

Western Sierra Collegiate Academy Request for Material Revision and Supporting Documents



Via Email

November 1, 2011

Bonnie Galloway, Administrator
Carolyn Zachry, Consultant
Charter Schools Division
California Department of Education
1430 N. Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Western Sierra Collegiate Academy – Material Revision to Charter

Dear Ms. Galloway and Ms. Zachry:

On behalf of Western Sierra Collegiate Academy (“WSCA”), please find the following documents:

- 1) This cover letter summarizing our request for a material revision of the charter to reflect an additional grade level, and slightly altered graduation requirements;
- 2) The Year Long Plan for 6th Grade Academics;
- 3) A resolution by the Board of Directors of The Rocklin Academy authorizing this request;
- 4) The WSCA charter with revisions shown in track changes. Changes were made to reflect the substantive changes requested and summarized herein; along with changes to reflect new laws since the last approval as required by Education Code Section 47607.

The following summarizes the content and purpose of the requested revisions:

Proposed Modification of Grade Level – Adding 6th Grade

Western Sierra Collegiate Academy (“WSCA”) serves students from throughout the south Placer County in grades 7-12. The majority of school districts in south Placer County start middle school in the 6th grade (e.g., Dry Creek Joint Elementary School District, Roseville City School District and Western Placer Unified School District (Lincoln). Altering the WSCA charter to allow the option of offering instruction beginning in the 6th grade, provides a benefit to the students it serves by reducing the number of school transitions a student must

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• Rocklin Academy Meyers Street: 5035 Meyers Street, Rocklin CA 95677 P. (916) 632-6580 F. (916) 784-3034
• Western Sierra Collegiate Academy: 660 Menlo Drive, Rocklin CA 95765 P. (916) 778-4544 F. (916) 626-5540
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make. Instead of leaving elementary school at 5th grade, enrolling in a middle school for one year and then making a transition to WSCA for grades 7-12, students choosing to attend WSCA will be able move directly from elementary school to WSCA.

Rocklin Academy already offers 6th grade at Rocklin Academy Turnstone and Rocklin Academy at Meyers Street. The 6th grade curriculum is based on state standards and the Core Knowledge Sequence.¹ The instructional methods and assessments used are well established and successful. The same curriculum, instructional methods and assessments will be used at WSCA. The Year Long Plan for 6th Grade Academics is attached, providing a specific overview of academic content taught in the sixth grade by subject area and month. Sixth grade students have achieved outstanding levels of academic success at Rocklin Academy, and we expect similar results by the 6th grade students at WSCA. The chart below shows the high levels of proficiency achieved by Rocklin Academy 6th Grade students.

Math and English Language Arts Rocklin Academy Percent Students Proficient and Advanced – 2007 - 2011		
Grade 6	Math	English Language Arts
2011	79%	87%
2010	87%	91%
2009	80%	78%
2008	94%	93%
2007	72%	79%

As a middle and high school, WSCA already addresses the different needs of younger adolescents and older high school students. It does this by physical separation, locating middle school students in specific sections of the school, as well as schedule differences. It also has a different lunch period for each. WSCA staff are also considering the desirability of placing 6th grade students in a self-contained academy structure, where the 6th grade students would spend the majority of their class time in one or two classrooms. At the same time this structure will allow WSCA to offer these students enriched and accelerated learning

¹ The *Core Knowledge Sequence* is a detailed outline of specific content to be taught in language arts, history, geography, mathematics, science and the fine arts. It provides a solid, coherent foundation for learning; it is also flexible to meet local needs. The Core Knowledge curriculum is the result of research into the content and structure of the highest performing elementary school systems around the world. Specific content includes language arts, world history and geography, visual art, music, mathematics and science. More information about Core Knowledge is available at the Core Knowledge website www.coreknowledge.org.

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opportunities. The WSCA facility offers a science lab, art and music facilities not available at the elementary level, supporting additional learning opportunities and resources to these students.

Proposed Modification to Graduation Requirements

Rocklin Academy is requesting slight modifications to the current WSCA graduation requirements in three curricular areas: Science, Foreign Language and Fine Arts. These changes will also increase the number of electives a student will be able to take from three to six.

The proposed changes are important to assure WSCA can appropriately welcome and serve transfer students at the high school level. The current WSCA high school graduation requirements are so rigorous and specific that students who would like to transfer to WSCA as juniors or seniors, and who were on track to get a diploma at their previous school, may not be able to graduate with a diploma from WSCA on time, because they will not be able to meet the graduation requirements specified in the charter. (For example, a student who comes to us in their junior year and has not yet had foreign language would be able to take the first and second level in their junior and senior years at WSCA and still meet the UC requirement for admission. If we had a three year foreign language requirement, the student would be able to meet the UC admission requirement, but not be able to graduate from WSCA. The proposed changes more closely align our general graduation requirements with the local high schools, while fully maintaining the rigorous A-G curriculum for all students.

The proposed changes also more closely align the WSCA graduation requirements with the A-G course requirements in the areas of science and fine arts, with the fine arts requirement still exceeding the A-G requirement by one year. This emphasizes Western Sierra's commitment to the area of fine arts and ensures that students have more than one year of instruction in this important area.

The proposed change in the Foreign Language requirement continues to meet the A-G requirement in this area. The Language Other than English requirement "E" for the UC A-G course list requires 2 years of the same foreign language. WSCA requirements will match this requirement and allow the students to exceed the 2 years if they so choose. They may also be able to choose another foreign language and have two world languages from which to show their academic promise.

The proposed changes benefit students currently attending WSCA by allowing them to meet the A-G requirements and enabling students to take additional high level coursework in chosen subjects their junior and senior years. By more closely aligning the graduation requirements with the A-G requirements, the opportunity for a student to choose up to six A-G approved electives instead of three is created. Under the proposed changes, a student interested in a math/science/engineering major in college will be able to take additional AP math and sciences courses their senior year and still meet the Western Sierra's graduation requirements. It will also be possible for the school to develop and offer a number of STEM courses, courses of high interest to students. A student who excels in foreign language will have the opportunity to take more years of a single language or have the opportunity to take a

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In summary, the proposed graduation requirements will increase the school's ability to graduate well-rounded, well-prepared students with the skills and knowledge to be successful in college.

The current and proposed graduation requirements are as follows:

Department	Current WSCA Requirements (240 Units, 24 courses)	Proposed WSCA Requirements (240 Units, 24 Courses, changes shown in <i>italics</i>)	UC A-G Requirements
Math	4 Years (40 units)	4 Years (40 units)	3 Years required, 4 Recommended
Science	4 Years – 3 of which are lab science (40 units, 30 of which are lab science)	<i>3 Years, 2 Years lab science</i> (30 units)	2 Years required, 3 Recommended
Foreign Language	3 Years – (30 Units)	<i>2 Years (20 units)</i>	2 Years required, 3 Recommended
Fine Arts	3 Years (30 Units)	<i>2 Years (20 units)</i>	1 Year required
Electives	3 Classes (30 Units)	6 Classes (60 Units)	1 Year of preparatory elective
History/Social Science	3 Years (30 Units)	3 Years (30 Units)	2 Years required
English	4 Years (40 Units)	4 Years (40 Units)	4 Years required

Thank you for your consideration of our requested material revision. We hope that you will agree that all modifications are in the best interest of students.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this request, I would be glad to have the opportunity to discuss further.

Sincerely


David Patterson. Ed.D.
Superintendent/Executive Director

CC: Lisa Corr, Middleton, Young & Minney LLP
Wendy Boyd, Chairwoman, Rocklin Academy Board of Directors

The Rocklin Academy Board of Directors Resolution No. 10-17-2011

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO SUPERINTENDENT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL REVISION TO WESTERN SIERRA COLLEGIATE ACADEMY CHARTER

WHEREAS, the Western Sierra Collegiate Academy ("WSCA") currently serves grades 7-12; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors recognizes the pedagogical interest of offering grade 6 in order to accommodate students entering from elementary schools that end in grade 5 to eliminate their need to transition to a new school twice;

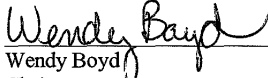
WHEREAS, different graduation requirements in surrounding school districts result in some students transitioning into WSCA with the appropriate amount of credits, but without the appropriate courses to support graduation from WSCA; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors recognizes the pedagogical interest in ensuring that the WSCA graduation credit requirements continue to remain stringent, but allow for some course flexibility in science, foreign language, fine arts, and in electives to allow transferring students to apply prior courses toward WSCA graduation requirements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes Superintendent David Patterson to submit any and all necessary revisions to the charter to effectuate the changes to the charter described herein, and delegates him as the "lead petitioner" for negotiating with the Authorizer as needed for approval;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any final decision to add 6th grade to Western Sierra Collegiate Academy will go through the entire decision-making matrix with full stakeholder input including coming back to the board at least two more times for full debate and discussion.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of October, 2011.


Wendy Boyd
Chairwoman
Rocklin Academy Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Doug Johnson
Secretary
Rocklin Academy Board of Directors

ORIGINAL IS SIGNED

6th Grade Year Long Plan

	Math	Soc Stud	Literature	Sayings & Phrases	Science	English/Poetry	Vocab	Writing
Aug	Topic 2	Christianity & Judaism	Jr. Great Books	All for one and one for all.	Astronomy	Unit 1 - Sentences	Parts of Speech test	Research Report - Deserts
	Topic 2	Christianity & Judaism	Jr. Great Books	A friend in need is a friend indeed.	Astronomy	Unit 1 - Sentences	Vocab of Vocab	Research Report - Deserts
Sept	Topic 3	Christianity & Judaism	Jr. Great Books	Procrastination is the thief of time.	Astronomy	Unit 1 - Sentences	Vocab of Vocab	Literary Response Jr. Great
	Topic 3	Gods & Goddesses	Jr. Great Books	A stitch in time saves nine.	Astronomy	Unit 3 - Verbs	Unit 1	Compare and Contrast - Christianity and Judaism
	Topic 4	Ancient Greece	Gods & Goddesses	Money is the root of all evil. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.	Astronomy	Unit 3 - Verbs	Unit 2	Compare and Contrast - Athens and Sparta
	Topic 4	Ancient Greece	Tale of Troy	A fool and his money are soon parted.	Astronomy	Unit 3 - Verbs	Unit 3	Narrative - Astronomy?
Oct	Topic 5	Ancient Greece	Tale of Troy	Give the devil his due.	Astronomy	Unit 5 - Capitalization & Punctuation	Review Units 1-3	Narrative - Astronomy?
	Topic 5	Ancient Greece	Tale of Troy	Tempest in a teapot	Alfred Wegner Biography Plate Tectonics	Unit 5 - Capitalization & Punctuation	Review Units 1-3	Literary Reponse - Tale of Troy
	Topic 6	Ancient Rome	Tale of Troy	If wishes were horses, beggars would ride.	Plate Tectonics	Unit 5 - Capitalization & Punctuation	Unit 4	Persuasive -
	Topic 6	Ancient Rome	Tale of Troy	Touche. There is more than one way to skin a cat.	Plate Tectonics	Unit 6 - Pronouns	Unit 5	Persuasive -
end of Tri I								

Year Long Plan

	Math	Soc Stud	Literature	Sayings & Phrases	Science	English/Poetry	Vocab	Writing
Nov	Sly Park							
	Topic 7	Ancient Rome	Tale of Troy	RIP Bite the dust.	Plate Tectonics	Unit 6 - Pronouns	Unit 6	Compare and Contrast - Greece and Rome
mini-days all week	Topic 7	Isaac Newton Biography Enlightenment	Prince and The Pauper (Jim Weiss Audio)	Rome wasn't built in a day. Tenderfoot	Plate Tectonics	Unit 6 - Pronouns	Review Units 4-6	Narrative - Sly Park?
	Thanksgiving Break							
	Topic 8	Enlightenment	Prince and The Pauper (Jim Weiss Audio)	Catch-as-catch-can The best laid plans of mice and men oft go awry.	Plate Tectonics	Unit 7 - Prepositional Phrases	Review Units 4-6	Business Letter - Sly Park?
Dec	Topic 8	French Revolution	Prince and The Pauper (Jim Weiss Audio)	Bee in your bonnet.	Plate Tectonics	Unit 7 - Prepositional Phrases	Unit 7	Persuasive - Earthquake Safety?
	Topic 9	French Revolution	Prince and The Pauper (Jim Weiss Audio)	A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.	Plate Tectonics	Unit 7 - Prepositional Phrases	Unit 8	Compare and Contrast - Three Estates
	Topic 9	French Revolution	Prince and The Pauper (Jim Weiss Audio)	All's well that ends well.	Plate Tectonics	good/well between/among bring/take accept/except	Unit 9	Literary Response Prince and Pauper
	Winter Break							

6th Grade Year Long Plan

	Math	Soc Stud	Literature	Sayings & Phrases	Science	English/Poetry	Vocab	Writing
Jan	Winter Break							
	Topic 9	Industrialism, Capitalism, & Socialism	Julius Ceasar	Hitch your wagon to a star.	Marie Curie Biography Heat & Energy	fewer/less like/as affect/effect	Review Units 7-9	Research Report - Revolution in Textiles
	Topic 9	Industrialism, Capitalism, & Socialism	Julius Ceasar	He who hesitates is lost.	Heat & Energy	imply/infer principle/principal their/there/they're	Review Units 7-9	Persuasive - Energy Resources
	Topic 10	Industrialism, Capitalism, & Socialism	Julius Ceasar	The pot is calling the kettle black.	Heat & Energy	misspelled words #'s 1-12	Unit 10	Compare and Contrast - Capitalism and Socialism
	Topic 10	Industrialism, Capitalism, & Socialism	Julius Ceasar	Don't lock the stable door after the horse is stolen.	Heat & Energy	misspelled words #'s 13-24	Unit 11	Literary Response Julius Caesar
Feb	Topic 11	Latin America	Julius Ceasar	He who laughs last, laughs best. Eat humble pie.	Science Fair	misspelled words #'s 25-36	Unit 12	Literary Response Julius Caesar
	Topic 11	Latin America	Jr. Great Books	Little strokes fell great oaks.	Science Fair	misspelled words #'s 37-45	Review Units 10-12	Research Report - Science Fair
	President's Week							
End of Tri II	Topic 12	Latin America	Jr. Great Books	It's never over until its over.	Science Fair	Latin/Greek Words #'s 1-12	Review Units 10-12	Research Report - Science Fair

6th Grade Year Long Plan

	Math	Soc Stud	Literature	Sayings & Phrases	Science	English/Poetry	Vocab	Writing
Mar								
	Topic 12	Immigration	Roll of Thunder	Good fences make good neighbors.	Science Fair	Latin/Greek Words #'s 13-24	Unit 13	Research Report - Science Fair
mini-days all week								
	Topic 13	Immigration	Roll of Thunder	The proof of the pudding is in the eating.	Oceans **SCIENCE FAIR	Latin/Gree Words #'s 25-34	Unit 14	Narrative - Immigration Story
	Topic 13	Immigration	Roll of Thunder	On tenterhooks	Oceans	Poetry	Unit 15	Narrative - Immigration Story
	Topic 14	Lewis Howard Latimer Biography Industrialization & Urbanization	Roll of Thunder	The leopard doesn't change its spots.	Oceans	Poetry	Review Units 13-15	Research Report - Oceans
Apr	Spring Break							
	Sly Park							
	Topic 14	Industrialization & Urbanization	Roll of Thunder	Once bitten, twice shy. Nose out of joint.	Oceans	Poetry	Review Units 13-15	Compare and Contrast - Social Classes
	Topic 15	Industrialization & Urbanization	Roll of Thunder	Rule of thumb	Oceans	Poetry	Cumulative Review	Literary Response - Roll of Thunder
May	Topic 15	Reform	Fever 1793	Strike while the iron is hot.	Human Body	Poetry	Cumulative Review	Persuasive Speech
	Topic 16	Reform	Fever 1793	Necessity is the mother of invention.	Human Body	Poetry	Cumulative Review	Persuasive Speech
End of Tri III	Topic 16	Reform	Fever 1793	Truth is stranger than fiction.	Human Body	Poetry		Persuasive Speech
mini-days all week	Topic 17		Jr. Great Books	Don't cut off your nose to spite your face.	Human Body	Poetry		Graduation Speeches
	Topic 17		Jr. Great Books		Human Body	Poetry		Graduation Speeches