

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: | Northern Summit Academy | 2. Charter No.: | 1649 |
| 3. Funding % Requested with mitigating circumstances | 100% | 4. CDS Code: | 45 70169 0129957 |

B. Nonclassroom-Based Funding Determination Criteria

| Funding Determination Criteria | Certificated Staff to Total Public Revenues Ratio | Instruction and Instruction-Related Services to Total Revenues Ratio | Pupil toTeacher Ratio |
|---|---|--|-----------------------|
| 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

| | Certificated Staff Costs to Total Public Revenues Ratio | Instruction and Instruction-Related Services Costs to Total Revenues Ratio | Pupil toTeacher Ratio (PTR) |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Enter the charter school's calculated ratios from the FDF in Section VI. Line 1. and VI. Line 2 ----->. | 41.06 % | 75.21 % | 20.07 : 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.

Northern Summit Academy charter school is requesting a 4 year, 100% funding determination through mitigating circumstances for the following reasons. Through year 2 of operation, NSA remains a small school of less than 100 units of ADA.

- Our 14-15 P2 ADA was 55.18. Our growth has been impeded by unanticipated delays in facility issues that we are currently in the process of resolving.
- Second, we have had challenges related to difficulties surrounding fixed costs. We lacked the economy of scale that a greater ADA would provide. With limited ADA, these challenges were compounded by the delayed cash flow due to our being new. We had to sell receivables for the first semester. The associated receivable sales fees are an example of necessary costs we incurred that were not “instructional”.
- Third, the MOU with our sponsoring district requires a reserve of “5% or \$64,000, whichever is greater”. With an ADA of less than 100 units, this made it virtually impossible to meet the required 80% instructional spending threshold.

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

2. NSA does intend to grow. We have a history of gradual growth.

- During the 14 – 15 school year we opened our doors with 37 enrolled students. At P1 we had an enrollment of 55/ADA 52.12. By the 14-15 P2 we had grown to an enrollment of 65 with 55.18 ADA. In May 2015 we graduated 10 seniors.
- On the first day of the 15-16 school year our enrollment was 58. By P1 our enrollment had grown to 67 with an ADA of 60.98. Currently our enrollment is 74.
- Our conservative goal is to grow over the next 3 years at a rate of 25% per school year. This rate of growth would produce an enrollment of 126 students in the 2018/2019 school year. We believe this number would make us sustainable. We hope to grow faster than this and are taking appropriate facility and outreach steps to promote our school.
- We have also enlisted the services of Dr. David Guthrie as a consultant to guide us through our strategic planning.
- Our 2015-2016 budget projects a plan that meets the SB 740 criteria for 100% funding.

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.

PCSGP Fund Limitations

- During the 2014-2015 school year NSA was awarded the PCSGP grant. This grant provided much needed revenue and at the same time began arriving late in the school year, making spending difficult.

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

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

Title of Authorized Individual

Date