



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Charter Renewal Recommendation: Alternatives in Action (AIA)

OUSD Office of Charter Schools



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Presented to the OUSD Board of Education

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www.ousd.org



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Background on Alternatives in Action

- Authorized by Alameda Unified since opening in Alameda in 2001.
- Relocated to Oakland in 2014.
- Qualifies for the Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) program, and therefore was not assigned a renewal tier. OUSD's four renewal standards still apply.
- AIA requested permission from OUSD to continue operating in Oakland while being authorized by AUSD in July, 2020. This request was denied.
- AIA submitted a renewal request to OUSD in October, 2020. The school must be considered by OUSD as a renewing school, not a new school.



OUSD Charter Renewal Standards

OUSD Charter Renewal Standard	Key Evidence Considered by OUSD Staff
I. The school is academically sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Dashboard indicators• Key student group performance comparisons• School Quality Review site visit
II: The school is demonstrably likely to be able to implement the proposed program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finances• Enrollment trends and demographics• Notices of Concern• Board health/effectiveness
III: The school's plans for a future charter term are "reasonably comprehensive"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required charter petition elements/information
IV: The school is serving all students who wish to attend	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State-provided enrollment data• Any substantiated complaints related to suspension/expulsion violations <p>(NOTE: Ed Code limits consideration to only these data sources.)</p>



Office of Charter Schools
Recommendation for
Alternatives in Action:
Deny

Renewal Standard I – Academically Sound: **Not Met**

Renewal Standard II – Likely to Implement Proposed
Program: **Not Met**

Renewal Standard III – Plans are “Reasonably
Comprehensive”: **Met**

Renewal Standard IV – Serving All Students Who
Wish to Attend: **Met**



Strengths and Challenges

Strengths

Increasing graduation rates schoolwide and for all student groups and high percentage of graduates meeting A-G requirements in all years of the charter term.

Students are highly involved in guiding the charter school's program development.

Challenges

With the exception of the graduation rate indicator, all State Dashboard indicators were either Red/Orange or Low/Very Low, in the two most recent years

Low and declining State test proficiency rates over the course of the charter term and proficiency rates for all student groups are below OUSD comparison group in the most recent year.

Low or very low college/career readiness for all three years of the charter term and low college-going rates in the most recent year for which data is available.

The School Quality Review found low academic expectations and rigor and lack of student engagement.

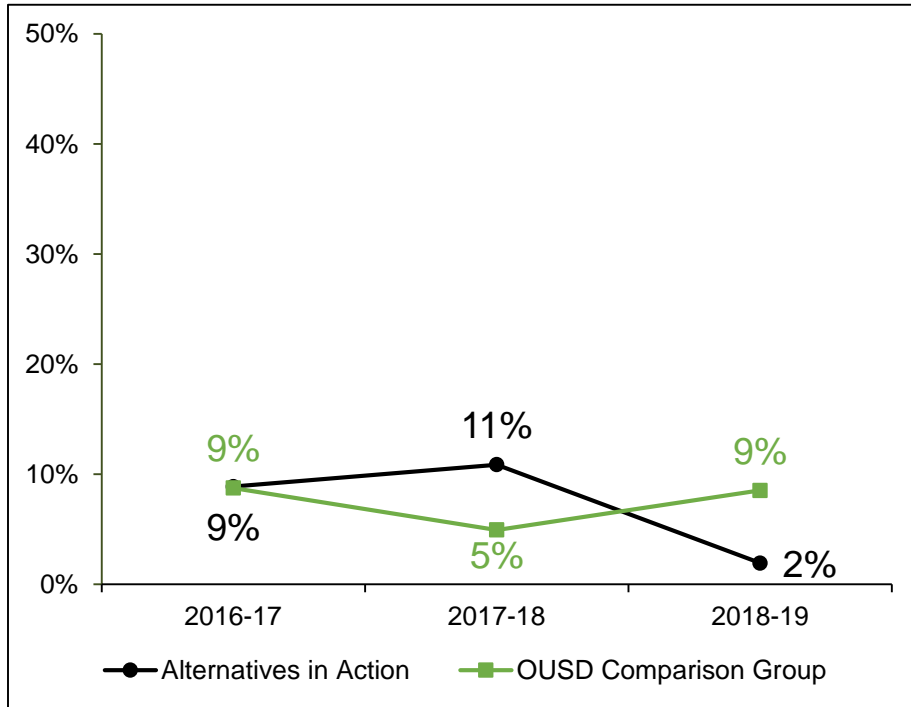
Substantial concerns about ability of AIA's board to meet its governance obligations. The charter school's corrective action plan did not fully resolve these concerns.



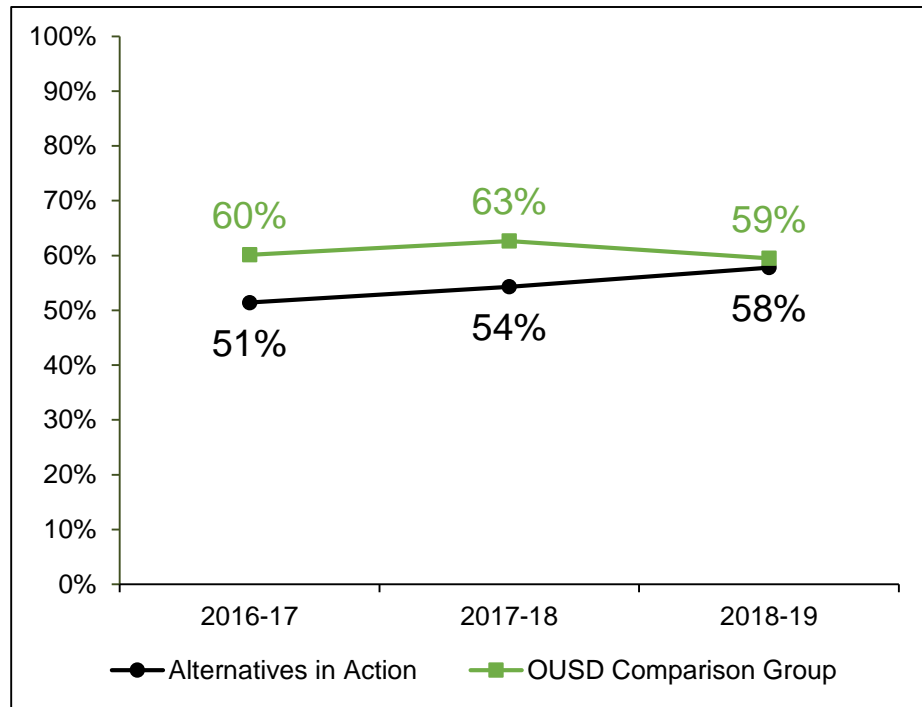
Key Student Group Comparisons

Economically Disadvantaged Students

State Test Proficiency



4 Year Cohort Graduation Rate

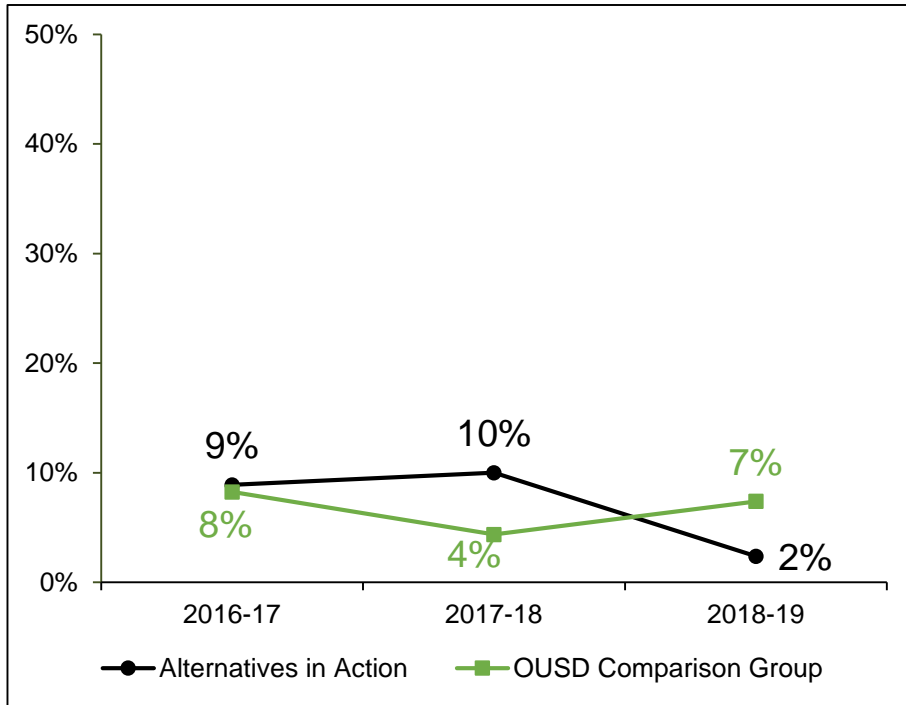




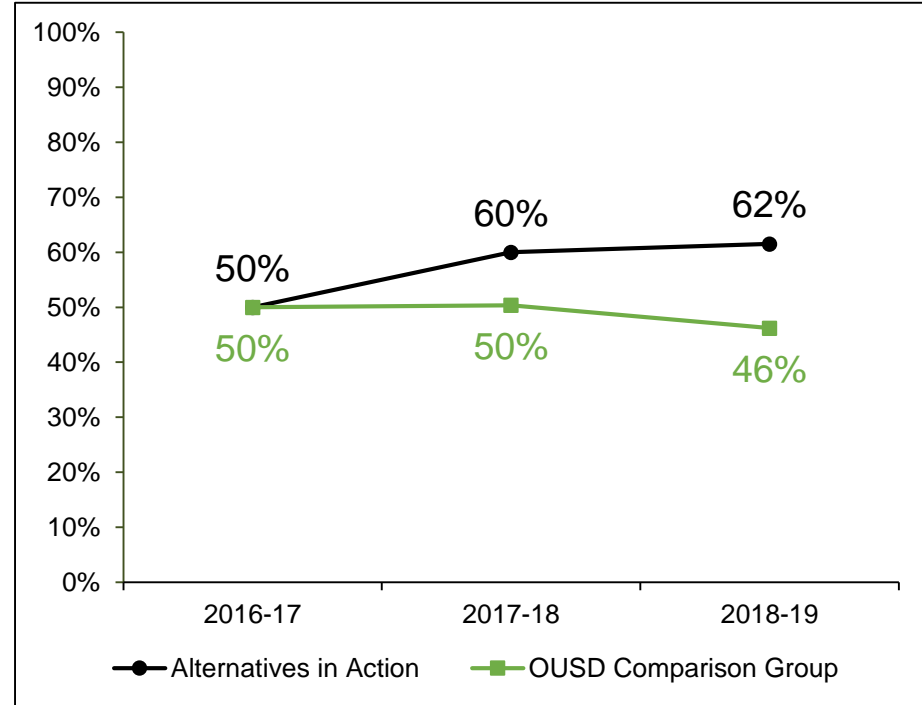
Key Student Group Comparisons, Cont'd

Economically Disadvantaged Hispanic/Latinx Students

State Test Proficiency



4 Year Cohort Graduation Rate*



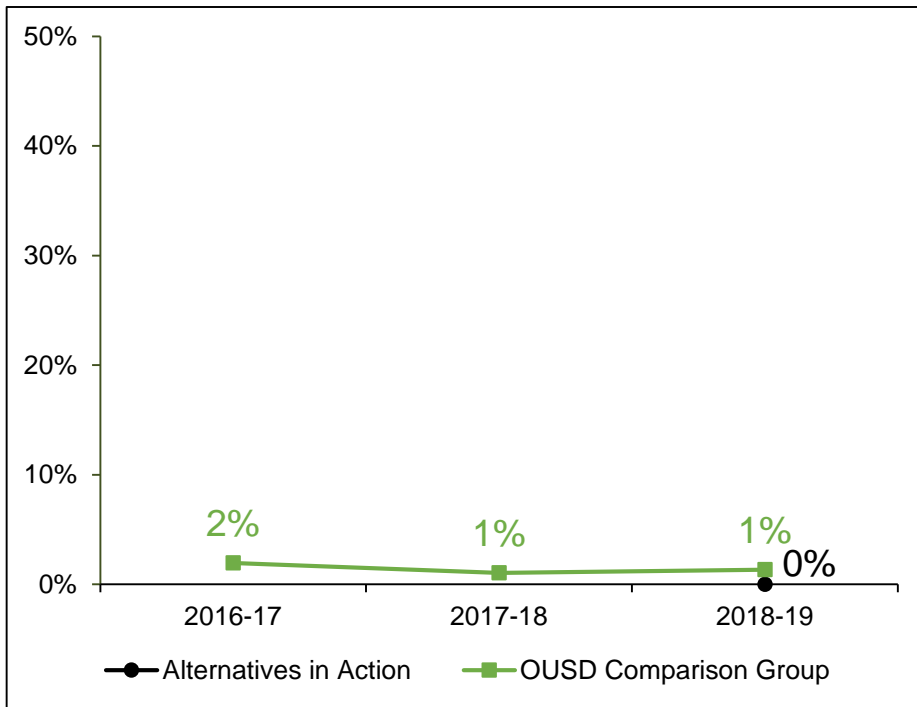
*4 year cohort graduation rate includes all Hispanic/Latinx students at AIA



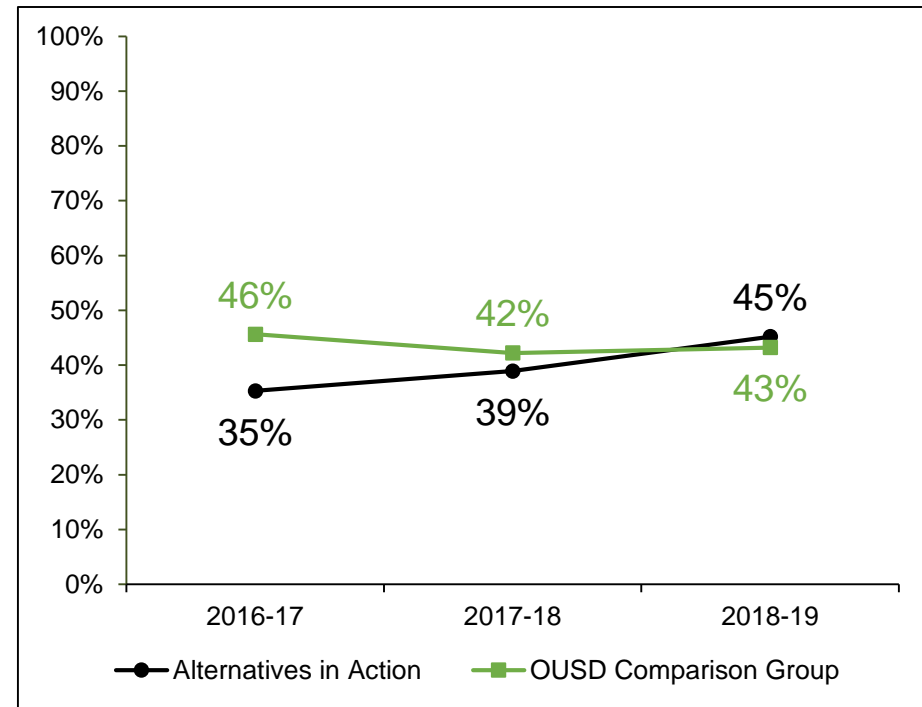
Key Student Group Comparisons, Cont'd

English Learner Students

State Test Proficiency

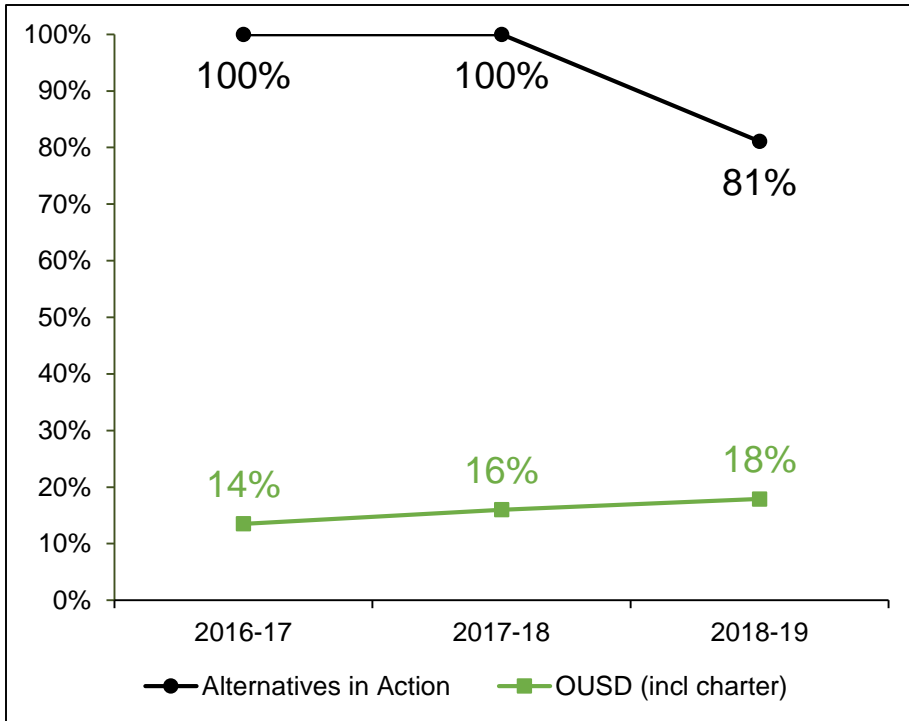


4 Year Cohort Graduation Rate

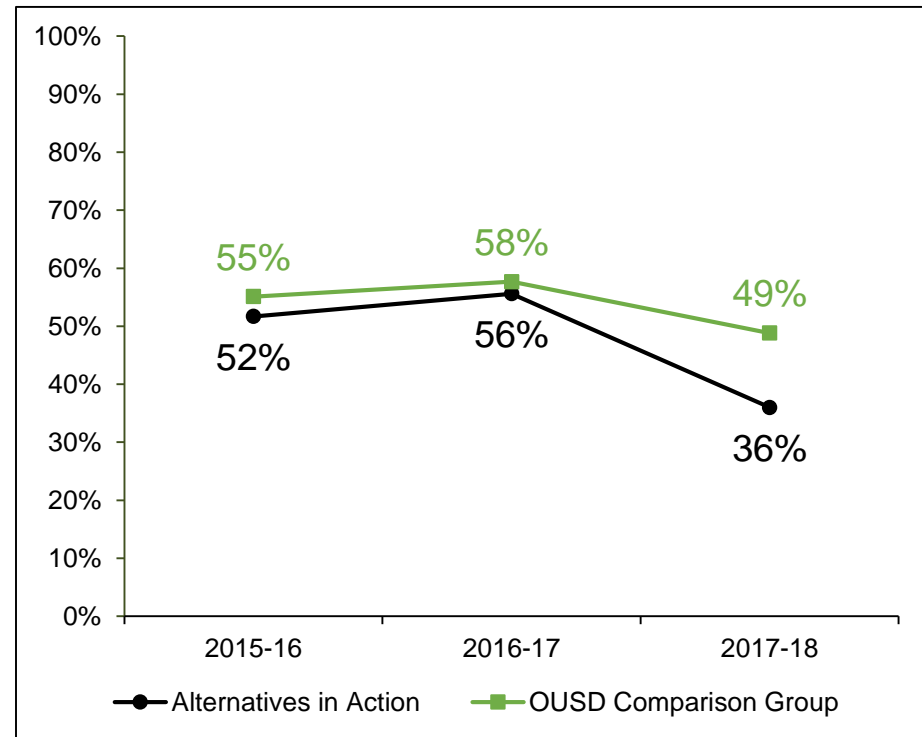


College Readiness

Percent of Graduates Meeting A-G Requirements



College-Going Rates



Fiscal/Governance Concerns: Background

Any charter school renewal may be denied for substantial fiscal or governance concerns. The authorizer must give the school 30 days' notice of alleged violation(s) and a reasonable opportunity to cure the violation, including a corrective action plan proposed by the school.

The Board may only deny after making at least one of the following written findings:

- The corrective action proposed by the charter school has been unsuccessful.*
- The violations are sufficiently severe and pervasive as to render a corrective action plan unviable.*

OCS issued AIA a 30-day notice about governance practices and financial controls on 10/21/20. The notice highlights three concerns:

1. The majority of current AIA board members oversaw the school when concerns about financial mismanagement were raised.
2. AIA leader was not aware of the investigation into financial mismanagement.
3. AIA failed to respond to several notices issued by OUSD regarding theft of OUSD property.

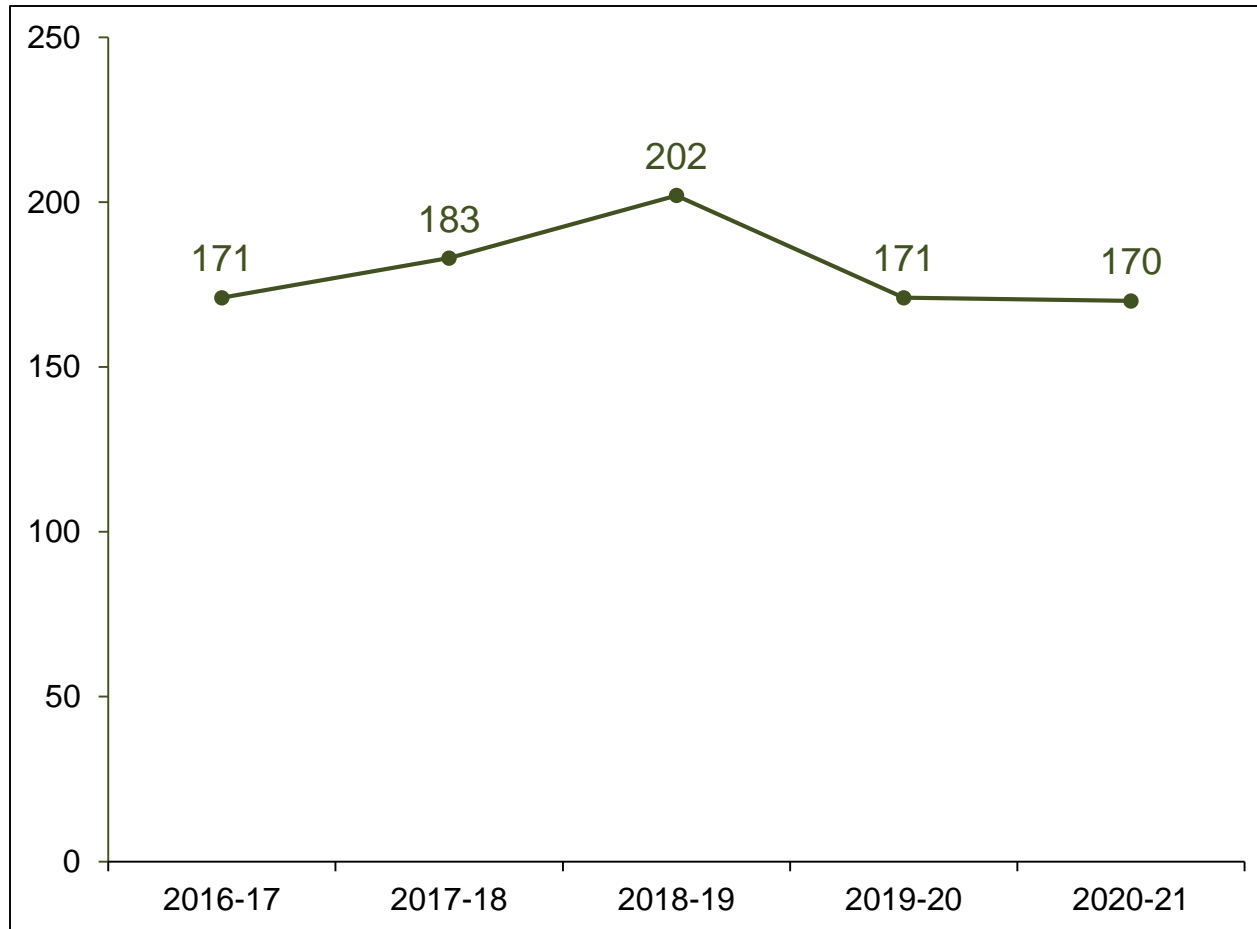
Fiscal/Governance Concerns: Staff Recommendation

AIA's response and corrective action plan was received on 11/13/20. District staff determined that the corrective action plan did not effectively resolve all of the concerns identified in the 30-day notice.

The correct action plan failed to offer an adequate transition plan to ensure the majority of current board members were not on the board during the period when a lack of oversight occurred.

Office of Charter Schools recommends denial for Alternatives in Action, based on governance concerns

Enrollment Over Time





Demographics in 2019-20

Student Group	Charter School	OUSD (including charter schools)
Hispanic/Latinx	92%	47%
Black/African American	5%	22%
Asian	0%	12%
White	1%	10%
Two or More Races	1%	4%
Other Race/Ethnicity	1%	2%
Not Reported	0%	2%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	96%	73%
English Learners	57%	31% (9-12 only: 24%)
Special Education	7%	13% (excluding charter schools: 14%)

Questions/Discussion
