

California Department of Education
Fiscal Year 2014–15
Nonclassroom-Based Funding Determination - Mitigating Circumstances Summary Sheet

A. Charter Information

Charter School:	Pioneer Technical Center	Charter No.:	460
Years in operation:	13	CDS Code:	20-102072030229

B. Nonclassroom-Based Funding Determination

1. (Check One) Requested Funding Determination	Certificated Staff to Total Public Revenues Ratio	Instruction and Related Services to Total Revenues Ratio	Pupil to Teacher Ratio
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100% Funding [5 CCR, Sec. 11963.4 (a)(3)]	= or > 40%	= or > 80%	< 25 : 1 by Grade Span
<input type="checkbox"/> 85% Funding [5 CCR, Sec. 11963.4 (a)(2)]	= or > 40%	= or > 70%	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/> 70% Funding [5 CCR, Sec. 11963.4 (a)(1)]	= or > 35%	= or > 60%	Not Applicable

2. Charter School's Ratios (source: Form FDF)

	Certificated Staff Costs to Total Public Revenues Ratio	Instruction and Instruction Related Services Costs to Total Revenues Ratio	
Enter the charter school's calculated ratios from the FDF:	51.36%	71.55%	19:1

If the charter school does not meet the funding determination criteria, review Section C, complete Section D and E, sign, and attach any supporting documentation.

C. 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.

D. Mitigating Circumstances (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.

The charter converted from a seat-based charter to a independent-study charter in July of 2014. Thinking that the charter would be considered under the funding determination form as a "new charter", a Nonclassroom-Based Funding Determination Form was submitted prior to the 2/1/15 deadline using 14-15 current year budgeted data. We were then contacted by CDE and asked to submit the form using 2013-14 expense data instead of the budgeted data since we were really and existing charter that just made a change to independent study. In doing this, we did not meet the requirements on the form to receive 100% funding. Our Certificated Staff Cost ratio at 51.36% was well over the required 40% but our Instruction/Instruction Related Services Ratio was only 71.55% when 80% is required to receive 100% funding. In order to meet the 80% requirement we would have had to spend an additional \$116,233 on Instruction/Instruction Related Services or Allowable Facility costs. Due to the uncertainty of the new LCAP requirements and LCFF calculations, the charter had remained conservative during the 13-14 year and also then incurred the unforeseen circumstances shown in #2 below that reasonably play into not reaching the higher spending requirement. The current budget for the 14-15 year is in compliance with both of the ratio's required for the 100% funding and we expect to fall within these requirements with actual expenses at the end of the fiscal year.

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

This charter has been a seat-time program for the last 13 years and would normally meet all required ratios for the funding determination. With the uncertainty of LCFF and the funding transitions toward the gap this charter has proceeded conservatively. The charter started the 13-14 year with a beginning balance of \$192,000 which is approximately two months worth of expenses for the year and is approximately the amount that was deferred from the 12-13 year and into the 13-14 year. During the 13-14 year the charter had the following occurrences that could be classified as mitigating circumstances:

1. Tried unsuccessfully to fill a budgeted Science Teacher position for 6 months of the year. Position was advertised as "open until filled" but due to the unique high risk student environment that is served and the teacher shortage, the position remained unfilled for half of the year. (\$35,242 savings)
2. Tried unsuccessfully to fill a budgeted Resource Specialist Teacher position for 6 months of the year. Position was advertised as "open until filled" but due to the same reasons stated above the position remained unfilled for half of the year. (\$32,744 savings)
3. Negotiations for the amount to be transferred for County Funded Program Charter Students was not completed and transferred from COE until June 2014. This is due to conversations between charter, COE, and CDE correcting the way the charter was categorized to a County Program Charter on state software so that data could be reported correctly. This uncertainty of being reclassified precluded the charter from hiring additional instructional staff. The amount in question was \$74,000 (higher COE per ADA amount minus the regular charter per ADA amount x 12.5 students)

These circumstances contributed to not spending an additional \$141,986 in Instr.l and Related expenses which would have met the required ratio.

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.

Other factors to consider when reviewing PTC's mitigating circumstances. The first was the implementation of the LCFF and the impact to county run programs specifically Community Day Schools. When the Governor approved the LCFF he also made it impossible for a County Office of Education to operate Community Day Schools. Madera County Office of Education had operated two Community Day Schools in Chowchilla for several years. We worked with the two Superintendents in that area to determine how to proceed with the two schools. The final determination was to open a second site for Pioneer Technical Center in Chowchilla for the 2014-2015 school year. The typical student who would enroll in a Community Day School would have the choice to enroll in Pioneer Technical Center Chowchilla or travel to Enterprise Secondary School in Madera which is about twenty miles south of Chowchilla. Since our Community Day Schools were operated in previous years on a small district funding waiver, which we now had to convert to ADA. As a site dependent on ADA we had to enroll more students in Chowchilla in order to break even than in past years. We were uncertain that we would be able to do this during the school year 2014-2015. This played a part in our conservatism during Pioneer Technical Centers 2013-2014 school year. We opened Pioneer Technical Center Chowchilla this year serving 20 students with a staff of four . We currently have 63 students enrolled in Chowchilla. In addition we chose not to run summer school during the 2013-2014 school year and had all Pioneer Technical Center Students enroll for summer school at one of our other programs. Going forward we will operate summer school with Pioneer Technical Center.

E. 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