in the country, formed in 1999 by the Philadelphia chapter of the American Institute of Architects.
- CHAD's mission is to engage and educate Philadelphia students through the power of design thinking. Design "majors" at CHAD include architecture, graphic, industrial, and fashion design.
- CHAD was originally founded on two principles- to provide a safe, academically sound, and stimulating high school for urban students; and given the very low percentage of licensed African American architects in the United States, to prepare African American students especially, for collegiate study and training in the fields of architecture and design.
- CHAD has extensive partnerships in the design and construction industry to provide industry opportunities and exposure for its students, such as AIA- American Institute of Architects, Women in Architecture, GBCA, and ACE Mentoring to name a few.
- CHAD is a specialized school navigating the challenges of an open enrollment lottery.
- CHAD serves nearly 600 students representing over 80% of all city zip codes, operates its own building in Philadelphia's historic district, and employs over 50 full-time teachers and staff while facing a volatile financial climate with a history of funding reductions.
- CHAD has a graduation rate of 90% whereas the state average is 86%. 73% of students in attendance live at or below the poverty line. CHAD graduates are recruited by and attend some of the top design colleges and schools in the country, including California College of the Arts, Pratt University, University of the Arts, Jefferson, Penn State and Temple University to name a few.
- CHAD has engaged in a strategic RESET. The CHAD Board of Trustees has proposed a strategic turnaround proposal to work collaboratively with the School District to address their recommendation of non-renewal at the Academic, Operational, and Financial levels.
- The RESET proposal outlines a change of leadership. The new interim CEO, Jacqueline Jeffries Barnett, former Secretary of Education for the City of Philadelphia, has been tasked to oversee the initial implementation of the RESET plan, guide CHAD's mission, and ensure students are receiving the best educational experience and creative career exposure.
- The RESET proposal includes CHAD's intent to form a multi-disciplinary team, including a strategic partnership with a third party academic consultant, in collaboration with the School District of Philadelphia, to restructure CHAD's curriculum and instruction programs in accordance with the Reset plan.
- The RESET proposal also describes CHAD's plan to retain the services of a full service accounting firm to audit its fiscal practices with the oversight of the School District of Philadelphia, and notes that additional financial resources have already been identified to stabilize and ensure CHAD's financial sustainability.