

Los Angeles County Office of Education
Staff Report on
Academia Avance Charter School

Report to the State Board of Education
September 2, 2015

Background Information

History: School in operation since 2005

- LAUSD Board: Authorized to open in 2005 not renewed in 2010
- LA County Board: Renewal authorized in 2010; subject to specific conditions; not renewed in 2015

Grades and Enrollment: 6-12; 470 students

Location: One main site and two satellite locations in Northeastern Los Angeles (“Highland Park”)

Mission: College preparatory school serving the Highland Park community with the goal of ensuring all students complete a-g requirements, graduate and are equipped to be accepted into college.

Standard of Review

- Meets academic performance criteria *EC 47607(b)*
- Sound educational program 5 *CCR 11967.5.1(b)(3)*
- Demonstrate ability to implement program 5 *CCR 11966.5(c)*
 - Finance and Operations
 - Academics
 - Governance
- Petition contains:
 - Affirmations and assurances *EC 47605(b)(4)* and (d)
 - Reasonably comprehensive description of required elements *EC 47605(b)(5)(A)-(P)*
 - Changes to law since last authorized or renewed

Academic Criteria *EC 47607(b)*

Academia Avance Charter School, Grades 6-12

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 (Prior year)	Met in prior year?	Met in 2 of last 3 years?
Statutory Renewal Threshold -EC 47607(b)					
(1) API growth target met schoolwide <u>and</u> all subgroups?			N/A	N/A	No
API schoolwide growth target met	No	No	N/A	N/A	No
API subgroup growth target met: Hispanic	No	No	N/A	N/A	No
API subgroup growth target met: SED	No	No	N/A	N/A	No
API subgroup growth target met: ELs	No	Yes	N/A	N/A	No
(2) Ranked deciles 4-10?	3	3	N/A	N/A	No
(3) Ranked deciles 4-10 similar schools?	1	1	N/A	N/A	No

Academic Criteria *EC 47607(b)(4)*

(A) The entity that granted the charter determines that the academic performance of the charter school is at least equal to the academic performance of the public schools that the charter school pupils would otherwise have been required to attend, as well as the academic performance of the schools in the school district in which the charter school is located, taking into account the composition of the pupil population that is served at the charter school...

(B) The determination made pursuant to this paragraph shall be based upon all of the following:

- i. Documented and clear and convincing data.*
- ii. Pupil achievement data from assessments, including, but not limited to, the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program...*
- iii. Information submitted by the charter school.*

Did Not Meet

Academic Criteria *EC 47607(b)(4)*

API and AYP Measures	College Readiness Indicators	Additional Considerations
3-Year Weighted Average API*	Graduation Rates*	Middle School CST Proficiency Rates (2012-13)
Growth API (2013)	A-G Completion Rate*	NWEA MAP Assessments (2014-15)*
Statewide Rank (2013)	SAT Participation Rate*	Progress Toward Meeting Measurable Pupil Outcomes
Similar Schools Rank (2013)	SAT Scores: Percent Scoring At/Above 1500	*Measures proposed by Avance.
AYP Proficiency Rates (2013)	CAHSEE Proficiency Rates	
	AP Scores: Percent Scoring 3+	
	Early Assessment Program (EAP): Percent Ready for College	

Academic Criteria *EC 47607(a)(3)(A)*

Avance's 2011-2014 Academic Performance Index (API) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Year	Growth API				State Ranks		AYP
	School-wide	Hispanic or Latino	SED	English Learners	Statewide	Similar Schools	PI Status
2010-11	713	713	711	607	3	1	Year 1
2011-12	711	712	711	578	3	1	Year 2
2012-13	694	694	694	603	3	1	Year 3

"SED"-Socioeconomically Disadvantaged student group

"n/a" CDE did not release rankings for 2013-14.

Source: DataQuest API (School Accountability Report) retrieved 12-29-14.

NWEA MAP Data

- Failed to submit data for 2013-14
- 2014-15 Fall (Oct.) and Winter (Jan.) data was reviewed
- **Schoolwide**
 - Most students scoring 2-3 grade levels behind in all subjects
 - Projected Proficiency reports from NWEA show low levels of proficiency
- **English Learners**
 - < 45% of students showed growth in Language
 - < 52% of students showed growth in Reading
 - < 62% of students showed growth in Math & Science
- **Students with Disabilities**
 - < 65% of students showed growth in Language
 - < 60% of students showed growth in Reading, Math and Science

Measureable Pupil Outcomes (MPOs)

2010-2015 Charter MPOs

- 1 Met
- 4 Partially Met
- 5 Not Met

2014-15 LCAP Update

- 21 Goals Identified in 2014-15 LCAP
 - 17 Reported on LCAP Update
 - 7 Goals Met
 - 6 Goals Not Met
 - 4 Pending Results

Ability to Implement 5 *CCR* 11966.5(c)

Finance and Operations:

■ Unrealistic Financial and Operational Plan

● Budget Plan Deficiencies

- Overstated LCFF State Apportionment by \$441,512 over a 4 year period
- Line of Credit debt of \$738,024 matures in September 2016
- Selling of FY 2015-16 State revenues to close FY 2014-15 operations
- Reserves based upon unverified value of City Terrace LLC assets

● Facilities

- No facilities plan provided for increased enrollment projections

Ability to Implement 5 *CCR* 11966.5(c)

Finance and Operations:

■ Unrealistic Financial and Operational Plan

● Past Performance

- Selling of receivables resulting in high level of fee payments
- Lack of maintaining a reserve
- Failure to fully implement fiscal stabilization plan
- Operated at a deficit for the first four (4) years of current charter term
- Failed to achieve enrollment projections for the past four (4) years

Ability to Implement 5 CCR 11966.5(c)

Finance and Operations:

■ Unrealistic Financial and Operational Plan

- **The school currently has over \$1,411,302 in accrued liabilities, including bills overdue by more than 90 days:**
 - Unpaid items include:
 - Rent for 6 months (January 2015 – June 2015)
 - Teacher and Staff payroll for June 2015
 - Teacher and Staff Benefits, including STRS
 - Line of Credit and interest
 - \$162,594 in past due bills over by more than 90 days.

Staff Findings

- 1) Does not meet academic performance criteria for renewal
- 2) Unsound educational program
- 3) Demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement proposed program
 - Finance and Operations
 - Academics
 - Governance
- 4) Petition does not contain all required affirmations and assurances
- 5) The petition does not provide a reasonably comprehensive description of 10 of 16 required elements