Charter Renewal Staff Recommendation

Learning Without Limits

OUSD Office of Charter Schools
September 23, 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?	• 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?	• Enrollment Information and Demographics • Fiscal Analyses • Notices of Concern • Board Health and Effectiveness • Staffing and Teacher Credentialing
03	Is the Petition Reasonably Comprehensive?	• 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?	• State-provided Enrollment Data • Substantiated Complaints related to suspension/expulsion if applicable ***Note**: Ed. Code limits consideration to only these data sources*

How Does CDE Calculate Renewal Tiers?

High	- **Presumptive Renewal** - **Can be renewed for 5, 6, or 7 years**	● Green or blue on all schoolwide indicators OR; ● Schoolwide academic indicators are same or higher than state average, and academic indicators for certain underperforming student groups are higher than state average for that student group.
Middle	- **No Default Recommendation** - **Can be renewed for 5 years**	**All schools which do not qualify for the high or low tier are automatically placed in middle tier.**
Low	- **Presumptive Denial** - **Can be renewed for 2 years with PIP**	● Red or orange on all schoolwide indicators OR; ● Schoolwide academic indicators are same or lower than state average, and academic indicators for certain underperforming student groups are lower than state average for that student group.

Learning Without Limits Renewal Analysis and Staff Recommendation

Learning Without Limits Overview

Learning Without Limits			
Charter Management Organization	Education for Change	**Neighborhood**	Jefferson
Grade Span	TK-5	**OUSD Attendance Area**	Global Family
OUSD Board District	District 5	**Current Enrollment**	330

Learning Without Limits was placed in the Middle Tier

No default recommendation from State; Eligible for 5-year renewal term

Learning Without Limits Renewal Timeline

July 1, 2024

Renewal Submission

Learning Without Limits submitted the renewal petition and all associated documents to the OUSD Office of Charter Schools.

August 28, 2024

Initial Public Hearing

OUSD Board of Education held an Initial Public Hearing where representatives of the Charter School had the opportunity to present.

September 6, 2024

Staff Report Posted

The OUSD Staff Report and recommendation was posted to the OUSD Board of Education website.

September 23, 2024

Decision Hearing

OUSD Board of Education is holding the Decision Hearing at which they will vote to approve or deny the renewal petition.

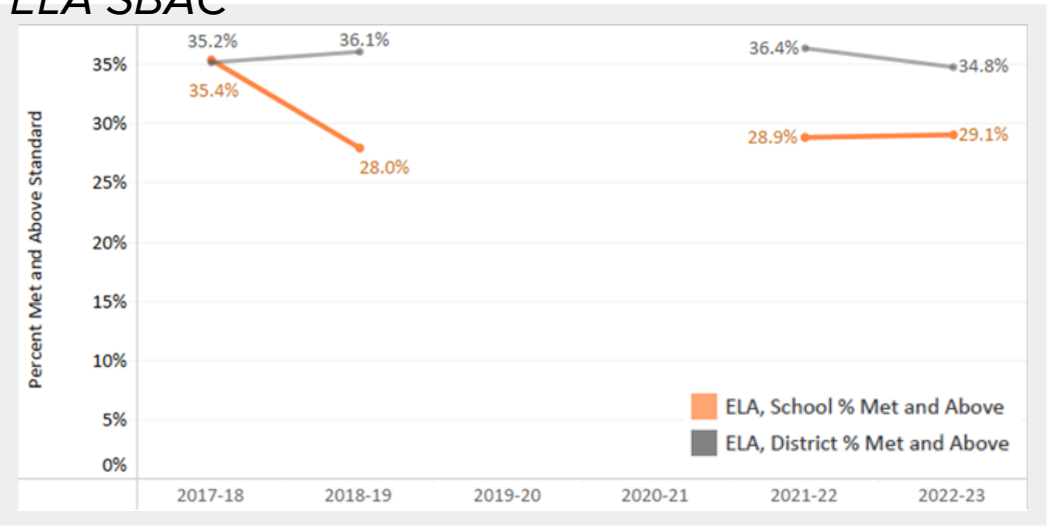
As part of the renewal process, the OUSD Office of Charter Schools conducted a site visit at LWL on August 26 and a charter board interview with members of the Education for Change governing board on July 17, 2024.

Learning Without Limits CA Dashboard Results

	ELA	Math	EL Progress	Suspension	Chronic Absenteeism
2021-22	**Low** 63.7 pts below standard	**Low** 79.2 pts below standard	**Low** 41.7% making progress	**High** 5% suspended	**Very High** 49.2% chronically absent
2022-23	**Yellow** 51.9 pts below standard *Increased 11.8 pts*	**Yellow** 68.1 pts below standard *Increased 11.2 pts*	**Green** 52.3% making progress *Increased 10.5%*	**Blue** 0% suspended *Declined 5%*	**Yellow** 38.5% chronically absent *Declined 10.7%*

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

ELA SBAC



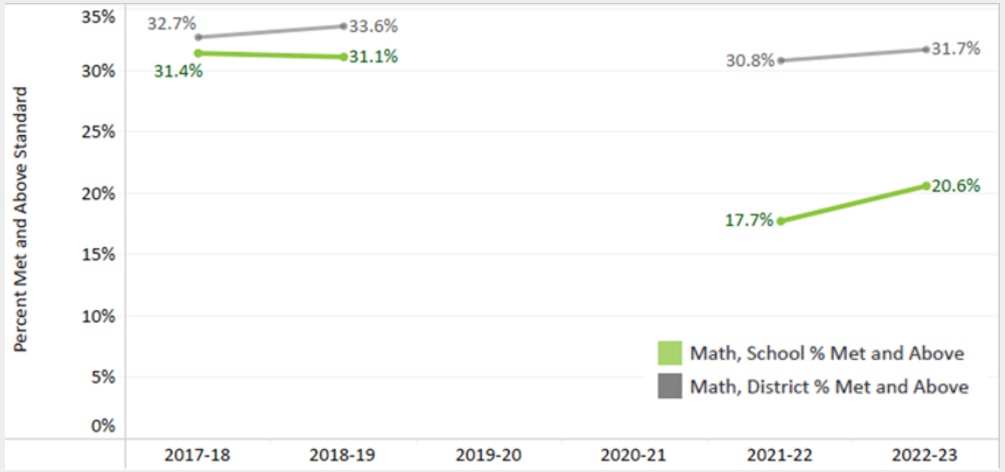
2023 ELA CORE Growth
(Based on 2022 and 2023 ELA SBAC)

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

While the Charter School has consistently had a proficiency rate below the District average, they are in the 91st percentile for growth according to CORE.

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

Math SBAC



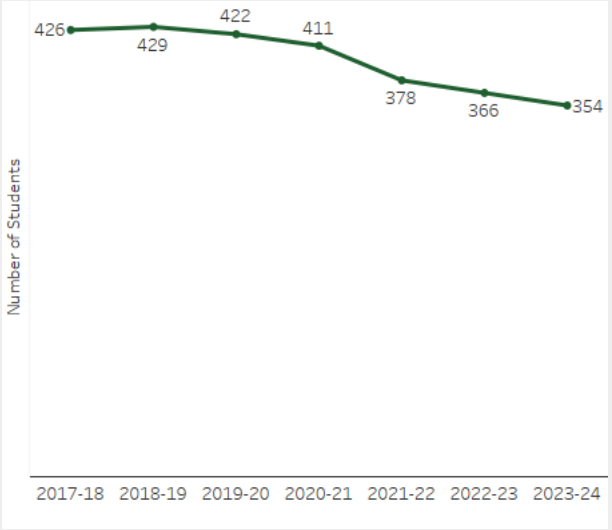
2023 Math CORE Growth
(Based on 2022 and 2023 Math SBAC)

*The growth percentile is **90** which represents **above average growth**. Students in this case grew 15 scale score points greater than similar students.*

While the Charter School has consistently had a proficiency rate below the District average, they are in the 90th percentile for growth according to CORE.

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

Total Enrollment



Fiscal Health

Financial Indicator	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Ending Fund Balance	$1,162,166	$1,596,829	$2,976,167
Deficit Spending	$0	$0	$0
3% Reserve	Yes	Yes	Yes
Major Audit Findings	No	No	No

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	Challenges
● The school showed post-pandemic growth in SBAC Math proficiency both schoolwide and for most subgroups. ● Post-pandemic CORE growth was high for both Math and ELA. ● Although the school has experienced declining enrollment, the school remains sustainably sized, has strong finances and governance, and is well-supported by a robust and effective charter management organization.	● Schoolwide proficiency in Math and ELA have remained below the District average in post-pandemic years. ● Students with disabilities have underperformed relative to the District in both Math and ELA in the most recent two years.

Appendix

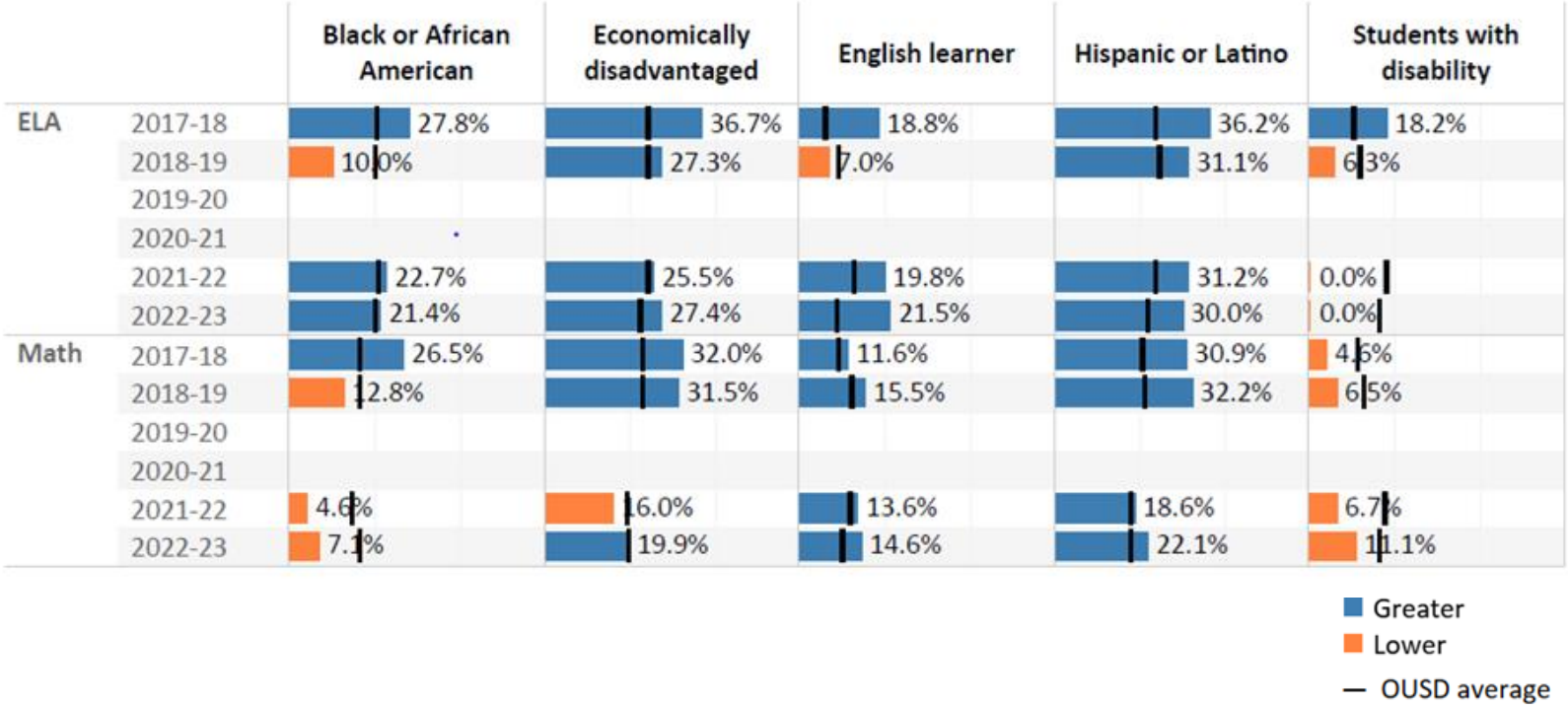
Renewal Tier Analysis - Criterion 2

Indicator	Student Group	2022			2023		
		School Status	State Status	Result	School Status	State Status	Result
ELA	Schoolwide	-63.7	-12.2	Lower	-51.9	-13.6	Lower
	English Learner	-70.2	-61.2	Lower	-60.5	-67.7	Higher
	Hispanic/Latino	-59.7	-38.6	Lower	-50.7	-40.2	Lower
	SED	-75	-41.4	Lower	-54.3	-42.6	Lower
Math	Schoolwide	-79.2	-51.7	Lower	-68.1	-49.1	Lower
	English Learner	-78.5	-92	Higher	-72.1	-93.4	Higher
	Hispanic/Latino	-79.1	-83.4	Higher	-67.1	-80.8	Higher
	SED	-85.9	-84	Lower	-70	-80.8	Higher
EL Progress		41.7%	50.3%	Lower	52.3%	48.7%	Higher

2023-24 Student Demographics

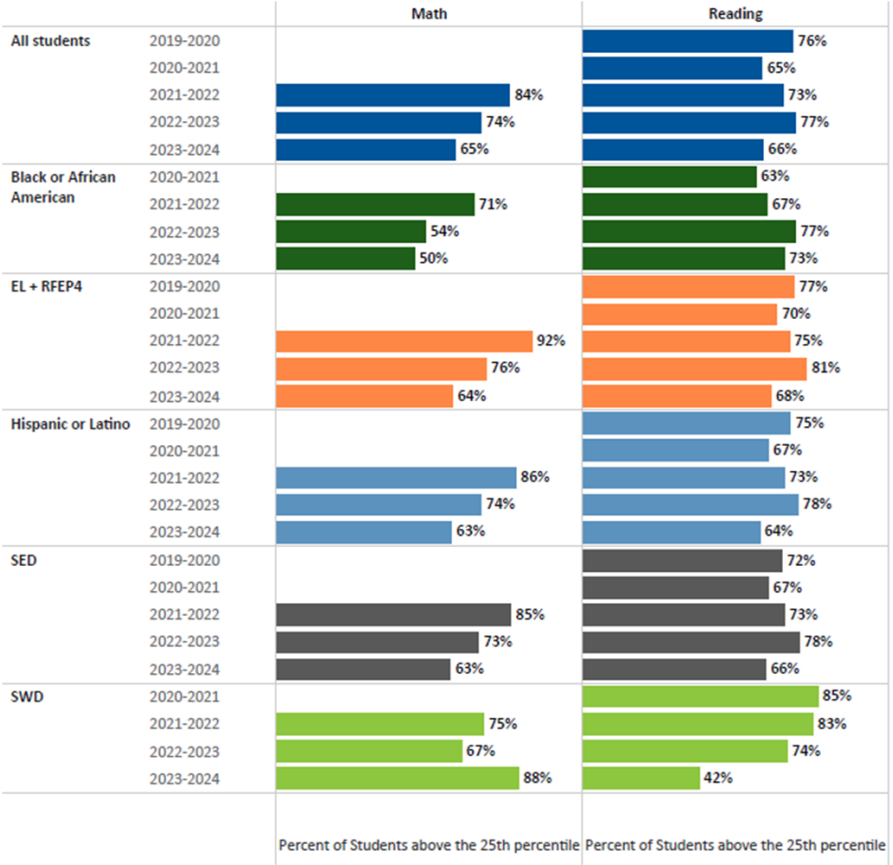
Student Group	Charter School	OUSD schools in Comparison HSAA	OUSD
Hispanic/Latino	78.2%	78.2%	47.3%
Black/African American	11.3%	5.9%	20.1%
Asian	5.9%	1.8%	9.8%
White	1.4%	7.9%	11.5%
Two or More Races	1.4%	3.6%	6.8%
Other Race/Ethnicity	1.7%	1.0%	1.9%
Not Reported	0.0%	1.6%	2.6%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	76.0%	84.5%	81.4%
English Learners	54.5%	58.4%	32.9% (TK-5 only: 36.6%)
Special Education	11.6%	13.4%	16.3% (TK-5 only: 15.0%)

2022-23 Key Student Group Performance vs. OUSD

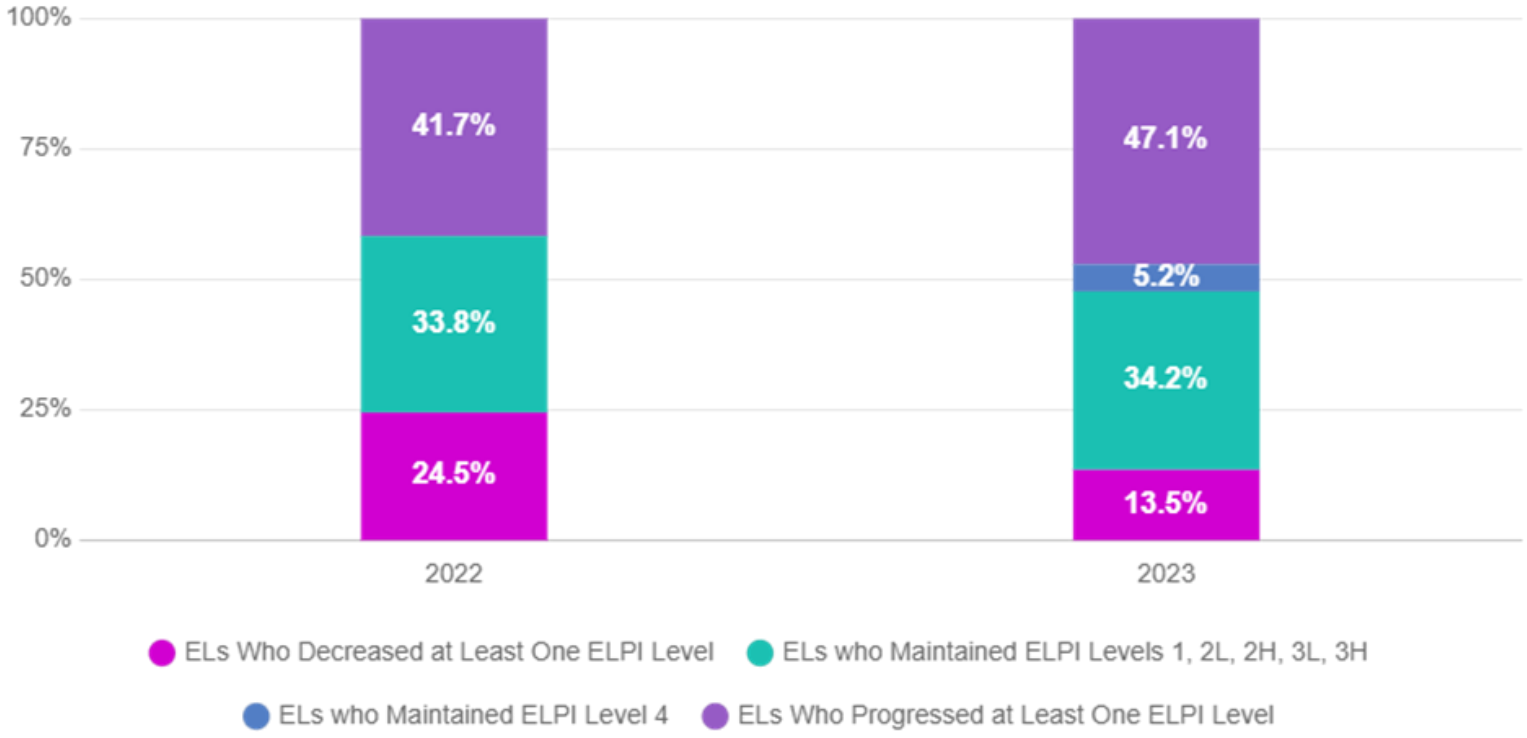


Verified Data

Learning Without Limits 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.



English Learner Progress



Teacher Credentialing Data

	Charter School	OUSD (K-6 Only)
Clear *Authorized by clear or preliminary credential or by local assignment option*	62.5%	67.6%
Intern *Authorized by intern credential*	18.8%	3.4%
Out-of-Field *Authorized by GELAP, SELAP, short-term waiver, emergency EL permit, or Local Assignment Option*	6.3%	0.1%
Ineffective *No legal authorization or authorized by emergency credential (PIP, STSP), variable term waivers, or substitute permits*	12.5%	25.8%
Incomplete *Missing or incorrect information was reported to CALPADS about the assignment*	0.0%	3.0%

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	3.82% (17 of 445)	6.93% (30 of 433)	6.68% (30 of 449)	4.24% (17 of 401)
Number of these students with State test results from the prior year	3	6	7	1
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)	21.82% (96 of 440)	24.04% (107 of 445)	25.17% (109 of 433)	9.50% (38 of 400)
Number of these students with State test results from the prior year	78	82	80	13
Average Distance From Standard (DFS) on the **English** State test from the prior year these students compared to school average	-4.59 Unretained = -59.29 School = -54.7	-8.77 Unretained = -37.17 School = -28.4	-7.94 Unretained = -60.34 School = -52.4	-19.76 Unretained = -83.46 School = -63.7
Average Distance From Standard (DFS) on the **Math** State test from the prior year these students	-21.33 Unretained = -70.63 School = -49.3	-28.50 Unretained = -65.8 School = -37.3	-23.23 Unretained = -72.13 School = -48.9	-4.72 Unretained = -83.92 School = -79.2