

Charter Renewal Staff Recommendation ASCEND

*OUSD Office of Charter Schools
October 10, 2024*



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students



Charter Renewal Overview

Charter School Renewal Overview

Background

Every 5 years (typically), a Charter School must submit a renewal petition to their authorizer in order to continue operating. The authorizer, the OUSD Board of Education, must evaluate the renewal petition based on criteria outlined in California Education Code and the school's Renewal Tier placement. The Board must vote within 90 days of submission to approve or deny the petition.

COVID-19 Impact on Charter Renewal

Due to the lack of Dashboard data after COVID, the State legislature extended all charters' terms by a total of **three years**. Therefore, all OUSD-authorized charter schools that are up for renewal this fall are currently in **year 8** of their charter term.

Timeline

Day 0

Submission

By Day 60

Initial Public
Hearing

15 Days Before
Decision Hearing

Staff Report
Posted

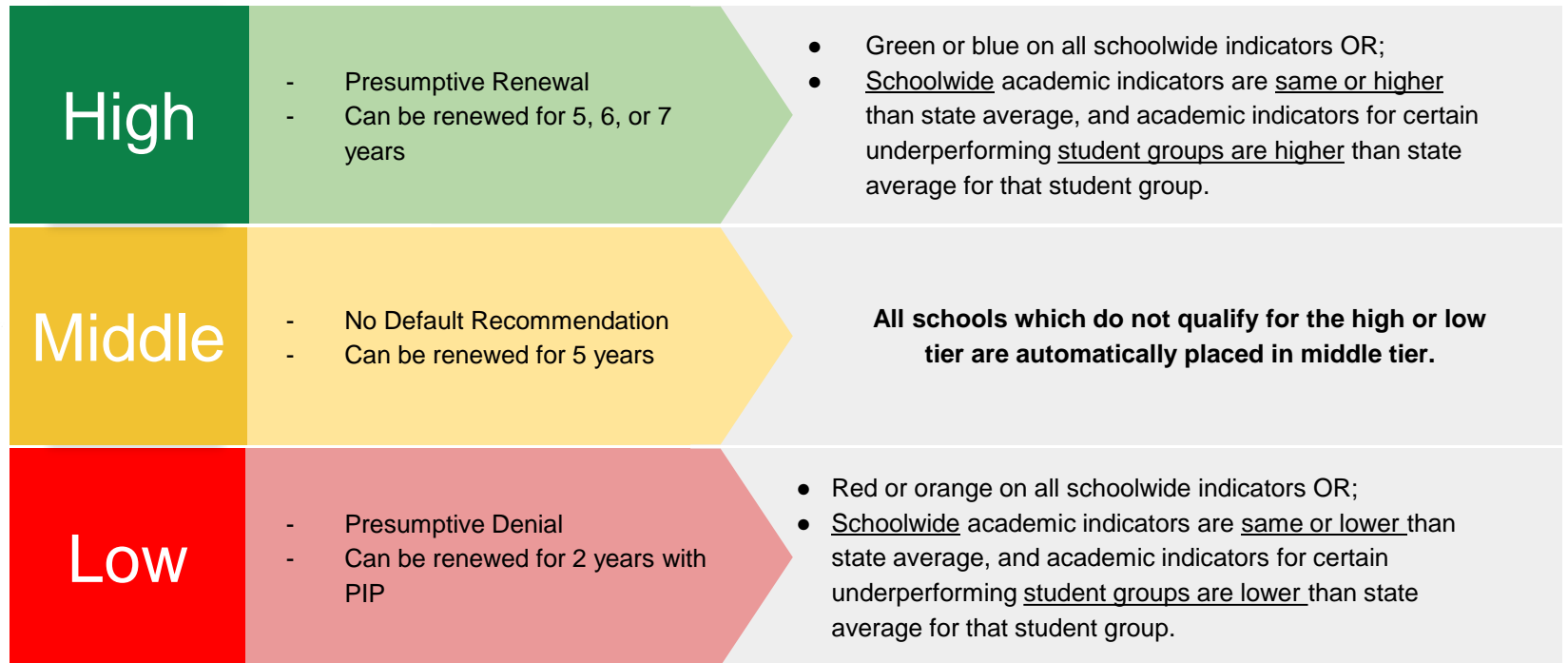
By Day 90

Decision
Hearing

Charter School Renewal Criteria

01	Has the Charter School Presented a Sound Educational Program?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Renewal Tier Placement• State Testing Performance and CORE Growth Data (if applicable)• Graduation Outcomes (if applicable)• Verified Data• Site Visit Information
02	Is the Charter School Demonstrably Likely to Successfully Implement the Proposed Educational Program?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enrollment Information and Demographics• Fiscal Analyses• Notices of Concern• Board Health and Effectiveness• Staffing and Teacher Credentialing
03	Is the Petition Reasonably Comprehensive?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of 15 Required Elements per California Education Code• Analysis of other OUSD required items
04	Is the Charter School Serving All Students Who Wish to Attend?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State-provided Enrollment Data• Substantiated Complaints related to suspension/expulsion if applicable <p>Note: Ed. Code limits consideration to only these data sources</p>

How Does CDE Calculate Renewal Tiers?





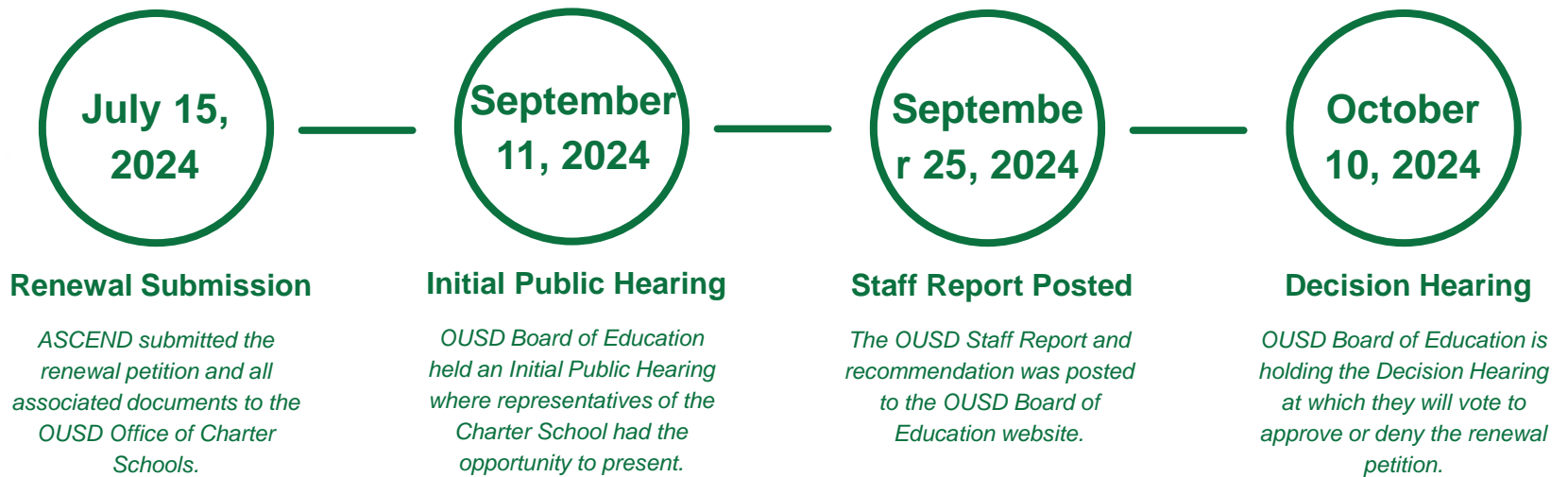
ASCEND

Renewal Analysis and Staff Recommendation

ASCEND Overview

ASCEND			
Charter Management Organization	Education for Change (EFC)	Neighborhood	Fruitvale
Grade Span	TK-8	OUSD Attendance Area	Elem: Global Family Middle: UFSA / UPA / LIFE
<p>ASCEND was placed in the Middle Tier <i>No default recommendation from State; Eligible for 5-year renewal term</i></p>			

ASCEND Renewal Timeline



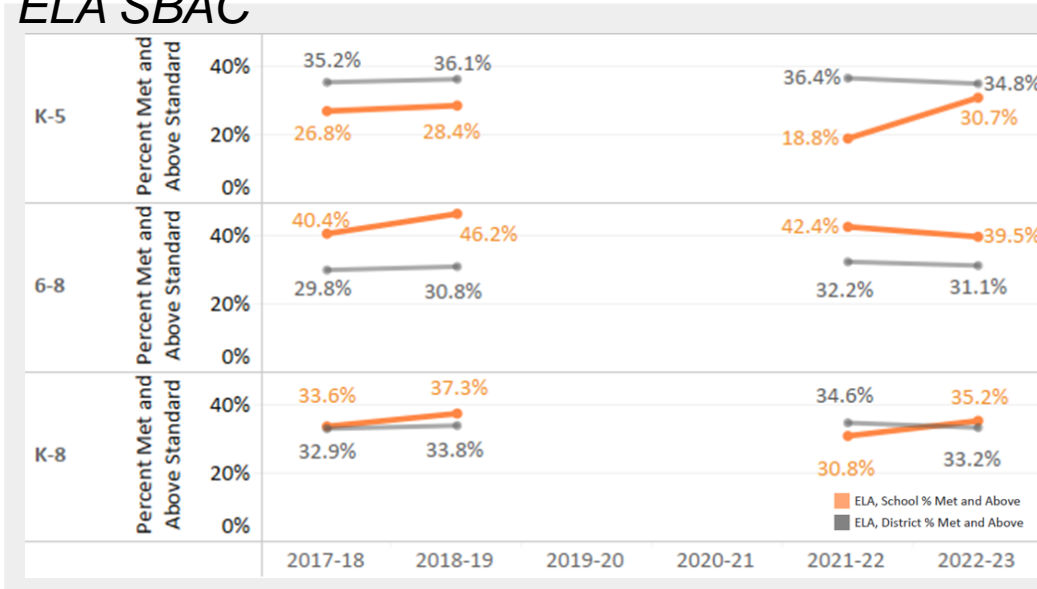
As part of the renewal process, the OUSD Office of Charter Schools conducted a site visit at ASCEND on September 9, 2024 and a charter board interview with members of the EFC governing board on July 17, 2024.

ASCEND CA Dashboard Results

	ELA	Math	EL Progress	Suspension	Chronic Absenteeism
2021-22	Low 40.1 pts below standard	Low 78.6 pts below standard	High 60.1% making progress	High 3.1% suspended	Very High 22% chronically absent
2022-23	Yellow 36.3 pts below standard <i>Increased 3.7 pts</i>	Yellow 69 pts below standard <i>Increased 9.6 pts</i>	Orange 49.8% making progress <i>Decreased 10.3%</i>	Green 2% suspended <i>Declined 1.1%</i>	Red 35.6% chronically absent <i>Increased 13.6%</i>

Criteria I: Has the Charter School Presented a Sound Educational Program?

ELA SBAC



2023 ELA CORE Growth

(Based on 2022 and 2023 ELA SBAC)

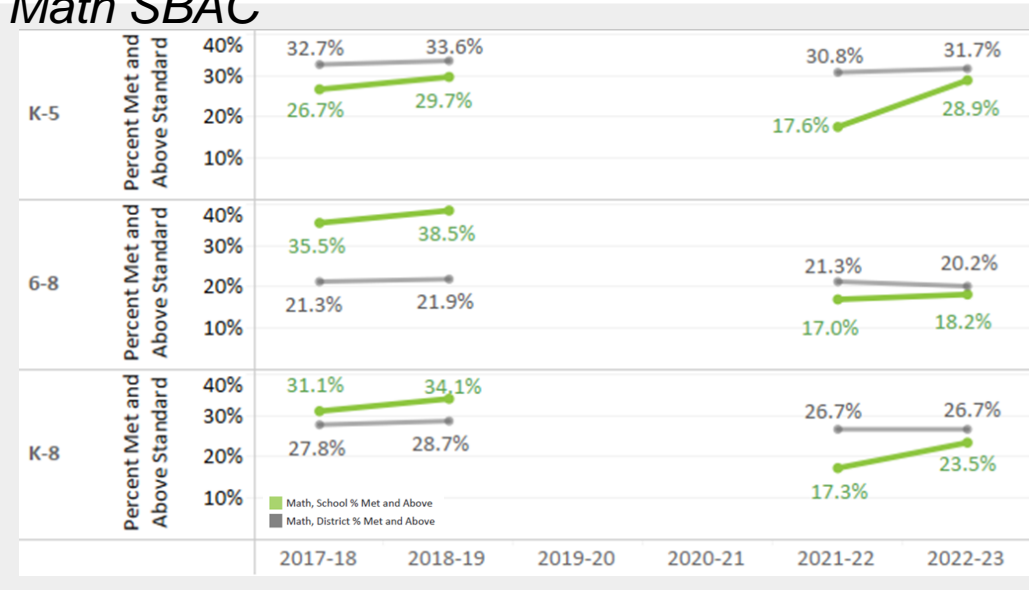
ES: The growth percentile is **91** which represents **above average growth**. Students in this case grew 17 scale score points greater than similar students.

MS: The growth percentile is **95** which represents **above average growth**. Students in this case grew 21 scale score points greater than similar students.

Across grades K-8, the Charter School's proficiency rates are similar to OUSD. However, the middle school proficiency rates are higher than the elementary school's.

Criteria I: Has the Charter School Presented a Sound Educational Program?

Math SBAC



2023 Math CORE Growth (Based on 2022 and 2023 Math SBAC)

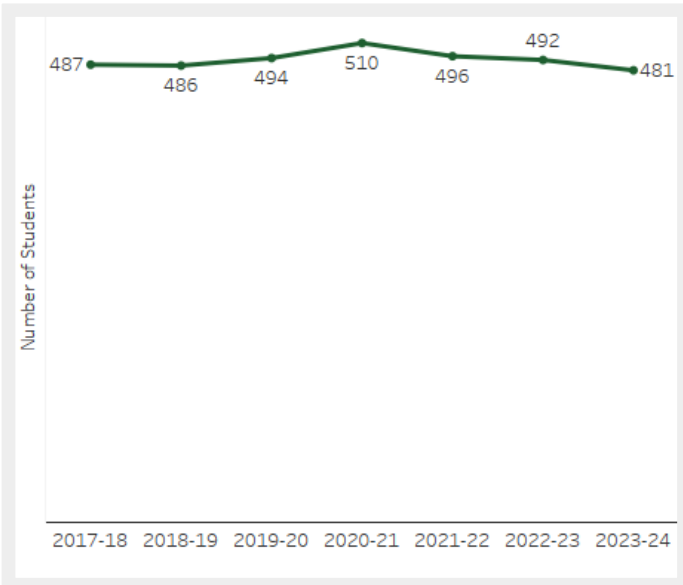
ES: The growth percentile is **97** which represents **above average growth**. Students in this case grew 23 scale score points greater than similar students..

MS: The growth percentile is **89** which represents **above average growth**. Students in this case grew 17 scale score points greater than similar students.

Across grades K-8, the Charter School's proficiency rates are similar to OUSD. Elementary in particular saw high growth in 2022-23.

Criteria II: Is the Charter School Demonstrably Likely to Successfully Implement the Proposed Educational Program?

Total Enrollment



**Enrollment of 484 as of August 29, 2024*

Fiscal Health

Financial Indicator	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Ending Fund Balance	\$1,664,336	\$2,968,615	\$3,095,972
Deficit Spending	\$0	\$0	\$0
3% Reserve	Yes	Yes	Yes
Major Audit Findings	None	None	None

Criteria III: Is the Petition Reasonably Comprehensive?

The charter petition included a reasonably comprehensive description, per State standards, of the 15 required elements outlined in California Education Code.

Criteria IV: Is the Charter School Serving All Students Who Wish to Attend?

There were no substantiated complaints related to noncompliance with suspension, expulsion, or involuntary disenrollment procedures and no evidence in the State-provided enrollment data which suggests the Charter School is not serving all students who wish to attend.

Staff Recommendation Summary

The OUSD Office of Charter Schools recommends APPROVAL

Strengths

- Met all academic indicators in the School Performance Analysis based on the California State Dashboard.
- Substantial post-pandemic growth in both ELA and Math proficiency in grades K-5, with the majority of student groups outperforming the District average for their respective groups.
- Grades 6-8 ELA proficiency has been consistently higher than the District average.
- High CORE growth in both Math and ELA.
- Robust integration of Expeditionary Learning into the curriculum.
- The school has stable enrollment, strong finances and governance, and is well supported by a highly effective CMO.

Challenges

- Grades 6-8 Math proficiency has been below the District average in the most recent two years.
- Students with disabilities performed below the District average for this student group in ELA for all years.
- Did not meet School Performance Analysis for Chronic Absenteeism indicator in either 2021-22 or 2022-23.



Appendix

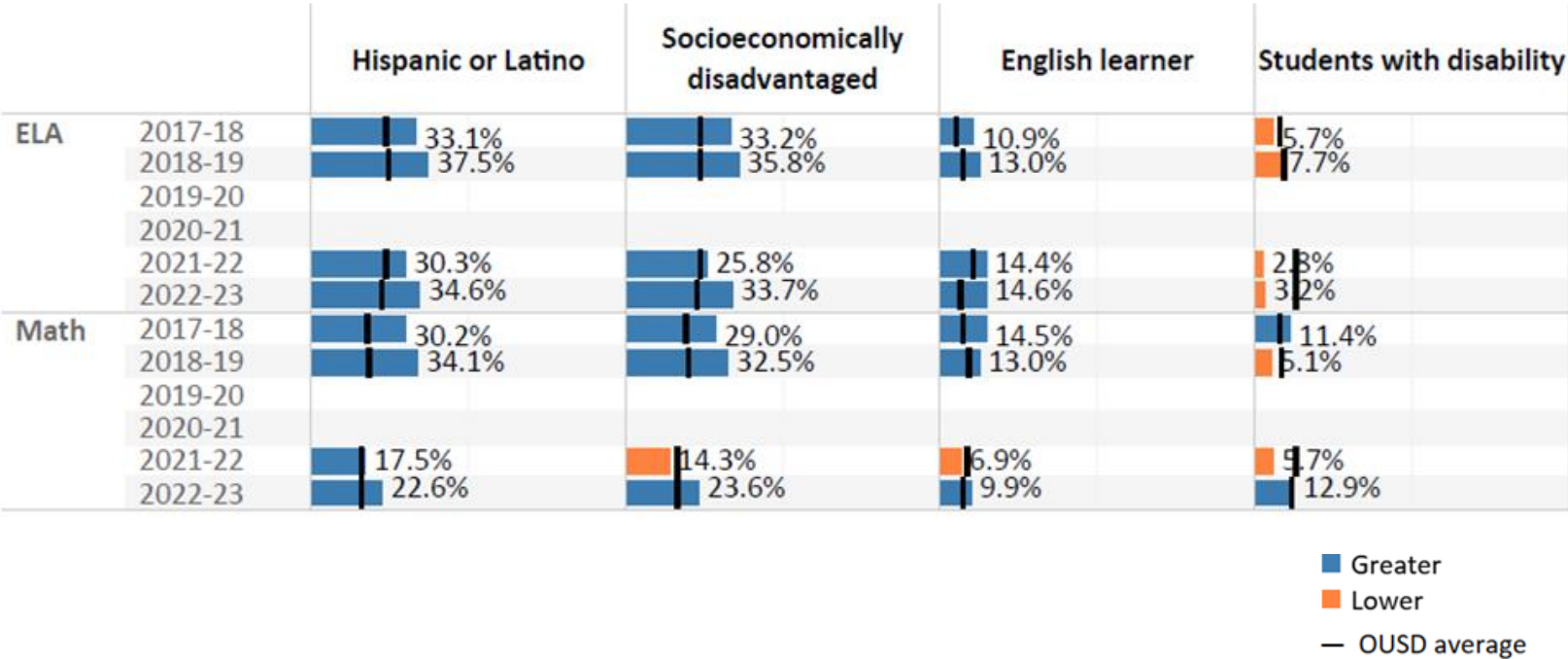
2023-24 Student Demographics

Student Group	Charter School	OUSD schools in Comparison HSA	OUSD
Hispanic/Latino	92.7%	80.5%	47.3%
Black/African American	2.9%	5.7%	20.1%
Asian	2.1%	2.2%	9.8%
White	0.0%	6.0%	11.5%
Two or More Races	1.5%	2.9%	6.8%
Other Race/Ethnicity	0.4%	1.3%	1.9%
Not Reported	0.0%	1.4%	2.6%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	92.7%	88.6%	81.4%
English Learners	60.5%	54.5%	32.9% (TK-8 only: 34.6%)
Special Education	10.8%	13.9%	16.3% (TK-8 only: 15.6%)

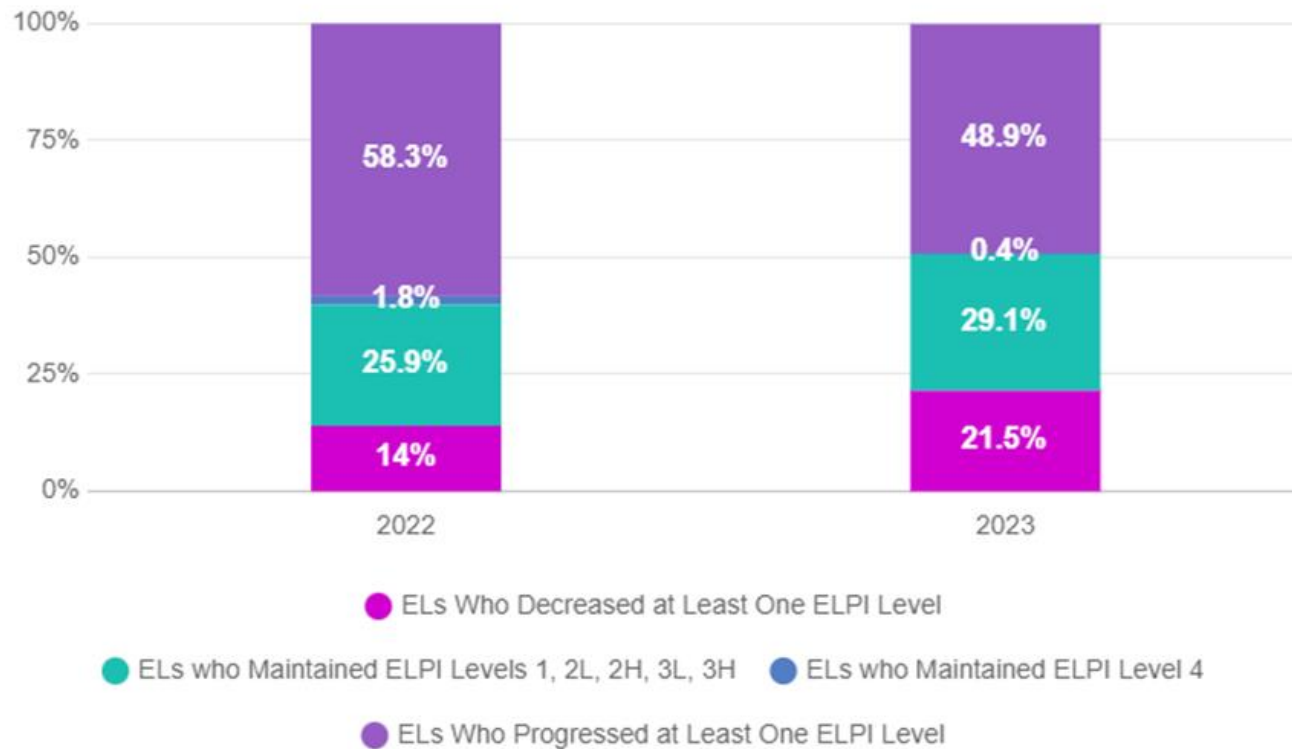
Renewal Tier Analysis - Criterion 2

Indicator	Student Group	2022			2023		
		School Status	State Status	Result	School Status	State Status	Result
ELA	Schoolwide	-40.1	-12.2	Lower	-36.3	-13.6	Lower
	English Learner	-54.7	-61.2	Higher	-54.9	-67.7	Higher
	Hispanic/Latino	-40.6	-38.6	Lower	-37.5	-40.2	Higher
	SED	-43	-41.4	Lower	-39.9	-42.6	Higher
	SWD	-99.5	-97.3	Lower	-93	-96.3	Higher
Math	Schoolwide	-78.6	-51.7	Lower	-69	-49.1	Lower
	English Learner	-89.6	-92	Higher	-79.8	-93.4	Higher
	Hispanic/Latino	-78.3	-83.4	Higher	-69.8	-80.8	Higher
	SED	-76.3	-84	Higher	-71.2	-80.8	Higher
	SWD	-133.8	-130.8	Lower	-122.9	-127.3	Higher
EL Progress		60.1%	50.3%	Higher	49.8%	48.7%	Higher

2022-23 Key Student Group Performance vs. OUSD



English Learner Progress



Verified Data - ELA

ASCEND submitted results from FastBridge by Illuminate as Verified Data. For this data source, a Rate of Improvement (“ROI”) metric between the 25th and 75th percentile is considered as approximating one year’s growth.

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
3rd		69%	65%	88%	77%
4th		87%	94%	90%	78%
5th	77%	64%	65%	67%	63%
6th		80%	78%	94%	91%
7th		89%	60%	62%	60%
8th		87%	79%	88%	91%
	Percent of Students above the 25th percentile	Percent of Students above the 25th percentile	Percent of Students above the 25th percentile	Percent of Students above the 25th percentile	Percent of Students above the 25th percentile

Verified Data - Math

ASCEND also submitted results from NWEA MAP as Verified Data for Math. For this data source, a “Conditional Growth Index” (“CGI”) above -0.2 could be used as an approximation of one year’s growth. The Figure below represents the percentage of students with a CGI above -0.2.

	All	SED	Latino	EL + RFEP4	SWD
2013-2014	47%	51%	46%	46%	61%
2014-2015	65%	65%	64%	64%	67%
2015-2016	53%	53%	52%	52%	48%
2016-2017	81%	80%	80%	80%	69%
2017-2018	80%	79%	81%	79%	75%
2018-2019	54%	52%	54%	52%	36%
2020-2021	50%	49%	50%	51%	55%
2021-2022	54%	56%	55%	54%	31%
2022-2023	73%	72%	72%	73%	73%
2023-2024	85%	85%	86%	82%	63%
	Percent Met Projected Growth	Percent Met Projected Growth	Percent Met Projected Growth	Percent Met Projected Growth	Percent Met Projected Growth

Teacher Credentialing Data

	Charter School	OUSD
Clear <i>Authorized by clear or preliminary credential or by local assignment option</i>	58.1%	60.9%
Intern <i>Authorized by intern credential</i>	9.3%	3.9%
Out-of-Field <i>Authorized by GELAP, SELAP, short-term waiver, emergency EL permit, or Local Assignment Option</i>	4.7%	1.2%
Ineffective <i>No legal authorization or authorized by emergency credential (PIP, STSP), variable term waivers, or substitute permits</i>	23.3%	31.6%
Incomplete <i>Missing or incorrect information was reported to CALPADS about the assignment</i>	4.7%	2.3%

CDE Enrollment Data - Data Set 1

Data Set 1	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2022-23
Percent of students enrolled at the charter school between start of the school year and census day who were not enrolled at the end of the school year	2.81% (14 of 499)	1.63% (8 of 492)	4.87% (25 of 513)	2.20% (11 of 500)
Number of these students with State test results from the prior year	4	4	9	5
Average Distance From Standard (DFS) on the English State test from the prior year these students compared to school average	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*
Average Distance From Standard (DFS) on the Math State test from the prior year these students	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*

CDE Enrollment Data - Data Set 2

Data Set 2	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2022-23
Percent of students enrolled at the charter school during the prior school year who were not enrolled as of the census day for the specified year (excluding graduating students)	5.87% (28 of 477)	5.61% (28 of 499)	5.49% (27 of 492)	9.00% (46 of 511)
Number of these students with State test results from the prior year	13	ELA: 11 Math: 10	15	20
Average Distance From Standard (DFS) on the English State test from the prior year these students compared to school average	-14.58 Unretained = -52.08 School = -37.5	-7.55 Unretained = -45.45 School = -37.90	3.73 Unretained = -25.47 School = -29.20	6.00 Unretained = -34.10 School = -40.10
Average Distance From Standard (DFS) on the Math State test from the prior year these students	-17.25 Unretained = -66.15 School = -48.90	N/A*	-9.00 Unretained = -49.00 School = -40.00	-6.50 Unretained = -85.10 School = -78.60