

# OLIVE GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL

Olive Grove Charter School Produces **IDEAL** Students:

**I**nformed critical thinkers

**D**edicated and responsible citizens

**E**ffective communicators

**A**ble technology users, self-directed

**L**earners - motivated

# Brief History

- ▣ Olive Grove Home Study Charter School has operated in Santa Barbara County for 13 years
- ▣ Dependent charter school of Los Olivos
- ▣ API Similar Schools Rank of 9
- ▣ 300+ students

# Closure and Next Steps

- ▣ June 2014: Los Olivos votes to close out-of-district sites
  - So, eligible to become a Basic Aid District
  - Los Olivos assists with new school development
- ▣ July 2014: Search for authorizer for new school
  - Santa Barbara, Lompoc and Santa Maria have learning centers, but not interested
  - County not supportive: Los Olivos Superintendent says SBCEO Superintendent says he will “support local districts”
- ▣ September 2014: Cuyama is only willing district

# Working with Cuyama

- ▣ September 2014-February 2015
  - Charter petition
  - MOU
  - EDCOE Charter SELPA, Jean Hatch/Northstate JPA
- ▣ February 18, 2015: Cuyama recommends approval
- ▣ February 19, 2015: Santa Barbara Superintendent emails Cuyama – intent to sue
  - Recommendation changes to “deny”
  - Cuyama Supt says *Alpine v. San Diego* attorney advises they will prevail, but lawsuit too burdensome

# SBCEO Appeal

- ▣ Facilities is key issue
- ▣ Olive Grove clarifies alignment with law but offers to affirm Cuyama facilities
- ▣ Olive Grove provides SBCEO w/ CDE emails:
  - Counties have discretion to approve with material revision
  - SBE encourages resolution at local level
- ▣ 200+ supporters attend vote
- ▣ SBCEO Superintendent
  - Says “Haven’t spoken with CDE”
  - Continues to claim “hands are tied”
- ▣ SBCEO board members
  - Ask no questions
  - Express regret that “hands are tied”

# Cuyama Context

- ▣ Unlike other, more populous districts
  - ~240 students in Cuyama
  - Only a handful expected to enroll, would have different classes
  - Superintendent notes that some students travel 1½ hours each way, would benefit from IS program
- ▣ Petition does not commit to a learning center
- ▣ Law says petition must identify a school that will “operate” within authorizer’s bounds
  - Facilities are not a requirement

# Cuyama Status

- ▣ Cuyama has available classroom and office space
- ▣ Cuyama has interested students
- ▣ Olive Grove will operate there as per SBE's preference

# Resolve Now, Not Later

- ▣ Denial hurts students most
  - Olive Grove is option they've chosen
  - Many do not have an alternative
  - Either no other IS option in area or have tried alternative IS options and unsatisfied
- ▣ Can approve as-is
- ▣ Or, approve with Cuyama learning center
  - As technical amendment
  - As MOU condition



# OGCS Graduating Seniors



# Reasons for Olive Grove

- ▣ Students facing challenges:
  - Bullied
  - Socially Isolated
  - Medical concerns
  - Academically disengaged (“hate school”)
  
- ▣ Family concerns:
  - Smaller school setting
  - Homeschooling
  - Reduced access to gangs/poor influences
  
- ▣ Pursuing outside interests:
  - Sports
  - Music
  - Work



# Why our Students Excel

## ▣ Personalization

- Pace
- Academic Supports
- Topics of Interest to Student
- Instructional Materials
- Assessment and feedback loop

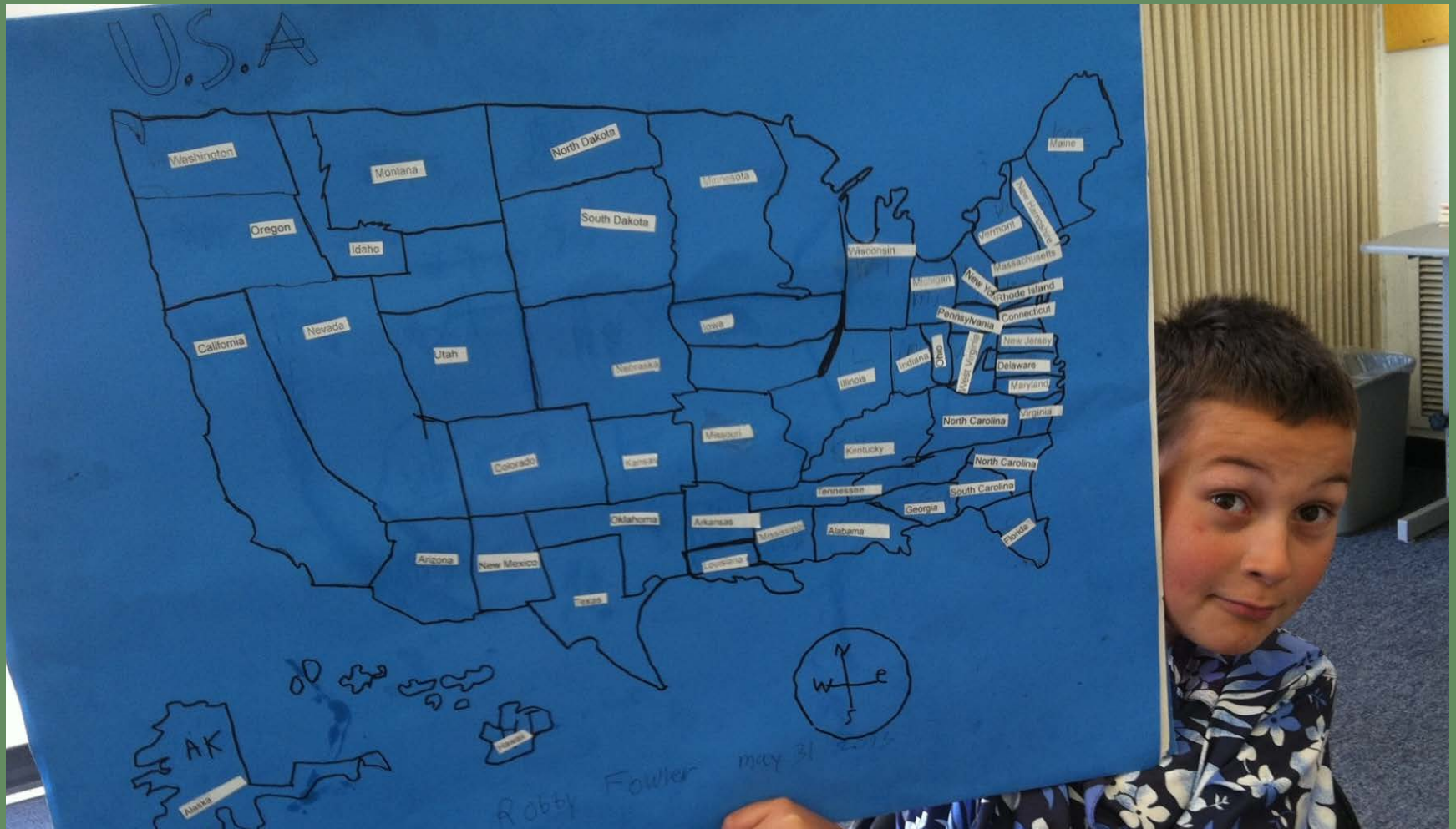


# Personalized Instruction





# OGCS students enjoy hands-on, project based learning



# Why our Students Excel

- ▣ Nurturing peer and teacher relationships
- ▣ Fewer distractions
- ▣ Hands-on, project based learning
- ▣ Recognition of successes
- ▣ Family engagement
- ▣ Technology
- ▣ Strong visual/ performing arts
- ▣ UC A-G approved

The results are happy, well-adjusted students

