

HISTORY

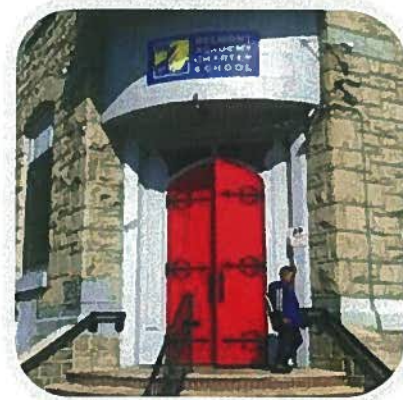


Belmont Charter School (BCS):

In 2002 Belmont Elementary School was the 7th worst performing school in the District. It was at this time the Philadelphia Reform Commission decided to convert Belmont Elementary into a charter school and reopen it as Belmont Charter School. Located down the street from Belmont Academy Charter School, BCS became the first school district converted charter school assigned to serve a definitive catchment area. This meant that instead of enrolling students using a lottery system and application process, all students who resided within the geographical catchment area were assigned to BCS. As two charter schools composed of local students, BACS and BCS worked together to provide quality educational services to the neighborhood of Belmont. BCS currently serves 528 students in grades 1 – 8.

Belmont Academy Charter School (BACS):

Belmont Academy Charter School, founded by Michael Karp, opened its doors in 1998 with the mission to provide an intensive education program to underserved Pre-K and K aged children in West Philadelphia. Recognizing that children living in poverty have historically faced the greatest risk of school failure, BACS sought to break this cycle by providing high need students with comprehensive educational opportunities. Housed in a historic building which formerly served as a neighborhood church, BACS exuded the feeling of an intimate family based style of learning. Belmont Academy Charter currently serves 237 students in grades Pre K, Head Start, and Kindergarten.



Community Education Alliance of West Philadelphia (CEAWP):

In order to manage BACS and BCS effectively while also having the capacity to develop and implement innovative programs and social service initiatives, the Community Education Alliance of West Philadelphia (CEAWP) was created in 2002 to act as the schools' umbrella organization. Today, CEAWP is a nonprofit organization that continues to improve upon the successes taking place at BCS and BACS while also making it possible for the existence of programs such as the DHS funded Belmont Social Support Services program, Daycare programming, school wellness center, daycare services, and Head Start classrooms.



For the past 11 years CEAWP, in partnership with BCS and BACS, has helped guide Belmont students toward reaching their individual potentials by providing them with the resources needed to succeed.