

Charter School Site Visit Overview

OUSD Office of Charter Schools
May 25, 2023



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Goals For Today

- The OCS team will review the various types of site visits.
- The OCS team will provide a brief overview of an Annual Site Visit.
- We will discuss Annual Site Visit trends this year.

California Education Code

According to California Education Code, authorizers are required to fulfill the following oversight responsibilities:

- 1 Identify at least one staff member as a contact person for the charter school.
- 2 Visit each charter school at least annually.
- 3 Ensure that each charter school under its authority complies with all reports required of charter schools by law, including the LCAP and annual update to the LCAP required pursuant to Education Code section 47606.5.
- 4 Monitor the fiscal condition of each charter school under its authority.
- 5 Provide timely notification to the California Department of Education if (a) a renewal of the charter is granted or denied (b) a charter is revoked (c) a charter school will cease operations for any reason.

Three Types of Site Visits

Renewal Site Visits

- Part of the renewal review process
- Two day site visits with classroom observations, focus groups, and interviews
- Formal evaluation (SQR protocol)

Annual Site Visits

- All OUSD authorized charter schools (28 in 22-23)
- 1.5-2 hour visit with classroom observations and leadership interview
- Low stakes feedback given to school leaders

Fall Pop-In Site Visits

- Piloted in 2022-23
- All OUSD authorized charter schools (28 in 22-23)
- 1 hour visit with *only* classroom observations
- Not evaluative

**OCS may also conduct site visits outside of the above processes*

Annual Site Visits

- Annual Site Visits are typically conducted in the spring and are 1.5-2 hours at each school. During the visit the team interviews the school leadership team, conducts classroom observations, and debriefs observations with the school leadership.
- The Office of Charter Schools team conducts the visits with the expertise of school leadership consultants. This year we had the opportunity to include other OUSD staff members from:
 - English Language Learner and Multilingual Achievement (ELLMA)
 - Enrollment Office
 - Strategic Resource Planning
 - Network Offices
 - Continuous School Improvement
- During these visits we discuss:
 - Celebrations and challenges from the year and strengths and challenges from the previous year
 - Assessment data
 - Enrollment and recruiting
 - Student supports such as SEL strategies, ELL supports, or SPED programming

Annual Site Visits - Trends

Chronic Absenteeism

Schools are still struggling with reducing chronic absenteeism rates post-pandemic. Most schools are utilizing either increased family engagement or specific transportation solutions (stipends, carpooling, etc.)

Teacher Recruitment / Turnover

About half of schools are struggling with teacher attrition and recruitment. Many touched upon using “grow your own” strategies and partnering with university programs to stabilize their workforce moving forward.

Enrollment

22 of 28 schools saw a decrease in enrollment from the 2021-22 school year. Most cited families moving out of Oakland as the primary reason.

Annual Site Visits - Trends

Responding to Learning Loss with Data

Many schools have invested heavily in building a suite of assessments they can integrate into their academic calendar to combat learning loss and to identify specific students or student groups who need additional intervention.

Rebuilding School Culture and Family Connections

Rebuilding school culture post-pandemic has been a huge focus across all schools, but especially at the elementary level. Many schools are also prioritizing rebuilding connections with families as they welcome them back to campuses.

Special Education

Many schools named staffing as a priority in the special education department - with a majority focused on increasing FTE. While some unique programming exists, most are inclusion models.



Thank You!