

Celerity Rolas Charter School

Appeal of a Petition to Establish a Charter Previously denied by the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education

Presentation to the State Board of Education

November 3, 2016



Background

Operating Entity: Celerity Educational Group (CEG), 501(c)(3)

- CEG has 7 schools currently in operation in LA County
 - 2 schools (Exa and Sirius) recently closed
 - 2 schools (Dyad and Troika) denied renewal by LAUSD in October 2016

Location Stated in Charter:

- Rolas: Northeast Los Angeles (zip code 90042)

Grades and Enrollment:

- TK-8*; 390 students (Year 1) to 565 (Year 5)

*Discrepancy in charter regarding which grades will be in place year one

Grounds for Denial

Statutory Grounds for Denial under EC 47605(b)

- (1) Presents Unsound Educational Program
- (2) Petitioners Unlikely to Successfully Implement Educational Program**
- (3) Does Not Contain Required Signatures
- (4) Does Not Contain Required Affirmations & Assurances
- (5) Does Not Contain Reasonably Comprehensive Descriptions of All Required Elements**



Findings

EC 47605(b)(2): The petitioners are demonstrably *unlikely* to successfully implement the proposed educational program

- **Indicator 1 - Past History Unsuccessful:**

- CEG-Operated Schools
- Governance & Operational Concerns
- Lack of Transparency

CEG School Data

CAASPP

ELA:

- 6 of 7 *increased* % met or exceeded standards in ELA **Schoolwide**
- 4 of 7 *decreased* % met or exceeded standards in ELA for **ELs**

Math:

- 5 of 7 *increased* % met or exceeded standards in math **Schoolwide**
- 2 of 7 *decreased* % met or exceeded standards in math for **ELs**

Significant Achievement gaps exist for students with disabilities and English Learners in both ELA & Math



CEG School Data (Continued)

Suspension Rates

- From 2012-13 through 2014-15, Celerity Sirius had a higher suspension rate than each of its resident schools
- In 2013-14 and 2014-15, 4 of 6 CEG schools within LAUSD had higher suspension rates than the district rate

Enrollment

- In 2015-16, all but one CEG school was under-enrolled
- Significant rates of student attrition

Findings

EC 47605(b)(2): (Continued)

- Indicator 1 - Past History Unsuccessful: (Continued)

- Financial History of CEG

- Lack of Adequate Controls
- Intercompany Borrowing
- Annual Audits
 - Transfer of Assets
 - Lack of Disclosure
- Fiscal Solvency



Findings

EC 47605(b)(2): (Continued)

- Indicator 2 - Unfamiliar with Petition or Requirements of Law:
 - Suspension and Expulsion Procedures
 - Appropriate Use and Approval of Federal Title I Funds
- Indicator 3 - Unrealistic Financial and Operational Plan:
 - Budget Plan Deficiencies
- Indicator 4 - Lacks Necessary Background:
 - Finance/Business management

Findings

EC 47605(b)(5): Does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all required elements.

Not Reasonably Comprehensive	Reasonably Comprehensive with Specific Deficiencies
(1) Description of Educational Program (4) Governance Structure (5) Employee Qualifications (7) Means to Achieve a Reflective Racial and Ethnic Balance	(2) Measurable Pupil Outcomes (3) Method for Measuring Pupil Progress (6) Health and Safety Procedures (8) Admission Requirements (9) Annual Financial Audits (10) Suspension and Expulsion Procedures (14) Dispute Resolution Procedures (15) Closure Procedures
Reasonably Comprehensive	
(11) Retirement Coverage (12) Public School Attendance Alternatives (13) Post-Employment Rights of Employees	

Summary

- District and County Board findings are grounded in *EC 47605(b)*. Many reinforced in CDE Report.
- CEG has a demonstrated history of lacking transparency and cooperation with authorizing agency
- Lack of Disclosure and Fiscal Controls
- Unclear Governance Structure with Possible Conflicts of Interest