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Response from Academia Avance Charter



A Life Preparatory
Charter Public School in Highland
Park

April 4, 2018

Main Campus (G9-12)
115 N Avenue 53
Highland Park, CA

Boys & Girls Site (G6-8)
2635 N Pasadena Av
Los Angeles, CA

Lisa F. Constancio, Director
Charter Schools Division
California Department of Education
1430 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 42095
Los Angeles, CA 90042

Delivered via email to sbeoversight@cde.ca.gov

Re: Narrative for Academia Avance for the Academic Memo to the State
Board of Education meeting of June 2018

Telephone
323-230-7270
Fax
213-652-0994
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info@AcademiaAvance.org
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www.AcademiaAvance.org

Dear Ms. Constancio:

Please find attached a narrative of the following:

1. outline of the Avance 2017 Dashboard results, identifying the areas of progress and need
2. summary of the Measurable Pupil Outcomes from the Avance Charter Element B
3. summary of the Methods for Measuring Pupil Outcomes from the Avance Element C

Executive Director
Ricardo Mireles

Co-Principals
Angelica Gil
Heber Marquez

Feel free to contact me should additional information be need. We look forward to continuing the oversight partnership through the end of our charter.

Avance Executive Board

President
Guillermo Gutierrez

Secretary/Treasurer
Francisco N. Flores

Directors
Carolyn Harris
Jose Varela
Ellen Haserot
Miguel Angel Juarez

Sincerely,

Ricardo Mireles, Executive Director

cc:
Judie Hall, Education Administrator, CDE Charter Schools Division
Matthew Huddleston, Education Programs Consultant, CDE
Guillermo Gutierrez, President, Avance Executive Board
Angelica Gil, Avance grades 9-12 Principal
St. Claire Adriaan, Avance grades 6-8 Principal



Narrative for Academia Avance for the Academic Memo to the State Board of Education meeting of June 2018

Outline of the Avance 2017 Dashboard results

The Fall 2017 Dashboard report provides a snapshot regarding the State's indicators school's progress. Currently, Academia Avance's highlights are the school's graduation rate and English Language reclassification. Avance met the reclassification rate due to the fact that English Plus was provided as an additional support for EL students the past 2 years. This year, Avance was able to implement English Language Development courses in addition to the regular English class. Our graduation rates are high and continue to be consistent due to the Life Preparatory program and the A-G course curriculum Academia Avance follows. In addition, all 9th grade and new incoming students are expected to participate in a high school summer bridge week course. This summer bridge program allows Avance to set the tone and expose students to the high school expectations they are about to endure.

The areas of growth fall under our Math and English SBAC scores as well as Suspension rates. For the 2017-18 school year, Avance implemented all comprehensive interim assessments in the 6th-8th and 11th grade cohorts. Interim blocks are utilized by the ELA and Math department as pre and post exams for content units. Identified teachers were asked to have interim assessments embedded within the semester pacing guides. For suspension, Academia Avance continues to work with students and families holistically to help students emotionally.

We have moved from punitive punishment to a Restorative Justice approach in discipline. Circling up and allowing student voice, helps repair harm and is crucial in decreasing the suspension rate at our school. It also helps improve culture and relationships within the school. We also put an intensive Improvement Plan in place to increase the academic outcomes of our Special Education population.

The 2017 SBAC and Dashboard outcomes informed development of the academic plan for 2017-18. Based on the areas of strength and growth, Academia Avance implemented the following to ensure we continued to maintain stability in our graduation and EL reclassification.

- Expansion of the ELD curriculum and courses in the middle and high school via the use of the CollegeSpring ELD curriculum.
- Addition of a "Math+" class for all 6th and 7th graders who scored a 1 or 2 on SBAC during previous year
- Freedom Writers Class for 8th Graders and EL students to provide an extra ELA class
- After-School Tutoring: Middle School - Every Tuesday and Thursday, Ms. Nunez and Ms. Ramirez tutors 6-8 grade students in all subject between 3.30 - 5.00
- SAT Prep for all juniors.

- Escalera life skills course offered to 9th grade cohort to begin college and career readiness rather than begin at the 10th grade.
- Comprehensive and block assessments administered within the year. Block assessments are embedded within the 11th grade ELA and Math pacing guides.
- SBAC exams will be administered in mid May to allow more instructional time and preparedness.
- After 1st comprehensive interim assessment, the 11th grade ELA and Math instructors set a goal of increasing 5% in “Exceeded and Met” and decrease 5% in “Nearly Met and Did not Meet.” Please see results below for interim #1 and #2.
- School Psychologist was hired to help support students emotionally. Avance's Dean of Students work closely with the school psychologist to assess student needs when a discipline arises.

Academia Avance involved all stakeholders in the LCAP process during the 2016-17 school year and to prepare for the 2017-18 LCAP goals. The following are the actions towards the goal of Avance stakeholder, ie. faculty, parents, students, staff, etc., involvement in setting 2017-2018 LCAP goals:

- District Professional Development Meetings: Once a month, Faculty and Staff join to identify and discuss the actions Avance has made toward meeting the LCAP goals.
- Academia Avance Executive Board (AEB) Meetings: Board Members are presented by school leaders with an update on the actions and progress made toward each goals.
- Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and Parent Forum Meetings: Monthly basis, parent leaders as well as the general parent forum are updated on the progress of our LCAP goals.
- Avance Student Body (ASB): Through the ASB Leader, students are updated on the LCAP goals and the progress of them.
- Stakeholders Retreat: 2 Stakeholder retreats are conducted throughout the year. At these retreats all stakeholders are present. LCAP goals, needs, metrics and actions are presented and discussed (dates October 3rd, 2016 and February 17th, 2017).
- Professional Development Meetings: Faculty and Staff have met 3 times to review 2016-2017 LCAP year and also review new 2017-2018 LCAP goals, needs, metrics and actions (May 17th, May 24th, June 7th and June 12th of 2017).
- Avance continues to inform all stakeholders of the 2017-18 LCAP progress through:
 - Academia Avance Executive Board (AEB) Meetings: Board Members are presented by school leaders with an update on the actions and progress made toward each goals.
 - Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and Parent Forum Meetings: Monthly basis, parent leaders as well as the general parent forum are updated on the progress of our LCAP goals.
 - Avance Student Body (ASB): Through the ASB Leader, students are updated on the LCAP goals and the progress of them.
 - School Site Council: Members are presented with a progress and update on all LCAP goals.
 - Revision of 2017-18 LCAP goals and development of 2018-19 LCAP will begin in April 2018.

Summary of the Measurable Pupil Outcomes from the Avance Charter Element B

There are nine measurable pupil outcomes identified in the current charter for Academia Avance (Version 20160412 with CDE Technical Amendments). These are presented in the table below, with an update for the current academic year.

Charter 2015-2020 Element B Measurable Pupil Outcomes	Specific Measure	Update for 2017-2018
1	At least 90% of the graduating Seniors who have been enrolled at Avance since the 9th grade, will, at graduation, have successfully met all the UC/CSU A-G requirements for application.	Starting with the 10th grade Avance Life Prep class, students use an A-G score card to track their A-G readiness. Class of 2017 A-G readiness was 72%. It should be noted that 87% of the Class of 2017 was accepted to a 4 year institution.
2	At least 75% of all 10th grade students who have been enrolled at Avance since the 6th grade, will pass both parts of the California High School Exit Exam, with 95% of all Seniors passing both parts.	No CA exit exam exists, but Avance has added an SAT course to help prepare students for the SAT exam and college and career readiness. For the Class of 2017, 95% of the Seniors took the SAT exam.
3	Increase the combined number of students in grades 7 to 11 attaining the "Proficient" performance level in English Language arts and Math by 10%, or meet the CDE established Annual Measurable Outcomes in these subjects.	Academia Avance's current SBAC scores for 2017 are 28% met or exceeded standards in ELA and 16% met or exceeded standards in Math.
4	The Avance rate of reclassification of English Learner will be at least 15%.	Avance met this goal as 22% of our EL population was reclassified in 2016-17.
5	Achieve the annual API growth target and AYP each year.	Not Applicable
6	Achieve a minimum schoolwide API score of 800 by 2014.	Not Applicable
7	Achieve a CDE calculated graduation rate of at least 90% by 2014.	Data Quest reported a 95% graduation rate for class of 2016.
8	Retention rate of students will be equal to or greater than resident schools: Franklin HS, and Burbank Middle School.	Retention rate for Avance students from 2015-2016 to 2016-2017 was 90%. Retention data for resident school not available for 2016-2017.
9	Renew WASC accredited by 2020.	Academia Avance gained full WASC accreditation on JUL 3 2013. A WASC accreditation site visit committee is scheduled for FEB 2019.

Summary of the Methods for Measuring Pupil Outcomes from the Avance Charter Element C

Element C of the current charter for Academia Avance (Version 20160412 with CDE Technical Amendments) presented the Avance Annual LCAP goals with the actions to achieve the State Priorities as the methods for measuring pupil outcomes. The LCAP for 2014-2015 was presented in the charter. These have been supplanted with five goals and actions for the 2017-2018 LCAP. Progress on these five current LCAP goals is presented in the matrix below as reported to the Avance Executive Board at their meeting of January 20, 2018.

2017-2018 LCAP Progress

Goal	Progress as of quarter #2
<p><i>#1 Increase consistency on classroom instructional practices.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of teachers participated in DOK and SBAC connection to midterms PD. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers identified DOK levels on midterms, provided feedback and suggestions to increase rigor. Teachers generated an SBAC type question for final exam. • 100% of teachers participated in a reflection of Newsela and digital library usage. • 4 classroom walkthroughs conducted first semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating arrangements • Classroom print • Collaborative grouping • Learning objectives • Administration and Instructional Coaches have conducted baseline and follow up evaluations with all teachers in the high school. • Middle School completed all teacher evaluations and follow up meetings are taking place • SFA Coach did observations with principals and coaches - Report is attached • All teachers participated in Professional

	<p>Development regarding SPED and Behavior Intervention Plans and were provided with skills and knowledge to improve their classroom practice dealing with hard to handle students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers participated in PD (OPTIMUS) - Mental Health and students. • 100% of Attendance Binders signed by teachers for Fall 2017 School Year.
<p><i>#2 Accelerate English Language acquisition for our EL subgroup.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avance will conduct 100% of ELPAC assessments in April. ELPAC window open Feb. 1st- May 31st. Specific dates TBA during second semester. • Teacher developed EL Individualized plans for 2 ELD 1 students.
<p><i>#3 Close the achievement gap in reading and mathematics for our low socioeconomic group.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PD- DOK and SBAC connection will be aligned to midterms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers identified DOK levels on midterms, provided feedback and suggestions to increase rigor. Teachers generated an SBAC type question for final exam. • 100% of Juniors took 1st interim assessment with Ms. Curiel Math & Mr. Gallardo ELA Junior teacher- results are pending as performance tasks need to be scored by the actual teachers. • All 6-8 grade students took the MATH and ELA Interim • MAP testing will be administered next week • Semester 1 Report Cards were sent home the first week of school. • 52 students received free pairs of glasses at the Middle School after all students had their eyes tested by "Vision to Learn" • Mobile dentist will be coming on January 22, to

	<p>provide dental care to 30 students at the Middle School</p>
<p><i>#4. Increase graduation, college and career readiness.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of seniors submitted application to UC/CSU by Nov. 31st. • 9 Seniors currently earning a D in British Lit.; expected to attend Saturday tutoring with Mr. Gallardo. • 100% of seniors participated in UWest College visit- Tuesday 12/05/17 • Math/ English department offer tutoring mornings 7am-7:30am • Mr. Gallardo offers Saturday tutoring • 9th grade House leaders, providing tutoring after school 3:45-4:30pm
<p><i>#5. Provide a positive school environment that increases student engagement.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98% of students completed the MS Sexual Health (Avance Building Healthy Relationships) • Began the sexual health curriculum at the HS level on Tuesday 12/05/17. Freshmen and juniors are currently receiving it. • 92/247 or 37% HS students participating in Athletics (as student-athlete or team manager). • The WALL continues to work with 7 and 8th graders on Social Issues