

# City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia  
Office of the Chief Clerk  
Room 402, City Hall  
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 260445)

## RESOLUTION

Recognizing and celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Russell H. Conwell Middle Magnet School.

WHEREAS, Located in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia, Russell H. Conwell Middle Magnet School was built between 1925 and 1926 and named in honor of Russell Conwell, founder of Temple University, and continues to reflect his legacy by serving generations of students and providing opportunities for the highest levels of intellectual and personal development; and

WHEREAS, As the first magnet middle school in Philadelphia, Russell H. Conwell Middle Magnet School expanded access to rigorous and specialized academic programming, and remains one of only a few criteria-based programs for students in grades 5 through 8; and

WHEREAS, The school building, designed by Irwin T. Catharine and constructed between 1925 and 1926 in the Late Gothic Revival style, reflects the historic character of the Kensington community and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988 in recognition of its architectural and historic significance; and

WHEREAS, Today, the school continues to invest in its students and community through modern upgrades including new HVAC and lighting, a digital media lab, science and engineering labs, a soccer field, a mini track, and a renovated schoolyard that support both academic and physical development; and

WHEREAS, Russell H. Conwell Middle Magnet School offers a wide range of academic and enrichment programs, including Media and Journalism, Spanish, Algebra 1, Temple Future Scholars, Girls Inc., Women in Natural Sciences, National Junior Honor Society, instrumental music, athletics, and partnerships that prepare students for success in high school, college, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, These opportunities foster leadership, creativity, and civic engagement while equipping students with the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world; and

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*RESOLUTION NO. 260445 continued*

WHEREAS, Situated in a community deeply impacted by the ongoing opioid crisis, Russell H. Conwell Middle Magnet School was named in the school closure list proposed by the School District of Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Despite the threat of closure, Conwell students have shown resilience and civic leadership by continuing to attend school with pride and advocating through letters and public testimony, prompting the Board to commit to keeping Russell H. Conwell Middle Magnet School open, pending the Board's final vote for the School District of Philadelphia Facilities Plan; and

WHEREAS, The 2025 to 2026 school year marks the 100th anniversary of Russell H. Conwell Middle Magnet School, celebrating a century of educational excellence, innovation, and commitment to the Kensington community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby recognizes and celebrates the 100th anniversary of Russell H. Conwell Middle Magnet School, honoring its rich history, lasting impact on generations of students and families, and continued commitment to academic excellence and community empowerment.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to Russell H. Conwell Middle Magnet School, further evidencing the sincere admiration and respect of this legislative body.

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*RESOLUTION NO. 260445 continued*

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the thirtieth day of April, 2026.

Kenyatta Johnson  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Lozada

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Lozada, Phillips, Gilmore Richardson,  
Gauthier, Thomas, Jones, Landau, Young, Harrity, O'Rourke,  
Driscoll, Squilla, Bass and Ahmad