California Department of Education

Charter Schools Division

Created 03/2024

lacb-csd-apr24item02

Attachment 7

# Nonclassroom-Based Funding Determination Request

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

This document presents the determination of funding request for Da Vinci Connect (charter #1597). Information from the school has been exported from the web-based Funding Determination Form at [Nonclassroom-Based Determination of Funding - Charter Schools (CA Dept of Education)](https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ch/nclrbifunddet.asp#form).

Responses from the school have been provided, as is, and have not been edited by the California Department of Education for capitalization, punctuation, or spelling.

## Da Vinci Connect Determination of Funding Request 2023–24

### Section 1. General Information

Charter School Information

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Charter School Name | Da Vinci Connect |
| Charter School Authorizer | Wiseburn Unified |
| Charter School Number | 1597 |
| County District School (CDS) Code | 19-76869-0128728 |
| Street Address | 12501 Isis Ave. |
| City | Hawthorne |
| County | Los Angeles |
| ZIP Code | 90250 |
| Grade Levels Served | TK, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 |
| Date Charter Expires | 6/30/2026 |
| Contact First Name | Michael |
| Contact Last Name | Amato |
| Contact Title | Chief Financial Officer |
| Contact Phone Number | 310-725-5800 |
| Contact Email Address | mamato@davincischools.org |

Funding Determination Request Information

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Is this a reconsideration request? | No, this is not a reconsideration request. |
| Requested Funding Level | 100% |
| Beginning Period Requested | FY 2024–25 |
| Number of Years Requested | 5 |
| Source Data | FY 2022–23 Audit |
| If the source data used was “Other”, provide a description. | [No Response] |

### Section 2. Financial Information

#### A. Total Resources

Revenues and Other Resources

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Federal Revenues[[1]](#footnote-1) | $1,283,478 |
| Public Charter School Grant Program Funds (separately identified) | $0 |
| State Revenues[[2]](#footnote-2) | $10,366,457 |
| In-Lieu of Property Taxes (separately identified) | $2,471,249 |
| Local Revenues | $106,934 |
| Other Financing Sources | $0 |
| **Total Revenues** | **$11,756,869** |

**If Other Financing Sources were reported, provide a description:**

[No Response]

#### B. Total Expenditures and Other Uses

Instruction and Related Services

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Certificated Salaries and Benefits for Instruction and Related Services | $4,954,820 |
| Classified Salaries and Benefits | $786,706 |
| Books, Supplies, and Equipment | $785,627 |
| Services and Other Operating Costs: Contracts for Instructional Services | $0 |
| Services and Other Operating Costs: Contracts for Instructional Support | $1,283,826 |
| Services and Other Operating Costs: All Other Instruction Related Operating Costs | $275,225 |
| **Total Instruction and Related Services** | **$8,086,204** |

Operations and Facilities

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Certificated Salaries and Benefits | $0 |
| Classified Salaries and Benefits | $374,566 |
| Books, Supplies, and Equipment | $0 |
| Services and Other Operating Costs | $1,539,736 |
| Facilities Acquisition and Construction | $0 |
| **Total Operations and Facilities** | **$1,914,302** |

Allowable Facilities Costs

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Total facility square footage occupied by the charter school | 27100 |
| Enter total classroom-based P-2 ADA reported in the prior fiscal year. Do not include nonclassroom-based ADA. | 0 |
| Enter total student hours attended by nonclassroom-based pupils at the school site in the prior fiscal year. | 940212 |
| Calculated Facilities Costs | $1,083,194 |
| **Allowable Facilities Costs** | **$1,083,194** |

Administration and All Other Activities

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Certificated Salaries and Benefits | $127,603 |
| Classified Salaries and Benefits | $0 |
| Books, Supplies, and Equipment | $7,972 |
| Contracts for Other Administrative Services | $0 |
| Supervisorial Oversight Fee | $87,356 |
| All Other Administration and Other Activities, Services, and Operating Costs | $240,337 |
| **Total Administration and Other Activities** | **$463,268** |

Other Outgo and Other Financing Uses

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Debt Services | $0 |
| Transfers to Local Educational Agencies | $0 |
| All Other Transfers and Outgo | $0 |
| **Total Other Outgoing and Other Financing Uses** | **$0** |

**Describe the nature of the transaction(s) for Transfers to Local Educational Agencies and identify the accounts or entities involved in the transfer(s).**

[No Response]

**Describe the nature of the transaction(s) for All Other Transfers and Outgo and identify the accounts or entities involved in the transfer(s).**

[No Response]

#### C. Fund Balance

Total Expenditures and Fund Balance

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Total Expenditures | $10,463,774 |
| Revenues Over Expenditures | $1,293,095 |
| Beginning Fund Balance | $1,314,406 |
| **Ending Fund Balance – June 30** | **$2,607,501** |

#### D. Reserves

Reserves

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Designated for Economic Uncertainties | $1,519,014 |
| Facilities Acquisition or Capital Projects | $0 |
| Reserves Required by Charter Authorizer | $313,913 |
| Other Reserves | $774,574 |
| Unassigned/Unappropriated Fund Balance | $0 |
| **Total Reserves** | **$2,607,501** |

Reserves as a Percentage of Total Expenditures

| **Reserves** | **Percentage of Total Expenditures** |
| --- | --- |
| Designated for Economic Uncertainties | 14.52% |
| Facilities Acquisition or Capital Projects | 0.00% |

**Explanation for reserves designated for economic uncertainties if these reserves exceed the greater of $50,000 or 5 percent of total expenditures:**

Please note that the statewide average for districts' total reserves are 21% (High School district average) to 25% (Elementary School district average), as per School Services of California (March 2023). We therefore believe Da Vinci Connect's reserve amount is fiscally conservative and appropriate, and could be considered to be too modest versus these statewide averages.

**Explanation of Other Reserves:**

This is the total amount of our Employee Retention Credit (ERC) award (please see exemption request for background). We have designated this amount as a separate reserve until the IRS audit window on this award has passed. We believe this approach to be the properly fiscally conservative approach to this award.

**Explanation for reserves designated for facilities acquisition or capital projects if these reserves exceed the greater of $50,000 or 5 percent of total expenditures:**

[No Response]

**Explanation of school’s unassigned/unappropriated fund balance and details regarding the school’s plans for these funds: *(Optional)***

[No Response]

### Section 3. Pupil-Teacher Ratio

Pupil-Teacher Ratio

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| FY 2022–23 Average Daily Attendance for independent study pupils | 774.42 |
| FY 2022–22 Full-Time Equivalent certificated employees responsible for independent study | 37.5 |
| Among the unified school districts in the county or counties in which the charter school operates, do any districts report a PTR greater than 25 to 1? | [No Response] |
| Provide the name of the unified school district that reports a PTR greater than 25 to 1. | [No Response] |
| Enter the PTR for the district above. | [No Response] to 1 |

### Section 4. Funding Determination Calculations

Calculated Percentages

| **Criteria** | **Funding Determination Calculations** |
| --- | --- |
| Percentage Spent on Instructional Certificated Salaries and Benefits to Total Public Revenues | 42.53% |
| Percentage Spent on Instruction and Related Services and Allowable Facility Costs | 77.99% |
| 2022–23 Pupil-Teacher Ratio | 20.65 to 1 |
| Pupil-Teacher Ratio of Largest Unified School District in the County or Counties in which the Charter School Operates | [No Response] to 1 |

### Section 5. Supplemental Information

#### A. Virtual Charter Schools

Virtual Charter Schools

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Is this charter school a virtual or on-line charter school as defined in 5 *CCR* Section 11963.5? | No |
| If yes, can the charter school demonstrate compliance with 5 *CCR* sections 11963.5(b)(2) to (8)? | [No Response] |

#### B. Entity and Contract Information

Entity and Contract Information

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Did any entity receive or will receive $50,000 or more or 10% or more of total expenditures from the school in FY 2022–23 or FY 2023–24? | Yes |
| Number of reportable entities | 14 |

##### List of Reported Entities

Reported Entity 1

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Entity | Wiseburn Unified |
| Amount | $147,906 |
| Purpose/Explanation | Supervisorial oversight fee, facility rent, insurance |
| Are contracts based on specific services rendered? | No |
| If no, are payments based on amount per ADA or some other percentage? | Yes |

Reported Entity 2

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Entity | Charter School Management Corporation |
| Amount | $74,412 |
| Purpose/Explanation | Business Back Office and compliance tasks assistance |
| Are contracts based on specific services rendered? | Yes |
| If no, are payments based on amount per ADA or some other percentage? | [No Response] |

Reported Entity 3

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Entity | Da Vinci Schools |
| Amount | $1,024,253 |
| Purpose/Explanation | Centralized support for instructional and administrative costs |
| Are contracts based on specific services rendered? | Yes |
| If no, are payments based on amount per ADA or some other percentage? | [No Response] |

Reported Entity 4

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Entity | Brightford, LLC |
| Amount | $831,160 |
| Purpose/Explanation | Facility Rent |
| Are contracts based on specific services rendered? | Yes |
| If no, are payments based on amount per ADA or some other percentage? | [No Response] |

Reported Entity 5

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Entity | Chartwells Dining Services |
| Amount | $93,090 |
| Purpose/Explanation | Food Services |
| Are contracts based on specific services rendered? | Yes |
| If no, are payments based on amount per ADA or some other percentage? | [No Response] |

Reported Entity 6

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Entity | Omni Building Services |
| Amount | $339,565 |
| Purpose/Explanation | Facility Construction Services |
| Are contracts based on specific services rendered? | Yes |
| If no, are payments based on amount per ADA or some other percentage? | [No Response] |

Reported Entity 7

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Entity | Southern New Hampshire University |
| Amount | $288,711 |
| Purpose/Explanation | College Dual Enrollment Courses |
| Are contracts based on specific services rendered? | Yes |
| If no, are payments based on amount per ADA or some other percentage? | [No Response] |

Reported Entity 8

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Entity | ASI Networks, Inc. |
| Amount | $112,718 |
| Purpose/Explanation | IT Services |
| Are contracts based on specific services rendered? | Yes |
| If no, are payments based on amount per ADA or some other percentage? | [No Response] |

Reported Entity 9

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Entity | CharterLife |
| Amount | $508,159 |
| Purpose/Explanation | Health benefits |
| Are contracts based on specific services rendered? | Yes |
| If no, are payments based on amount per ADA or some other percentage? | [No Response] |

Reported Entity 10

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Entity | CharterSafe |
| Amount | $129,567 |
| Purpose/Explanation | Organization Insurance |
| Are contracts based on specific services rendered? | Yes |
| If no, are payments based on amount per ADA or some other percentage? | [No Response] |

Reported Entity 11

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Entity | GovConnection, Inc |
| Amount | $128,933 |
| Purpose/Explanation | IT Services |
| Are contracts based on specific services rendered? | Yes |
| If no, are payments based on amount per ADA or some other percentage? | [No Response] |

Reported Entity 12

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Entity | Amazon |
| Amount | $68,068 |
| Purpose/Explanation | Supplies |
| Are contracts based on specific services rendered? | No |
| If no, are payments based on amount per ADA or some other percentage? | No |

Reported Entity 13

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Entity | Balian Architects, Inc |
| Amount | $75,842 |
| Purpose/Explanation | Facility Construction |
| Are contracts based on specific services rendered? | Yes |
| If no, are payments based on amount per ADA or some other percentage? | [No Response] |

Reported Entity 14

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Entity | Siva & Associates |
| Amount | $57,809 |
| Purpose/Explanation | Special Education Consultants |
| Are contracts based on specific services rendered? | Yes |
| If no, are payments based on amount per ADA or some other percentage? | [No Response] |

#### C. Current Governing Board Information

##### List of Board Members

Board Member 1

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| First Name of Board Member | Brian |
| Last Name of Board Member | Meath |
| Title of Board Member | Board Treasurer |
| Board Member Type | Community |
| How was this member selected? | Application, interview, nomination, and majority vote |
| Is this board member affiliated in any way with any of the reportable entities listed in the Entity and Contract Information section? | No |
| If so, explain the nature of the affiliation. | [No Response] |
| Board Member Term (MM/YYYY to MM/YYYY) | 06/2022 to 06/2025 |

Board Member 2

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| First Name of Board Member | Derrick |
| Last Name of Board Member | Boston |
| Title of Board Member | Member |
| Board Member Type | Community |
| How was this member selected? | Application, interview, nomination, and majority vote |
| Is this board member affiliated in any way with any of the reportable entities listed in the Entity and Contract Information section? | No |
| If so, explain the nature of the affiliation. | [No Response] |
| Board Member Term (MM/YYYY to MM/YYYY) | 09/2023 to 09/2026 |

Board Member 3

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| First Name of Board Member | Raynaldo |
| Last Name of Board Member | Santiago, Jr. |
| Title of Board Member | Vice President |
| Board Member Type | Community |
| How was this member selected? | Application, interview, nomination, and majority vote |
| Is this board member affiliated in any way with any of the reportable entities listed in the Entity and Contract Information section? | No |
| If so, explain the nature of the affiliation. | [No Response] |
| Board Member Term (MM/YYYY to MM/YYYY) | 02/2021 to 02/2024 |

Board Member 4

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| First Name of Board Member | Raul |
| Last Name of Board Member | Ochoa |
| Title of Board Member | Board Secretary |
| Board Member Type | Community |
| How was this member selected? | Application, interview, nomination, and majority vote |
| Is this board member affiliated in any way with any of the reportable entities listed in the Entity and Contract Information section? | No |
| If so, explain the nature of the affiliation. | [No Response] |
| Board Member Term (MM/YYYY to MM/YYYY) | 01/2021 to 01/2024 |

Board Member 5

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| First Name of Board Member | Jo |
| Last Name of Board Member | Webber |
| Title of Board Member | Board President |
| Board Member Type | Community |
| How was this member selected? | Application, interview, nomination, and majority vote |
| Is this board member affiliated in any way with any of the reportable entities listed in the Entity and Contract Information section? | No |
| If so, explain the nature of the affiliation. | [No Response] |
| Board Member Term (MM/YYYY to MM/YYYY) | 07/2021 to 07/2024 |

Board Member 6

| **Prompt** | **Charter School’s Response** |
| --- | --- |
| First Name of Board Member | Leslie |
| Last Name of Board Member | Starr |
| Title of Board Member | Trustee |
| Board Member Type | Community |
| How was this member selected? | Application, interview, nomination, and majority vote |
| Is this board member affiliated in any way with any of the reportable entities listed in the Entity and Contract Information section? | No |
| If so, explain the nature of the affiliation. | [No Response] |
| Board Member Term (MM/YYYY to MM/YYYY) | 07/2022 to 06/2025 |

### Section 6. Mitigating Circumstances

**Explain why the charter school did not meet the criteria for the funding level requested. Include specific measures or actions taken by the charter school to comply. List and explain the mitigating circumstances to be considered by the CDE and ACCS.**

During the 22-23 fiscal year, Da Vinci Connect applied for the Employee Retention Credit (ERC), a federal pandemic relief program. In January 2023, so well after effectively all personnel and almost all major purchasing decisions had been made for the 22-23 fiscal year, Da Vinci Connect was informed that it had been awarded one portion of the requested ERC, for $327,645.

In June 2023, so in the very last moments of the fiscal year, Da Vinci Connect was awarded an additional ERC credit of $446,929. This was accrued to Accounts Receivable in June 2023, and the Cash was not received until the following Fiscal Year in July 2023.

These ERC credits were not guaranteed, nor was their timing, so we could not responsibly plan to spend such funds before they were secured. But we agreed with our auditors that they must be included in our 22-23 results since the award date fell in that fiscal year despite knowing the awards' effects on this funding determination. We are therefore asking for an exemption to, in the very least, not include the June 2023 ERC credit in our 22-23 funding determination. Excluding even just the June 2023 ERC award of $446,929 yields a "Percentage of Revenue spent on Instruction and Facilities" of 81.07%.

Excluding both the January and June ERC one-time credits yields an 83.49% ratio. We very much appreciate your consideration of excluding this last-minute award from our funding determination.

### Section 7. Additional Information

**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.**

[No Response]

### Section 8. Certification

**1) The information provided is true and correct to the best of my ability and knowledge.**

**2) This charter school's nonclassoom-based instruction is conducted for and substantially dedicated to the instructional benefit of the school's students.**

**3) This charter school's governing board has adopted and implemented conflict of interest policies.**

**4) All of the charter school's transactions, contracts, and agreements are in the best interest of the school and reflect a reasonable market rate for all goods, services, and considerations rendered for or supplied to the school.**

**Enter your name below which will serve as a signature and certify agreement with all of the above terms.**

Michael Amato

**Indicate whether the certification is from the charter school's director, principal, or governing chairperson:**

Director

1. Includes Public Charter Schools Grant Program funds, if applicable [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Includes In-Lieu of Property Taxes, if applicable [↑](#footnote-ref-2)