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

Timeline

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.

Day 0

Submission

By Day 60

Initial Public Hearing

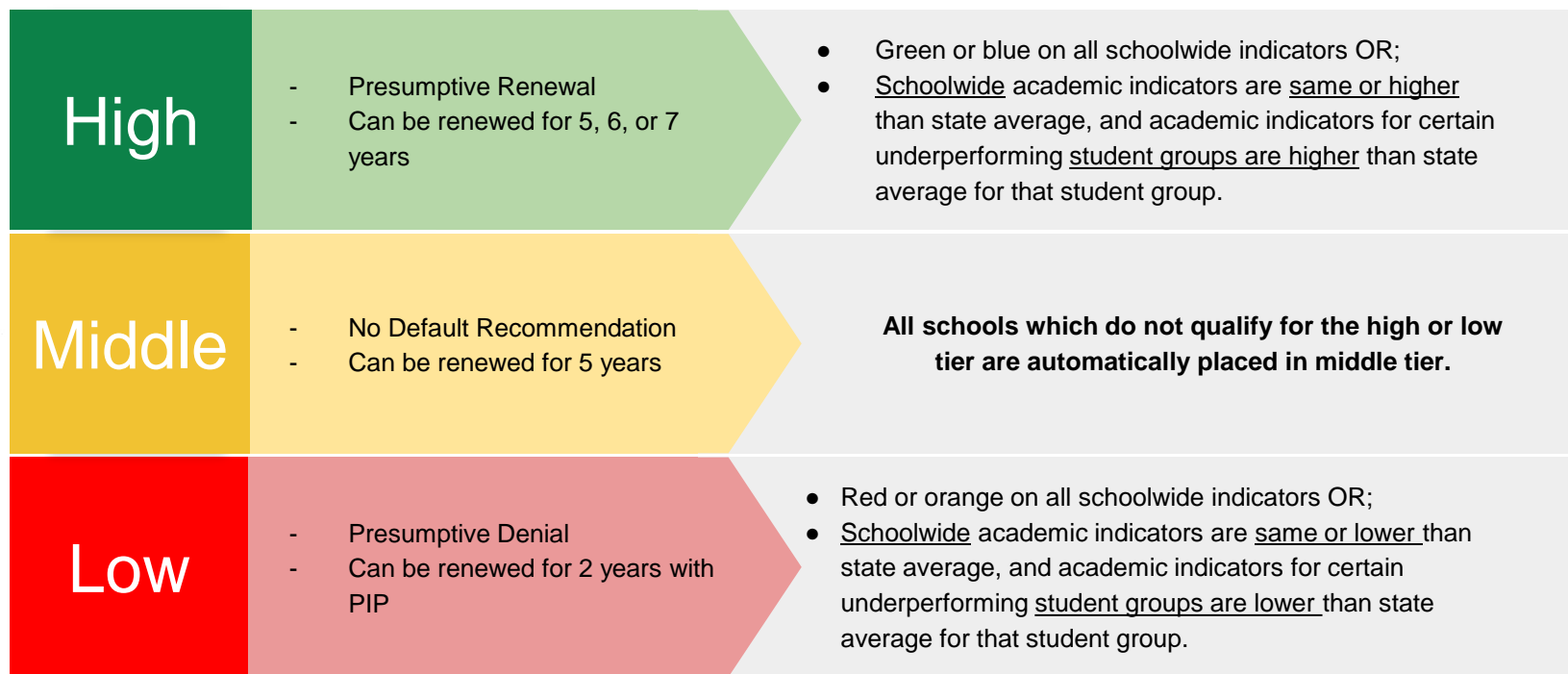**15 Days Before Decision Hearing**

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; • <u>Schoolwide</u> academic indicators are <u>same or higher</u> than state average, and academic indicators for certain underperforming <u>student groups are higher</u> 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; • <u>Schoolwide</u> academic indicators are <u>same or lower</u> than state average, and academic indicators for certain underperforming <u>student groups are lower</u> than state average for that student group.

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
ASCEND was placed in the Middle Tier *No default recommendation from State; Eligible for 5-year renewal term*			
District		Enrollment	

ASCEND Renewal Timeline

July 15, 2024 ———— **September 11, 2024** ———— **September 25, 2024** ———— **October 10, 2024**

Renewal Submission

ASCEND submitted the renewal petition and all associated documents to the OUSD Office of Charter Schools.

Initial Public Hearing

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

Staff Report Posted

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

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 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 *Increased 3.7 pts*	**Yellow** 69 pts below standard *Increased 9.6 pts*	**Orange** 49.8% making progress *Decreased 10.3%*	**Green** 2% suspended *Declined 1.1%*	**Red** 35.6% chronically absent *Increased 13.6%*

Criteria I: Has the Charter School Presented a Sound Educational Program?
ELA SBAC
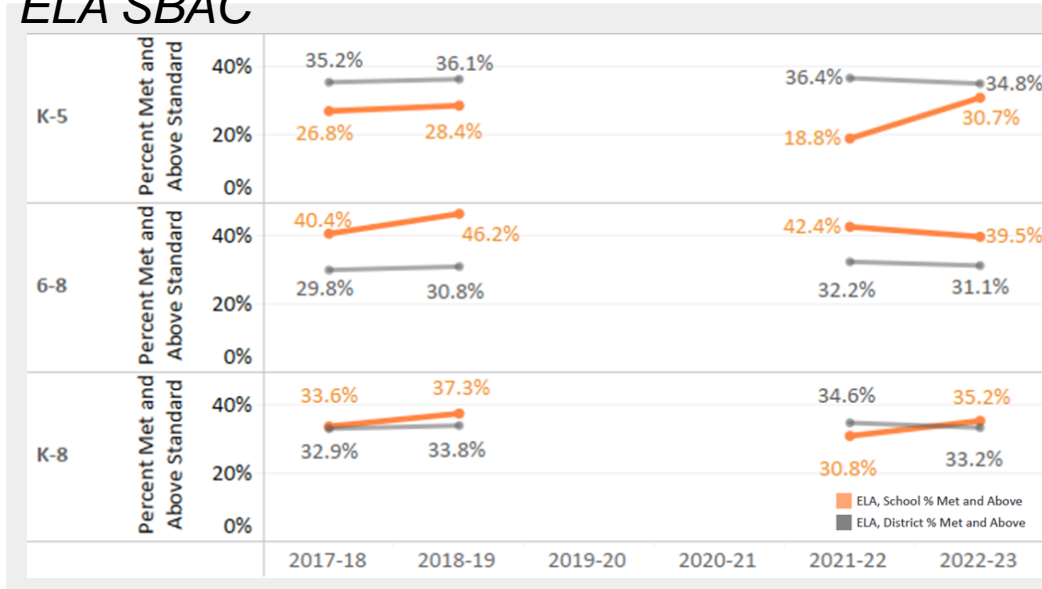
2023 ELA
CORE Growth
(Based on 2022 and 2023 ELA SBAC)

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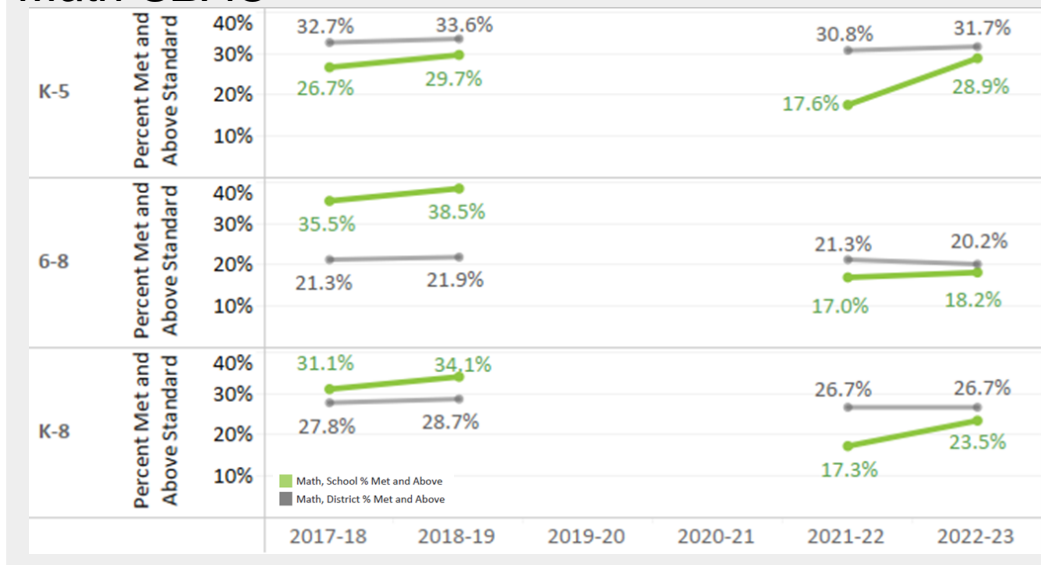
	2023 Math CORE Growth *(Based on 2022 and 2023 Math SBAC)*

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
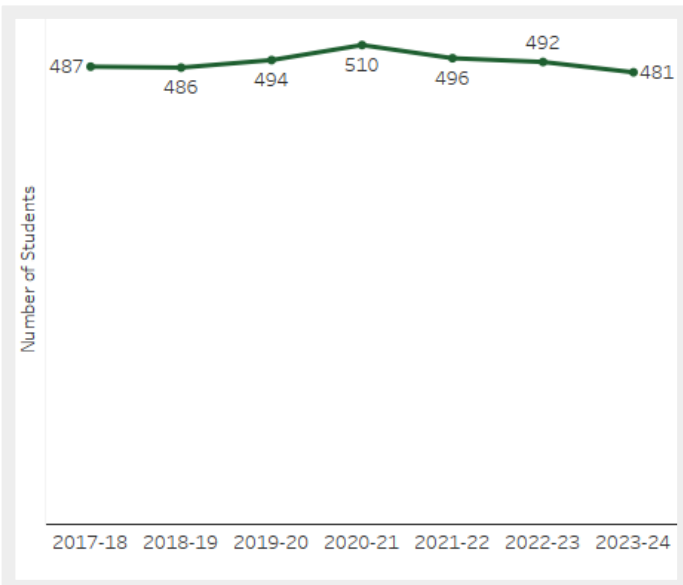
Enrollment of 484 as of August 29, 2024

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

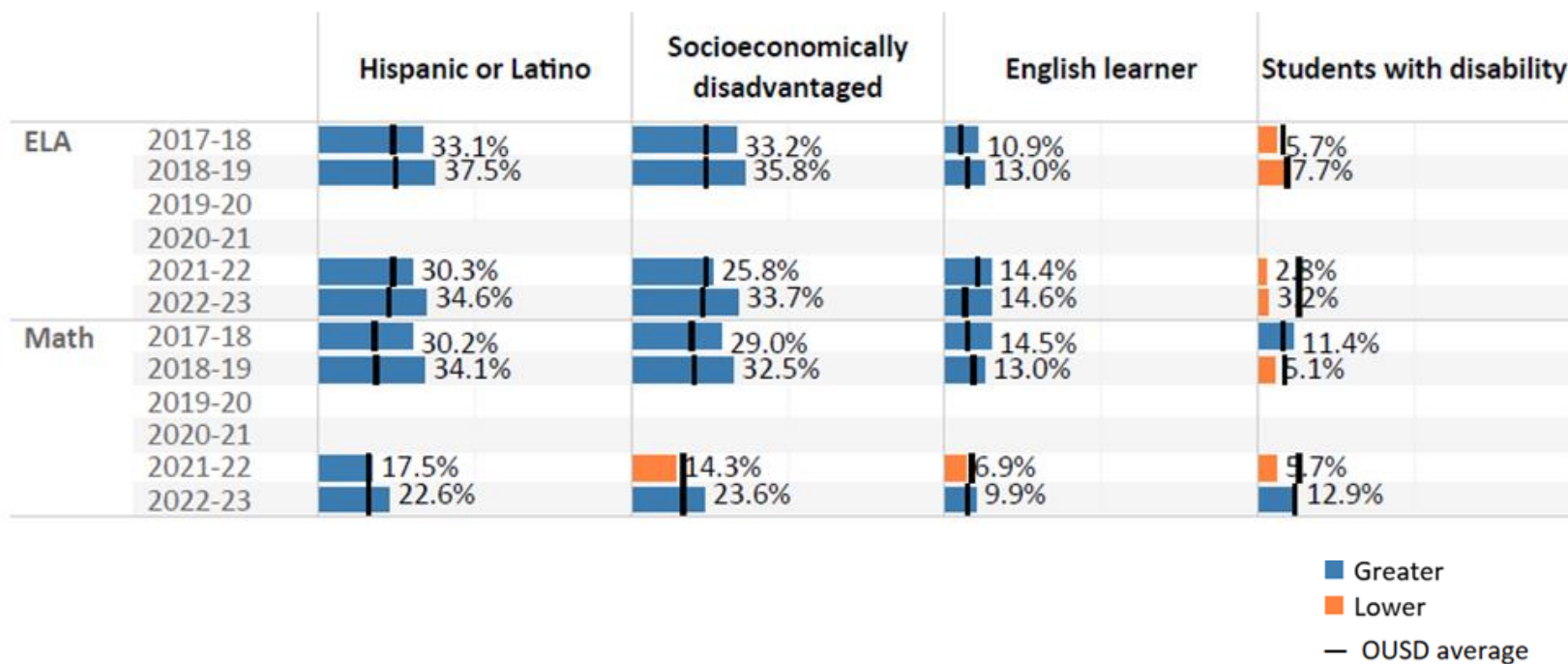| The OUSD Office of Charter Schools recommends APPROVAL	
Strengths	**Challenges**
- Met all academic indicators in the School Performance Analysis based on the California State Dashboard. - Substantial post-pandemic growth in both ELA and Math proficiency in grades K-5, with the majority of student 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.	- 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 HSAA	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

		Hispanic or Latino	Socioeconomically disadvantaged	English learner	Students with disability
ELA	2017-18	33.1%	33.2%	10.9%	5.7%
	2018-19	37.5%	35.8%	13.0%	7.7%
	2019-20				
	2020-21				
	2021-22	30.3%	25.8%	14.4%	2.3%
	2022-23	34.6%	33.7%	14.6%	3.2%
Math	2017-18	30.2%	29.0%	14.5%	11.4%
	2018-19	34.1%	32.5%	13.0%	5.1%
	2019-20				
	2020-21				
	2021-22	17.5%	14.3%	6.9%	5.7%
	2022-23	22.6%	23.6%	9.9%	12.9%

■ Greater
■ Lower
— OUSD average

English Learner Progress
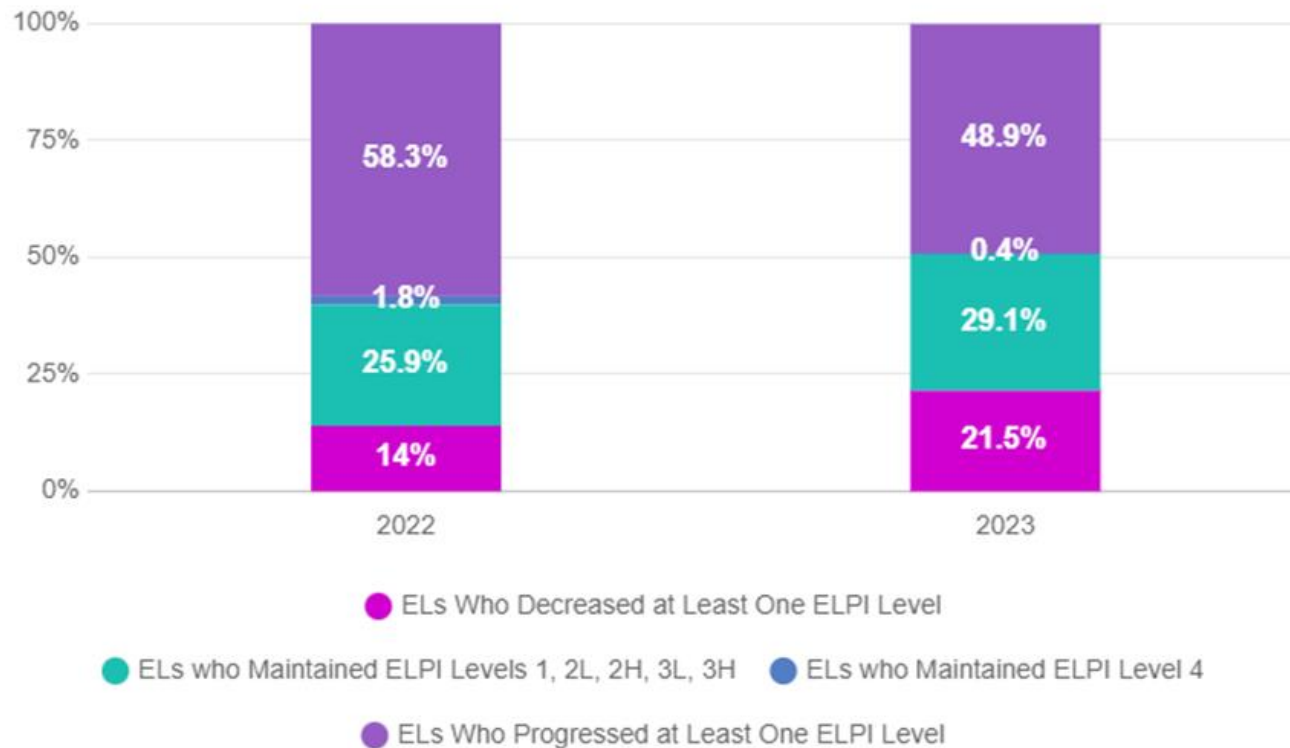
Verified Data - ELA

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