

**California Department of Education**  
**Fiscal Year 2015–16**  
**Nonclassroom-Based Funding Determination - Mitigating Circumstances Summary Sheet**

**A. Charter School Information** (complete lines 1 to 4)

1. Charter School:	<b>Independence Charter Academy</b>	2. Charter No.:	<b>1679</b>
3. Funding % Requested with mitigating circumstances	<b>100%</b>	4. CDS Code:	<b>36-67736-130948</b>

**B. Nonclassroom-Based Funding Determination Criteria**

<b>Funding Determination Criteria</b>	<b>Certificated Staff to Total Public Revenues Ratio</b>	<b>Instruction and Instruction-Related Services to Total Revenues Ratio</b>	<b>Pupil toTeacher Ratio</b>
100% Funding [5 CCR, Sec. 11963.4 (a)(3)]	= or > 40%	= or > 80%	< 25 : 1
85% Funding [5 CCR, Sec. 11963.4 (a)(2)]	= or > 40%	= or > 70%	Not Applicable
70% Funding [5 CCR, Sec. 11963.4 (a)(1)]	= or > 35%	= or > 60%	Not Applicable

**C. Enter the reported Charter School's Ratios and PTR from the Form FDF**

	<b>Certificated Staff Costs to Total Public Revenues Ratio</b>	<b>Instruction and Instruction-Related Services Costs to Total Revenues Ratio</b>	<b>Pupil toTeacher Ratio (PTR)</b>
Enter the charter school's calculated ratios from the FDF in Section VI. Line 1. and VI. Line 2 ----->.	47.73 %	66.86 %	<b>18.5</b> : 1

If the reported ratios / PTR do not meet the funding determination criteria for the funding level requested, review the regulations in Section D and complete Sections E and F. Sign and attach any documentation that provides further support or clarification.

**D. Regulations**

California *Code of Regulations*, Title 5 (5 CCR), Sec. 11963.4(e): A reasonable basis for the ACCS to make a recommendation other than one that results from the criteria specified in subdivision (a) may include, but not be limited to, the following: the information provided by the charter school (FDF) pursuant to paragraphs (2) through (8), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of section 11963.3, documented data regarding individual circumstances of the charter school (e.g., one-time or unique or exceptional expenses for facilities, acquisition of a school bus, acquisition and installation of computer hardware not related to the instructional program, special education charges levied on the charter school by a local educational agency, restricted state, federal, or private grants of funds awarded to the charter school that cannot be expended for teacher salaries, or contracted instructional services other than those for special education), the size of the charter school, and how many years the charter school has been in operation.

**E. Mitigating Circumstances (complete this section and attach any supporting documentation)**

**1.** Explain why the charter school did not meet the criteria for the funding determination requested. Include specific measures or actions taken by the charter school to comply.

During the 2014-15 Fiscal Year, Independence Charter Academy began operations as a new charter school without the benefit of start up grants or reserve funds. Independence Charter Academy was required to budget conservatively in the 2014-15 Fiscal Year due to a lack of beginning cash and minimum apportionment funding at the start of the school year. Independence Charter Academy received the majority of its apportionment funding during the last three months of the school year, including its entire ending fund balance on June 30, 2015. Independence Charter Academy started the 2014-15 school year with 33 students. As enrollment increased throughout the school year, additional staff was hired to maintain a low pupil to teacher ratio. Independence Charter Academy remained prudent in its spending to ensure deficit spending would be avoided while still providing a quality education to its students. Every ICA student was provided a Chromebook and all required instructional materials. Teaching staff were given the tools necessary to fully perform job related tasks. Adequate facilities were provided with plans to accommodate for future growth. Independence Charter Academy experienced a majority of its steady growth over the second half of the school year and was able to continue to provide a quality education to every new student while maintaining close fiscal oversight of its budget and cash flow. Enrollment numbers in 2015-16 have exceeded projections. Independence Charter Academy's enrollment is above 100 students. Independence Charter Academy now has stability in its enrollment numbers, a cash reserve balance that allows for future growth, and a budget that projects well above 80% instruction and instruction related spending.

**2** List and explain the mitigating circumstance(s) to be considered by the CDE and Advisory Commission on Charter Schools (ACCS).

Independence Charter Academy was encouraged by their sponsoring district, Helendale Elementary School District, to build a fund reserve by not spending all 2014-15 Fiscal Year revenue. Due to Independence Charter Academy's new charter status for 2014-15 school year and in the absence of any revenue from a charter school grant, Independence Charter Academy started the 2014-15 school year with a \$0.00 fund balance. 2014-15 remaining revenue is being used to provide fund balance reserve necessary in support of economic downturns, charter enrollment growth, and future program support. Independence Charter Academy spent conservatively in 2014-15 to establish a fund balance reserve that will support unforeseen future academic challenges. Independence Charter Academy is projected in 2015-16 to spend all 2015-16 revenue with more than 40% going to teacher salaries and benefits and more than 80% going to instruction and instruction related services. As a small charter school, a funding determination of less than 100% would mean significant cuts to instruction at Independence Charter Academy for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years.

**3.** Provide any other pertinent information that may assist the CDE and ACCS in conducting a detailed review or develop a reasonable basis for a recommendation.

Independence Charter Academy's 2014-15 ADA was 48.51. Independence Charter Academy's 2015-16 ADA is currently 89.68. Independence Charter Academy's 2014-15 instruction and instructional materials expense was \$306,921.00. Independence Charter Academy's 2015-16 instruction and instructional materials expense is currently \$407,274.00. Independence Charter Academy in 2015-16 has seen an increase cost in facilities due to necessary expansion to accommodate increased enrollment. Independence Charter Academy's fund balance reserve has provided for the expansion of facilities, instruction, and instructional program for the 2015-16 school year and all future school years.

**F. Certification**

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge and belief, that the information is true and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Charter School's Director, Principal, or Governing Board Chairperson

**Michael Hayhurst**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Charter School's Director, Principal, or Governing Board Chairperson

Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Authorized Individual

27-Jan-16

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date