

# Aspire Triumph Technology Academy Material Revision Staff Report

June 11, 2025 (Revised)

# **Recommendation Summary**

On March 21, 2025, Aspire Triumph Technology Academy ("Triumph Academy" or "Charter School") submitted a Material Revision to their current charter petition to change the location of the school from 3200 62nd Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605 to 8030 Atherton St, Oakland, CA 94605. Under the Material Revision, Triumph Academy would move from its current location to a private site, which is also the current facility for Aspire College Academy. Triumph Academy states that it plans to move operations to the new site in August 2025.

**Staff recommends approval of the Material Revision.** This recommendation is based on numerous considerations, including (but not limited to) the following:

- A. The Charter School's proposed location can accommodate its students without any new construction.
- B. Most of the Charter School's current student population lives near the proposed new location. Thus, it is unlikely that moving will have an impact on other nearby district schools.
- C. The location change will enable the Charter School to merge with Aspire College Academy during the 2026-2027 school year.

# **Background and Analysis Overview**

# **Procedural Background**

- 1. **Material Revision Submission:** Triumph Academy submitted the material revision request on March 21, 2025.
- 2. **OUSD Review of Submission:** OUSD reviewed the material revision request for completeness and deemed the submission to be complete on March 24, 2025.
- 3. **Request for Information:** OUSD sent additional clarifying questions to Triumph Academy beginning on March 24, 2025 which Triumph Academy responded to from March 24, 2025 to April 16, 2025.
- 4. **Initial Public Hearing:** A public hearing was properly noticed and held on May 14, 2025. Representatives from Triumph Academy presented.

5. **Decision Hearing:** A Decision Hearing is to be held on June 11, 2025 which will be properly noticed.

## Relevant Statutory and Petition Background

#### Education Code §47607(b) states the following:

[M]aterial revisions of charters are governed by the standards and criteria described in Section 47605, and shall include, but not be limited to, a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed.

#### Education Code §47605(a)(4):

After receiving approval of its petition, a charter school that proposes to expand operations to one or more additional sites or grade levels shall request a material revision to its charter and shall notify the chartering authority of those additional locations or grade levels. The chartering authority shall consider whether to approve those additional locations or grade levels at an open, public meeting.

#### **Education Code §47605(k)(1)(A)(i):**

As used in this subdivision, "material terms" of the petition means the signatures, affirmations, disclosures, documents, and descriptions described in subdivisions (a), (b), (c), and (h) [including "the facilities to be used by the charter school"], but shall not include minor administrative updates to the petition or related documents due to changes in circumstances based on the passage of time related to fiscal affairs, facilities arrangements, or state law, or to reflect the county board of education as the chartering authority.

## **Analysis Overview**

Staff evaluate charter school material revision petitions with the following criteria pursuant to Education Code §47605(c):

Criteria	Education Code Reference(s)	Did the Material Revision Meet the Standard for this Criterion?
<b>Criterion I:</b> Does the Charter School Present a Sound Educational Program?	§47605(c)(1)	Yes
<b>Criterion II:</b> Is the Charter School Demonstrably Likely to Successfully Implement the Proposed Educational Program?	§47605(c)(2)	Yes
<b>Criterion III:</b> Is the Petition Reasonably Comprehensive?	§47605(c)(4) thru (6);§47605(h)	Yes

Education Code §47605(c)(7-8) outlines two additional criteria for material revisions including whether the charter school is likely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school is

proposing to locate ("Criterion IV") and whether the District is positioned to absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed change ("Criterion V"). Pursuant to Education Code §47605(a)(4), Criteria IV and V "may only be used to deny a proposed expansion constituting a material revision." An expansion, pursuant to Education Code §47605(a)(4), is defined as a proposal to "expand operations to one or more additional sites or grade levels". Because Triumph Academy is not proposing to expand operations to one or more additional sites, but is only changing the location of its current site, the Material Revision does not constitute an expansion as defined by California Education Code and, thus, Criterions IV and V are not considered in this report.

# Criterion I: Does the Charter School Present a Sound Educational Program?

The proposed material revision would not impact the educational program of the school and, thus, a full analysis of the school's academic performance is not included in this Staff Report. However, results from the California State Dashboard and from the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments are included in the Appendix for context.

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

## **Enrollment Analysis**

#### A. Enrollment Over Time

As shown below in Figure 1, The Charter School experienced a 30% enrollment decrease from 2019-20 to 2024-25. The Charter school experienced a 16.7% decrease in enrollment from 2023-24 to 2024-25.

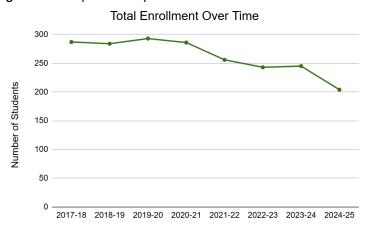


Figure 1: Triumph Academy Total Enrollment Over Time

**Source:** 2017-18 through 2024-25 Enrollment – CDE Downloadable School Enrollment Data Files \*The 2024-25 numbers are not yet certified by the CDE.

As shown below in Figure 2, in the 2024-25 school year, the Charter School's enrollment for most grade levels declined and its enrollment for the current TK and K grade cohorts are the lowest of all grade levels. Further, the grade levels with the largest cohort of students, 5th grade with 44 students and 6th grade with 40 students, will graduate after the 2025-26 and 2024-25 school year respectively.

Figure 2: Triumph Academy Grade Level Enrollment Over Time

Student Enrollment by Grade Level and Total Enrollment						
Grade	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*
TK	0	0	0	0	11	4
K	47	46	41	44	29	15
1	41	45	40	33	39	30
2	49	44	34	43	34	35
3	51	49	41	40	53	36
4	53	54	49	41	41	44
5	52	48	51	42	38	40
Total	293	286	256	243	245	204

Source: 2019-20 through 2023-24 Enrollment – CDE Downloadable School Enrollment Data Files; 2024-25 Enrollment – Census Day Enrollment Spreadsheet submitted to OUSD

#### **B.** Enrollment Projections

Triumph Academy provided its projected enrollment as shown in Figure 3. The Charter School indicated in their Initial Public Hearing presentation that [they "plan to propose a merger in Fall 2025 during the [Aspire College Academy] renewal hearing with a goal of one single TK-5 school for the 2026-2027 school year", so only the remainder of their charter term is included in their projections. Given their current enrollment, the Charter School's projections are reasonable.

In their material revision presentation, the Charter School indicated that Aspire College Academy ("College Academy"), the school that Triumph Academy will be co-located with, has a projected enrollment of 207 students for the 2025-26 school year. If Triumph Academy moves to its proposed location, their projected enrollment added to College Academy's projected enrollment will lead to a total projected enrollment of 392 students at the 8030 Atherton Street Campus during the 2025-26 school year. According to blueprints submitted by the Charter School, the proposed location has 14 classrooms. Using the total projected enrollment at the proposed campus, the facility will be able to accommodate a 28 student to classroom ratio.

<sup>\*</sup>The 2024-25 numbers are not yet certified by the CDE.

Figure 3: Triumph Academy Projected Enrollment

Projected Student Enrollment by Grade Level and Total Enrollment				
Grade	2025-26	2026-27		
ТК	10	10		
K	15	15		
1	26	26		
2	28	28		
3	29	29		
4	35	35		
5	42	42		
Total	185	185		

**Source:** Triumph Academy's Material Revision Petition

## C. Live/Go Analysis

The Charter School's new proposed location at 8030 Atherton St, Oakland, CA 94605 (to be shared with Aspire College Academy) is in the East Oakland Pride Elementary School Attendance Area ("ESAA"). As shown in Figure 4 below, 8.8% of the Charter School's students live within the East Oakland Pride attendance area and 51.1% of the Charter School's students live within the nearby Burkhalter, Greenleaf, Markham, and Lockwood Steam attendance areas. Thus, a significant portion of the Charter School's current student population live near its proposed new location.

Figure 4: Triumph Academy Enrollment by Attendance Area and Grade Span

Attendance Area	Number of 2024-25 Triumph Academy Students by Attendance Area
Burkhalter	35 (17.2%)
Greenleaf	29 ( 14.2%)
Markham	25 (12.3%)
Pride	18 (8.8%)
Lockwood Steam	15 (7.4%)

**Source**: OUSD Department of Research, Assessment, and Data Live/Go Dashboard

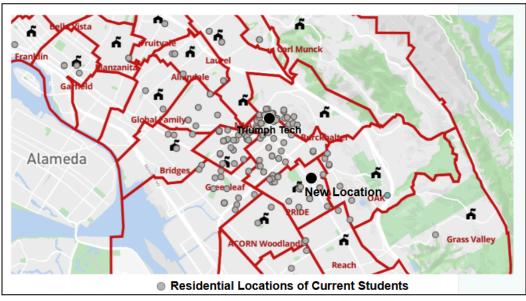


Figure 5: Triumph Academy Elementary School Enrollment by Location

Source: OUSD Department of Research, Assessment, and Data Live/Go Dashboard

#### Fiscal Condition

#### A. Fiscal Health

The Charter School is in good financial standing with a healthy ending fund balance. The school has had several recent years of deficit spending (in 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2021-22), and projects \$786,700 in deficit spending for the 2024-25 school year ending. However, the Charter School did not have any deficit spending in 2020-21, 2022-23, and 2023-24 and anticipates an ending fund balance of \$1,481,090 per its second interim. The Charter School's debt ratio has been less than 1 and it has consistently maintained budgetary reserves of 5% or more. However, material weaknesses in Aspire's financial reporting close process were identified in the 2021-22 and 2023-24 audit reports. Findings of this nature casts doubt over the reliability of unaudited financial information produced by the Charter School.

Figure 6: Financial Analysis

Financial Indicator	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25 (2nd interim)
Ending Fund Balance Typically represents unrestricted funds, although in some cases, restricted funds that were not fully spent in previous years may be included.	\$1,683,401	\$1,185,377	\$1,803,702	\$1,554,408	\$2,079,903	\$2,267,792	\$1,481,090 (projected)
<b>Deficit Spending</b> Deficit spending is indicated by a number in parentheses. A school's fund balance and reserves are depleted when expenditures exceed revenues, and over time could lead to insolvency.		(\$498,024)	-	(\$249,294)	-	-	(\$786,702) (projected)

<b>Deficit-to-Ending Fund Balance Ratio</b> This ratio measures how large the deficit spending is in relation to the overall fund balance. The larger the ratio, the faster the fund balance is being depleted.	18.9%	42.0%	-	16.0%	-	-	53.1% (projected)
<b>Debt Ratio</b> A ratio less than 1 indicates the school has lower debts than assets, representing a low level of financial risk.	0.10	0.11	0.29	0.49	0.42	0.35	Not Yet Available
<b>5% Budgetary Reserve</b> A minimum 5% reserve is standard as a set aside to prepare for potential liabilities. Below 5% is indicative of a poor financial condition.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (projected)
Audit Opinion "Unmodified" indicates compliance with required accounting standards. "Qualified" indicates there are material misstatements found, where the auditors are unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence.	Unmodified	Unmodified	Unmodified	Unmodified	Unmodified	Unmodified	Not Yet Available
Major Audit Finding  Any major or repeat audit findings are described in the paragraph above.	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Not Yet Available

Source: 2018-19 through 2023-2024 Annual Audit Reports; 2024-25 Second Interim

The Charter School submitted an updated version of their 2024-25 board-adopted multi-year budget projection ("MYP") as part of the Material Revision. The enrollment projections on which the Charter School's updated MYP are based assumes enrollment of 217 students for the 2024-25 school year and 185 students for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years The Charter School's updated 2024-25 LCFF calculation document submitted with the Material Revision is included as Appendix G, while a summary is shown in Figure 7 below.

Figure 7: Multi-Year Budget Projection Summary

Budget Calculators	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Projected Enrollment	217	185	185
Projected ADA	190.05	168.35	168.35
Projected Total LCFF Entitlement	\$2,797,896	\$2,541,789	\$2,634,543
Projected LCFF Entitlement per ADA	\$14,722	\$15,098	\$15,649

**Source**: Multiyear Budget Projections submitted with Material Revision Petition

The budgeted 2024-25 enrollment of 217 is consistent with the Charter School's 2024-25 average monthly enrollment. Further, the enrollment projections of 185 students beginning in 2025-26 appear reasonable and conservative, given the Charter School's ongoing year-over-year enrollment decline.

### **Facility Plan**

#### A. Compliance

The Charter School has acquired a signed lease agreement, a fire safety inspection from the City of Oakland, and a certificate of occupancy, and has obtained their board's approval for their material revision submission.

Figure 8: Status of Compliance Documents

Compliance Document	Status	
Signed Lease Agreement	Submitted	
Charter School Board Approval	Submitted	
Regular Design Review for site and building alterations	Submitted	
Evidence of Fire Safety Inspection	Submitted	
Certificate of Occupancy	Submitted	

Source: Triumph Academy Epicenter Submissions

#### **B.** Building Capacity and Details

According to the blueprints submitted by the Charter School, the new proposed location at 8030 Atherton St, Oakland, CA 94605 (to be shared with Aspire College Academy), has 14 classrooms and four non-classroom spaces. The Charter School indicated that they received approval from their landlord to add an additional three portable classrooms, but that the space can accommodate both schools even without the additional portables.

#### C. Moving Plan and Schedule

In their moving plan, the Charter School indicated that they intend to begin physically moving materials to their new proposed location July 2025. The Charter School has budgeted \$125,000 for the physical move.

### **Engagement with Proposed Community**

### A. Community Engagement Questionnaire

The Charter School submitted a community engagement questionnaire where they shared about how they engaged the local community and their parents regarding their proposed move. The Charter School stated that at the time of the material revision submission, they hosted community meetings, listening sessions, and question and answer forums. Additionally, the Charter School stated that they posted multilingual flyers, sent emails, held school-site meetings, and sent Parent Square updates. The Charter School stated that they intend to hold six community engagement sessions from March to June 2025 about the move.

The Questionnaire asserts that the co-location is a "strategic merger", not an expansion, aimed at maintaining an eventual stable enrollment of 450 students at the merged school located at the current Aspire College Academy Campus. In their responses, the Charter School stated that they did not anticipate an impact on enrollment in surrounding public schools. The full Questionnaire is included in the Charter School's petition.

# Criterion III: Is the Petition Reasonably Comprehensive?

## The Required Fifteen Elements

All charter petitions must include a "reasonably comprehensive" description of 15 required elements related to the school's operation. The following table summarizes staff findings related to whether this standard was met for each element.

Figure 9: Petition Element Analysis

	Element	Reasonably Comprehensive?
1.	Description of the educational program of the school, including what it means to be an "educated person" in the 21st century and how learning best occurs.	Yes
2.	Measurable student outcomes	Yes
3.	Method by which student progress is to be measured	Yes
4.	Governance structure	Yes
5.	Qualifications to be met by individuals employed at the school	Yes
6.	Procedures for ensuring health and safety of students	Yes
7.	Means for achieving a balance of racial and ethnic, English learner, and special education students	Yes
8.	Admission policies and procedures	Yes
9.	Manner for conducting annual, independent financial audits and manner in which audit exceptions and deficiencies will be resolved	Yes
10	Suspension and expulsion procedures	Yes
11	Manner for covering STRS, PERS, or Social Security	Yes
12	Attendance alternatives for students residing within the district	Yes
13	Employee rights of return, if any	Yes
14	Dispute resolution procedure for school-authorizer issues	Yes
15	Procedures for school closure	Yes

Source: Ed Code §47605(c)(5) subsection (A) thru (O)

# **Other Required Information**

In addition to the required 15 elements, the Education Code also requires all charter petitions to include the following information.

Figure 10: Other Required Information

Required Information	Included in Petition?
An affirmation of each of the conditions described in EC §47605(h).	Yes
A declaration of whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the employees of the charter school for purposes of Government Code §3540 thru 3540.2.	Yes
Information regarding the proposed operation and potential effects of the charter school on the authorizer, including:	
<ul> <li>The facilities to be used by the charter school, including specifically where the charter school intends to locate.</li> <li>The manner in which administrative services of the charter school are to be provided.</li> <li>Potential civil liability effects of the charter school on the authorizer.</li> </ul>	Yes
Financial statements that include the annual operating budget and 3-year cashflow and financial projections, backup and supporting documents and budget assumptions (i.e. anticipated revenues and expenditures, including special education, and projected average daily attendance).	Yes
If the school is to be operated by, or as, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, the petitioner shall provide the names and relevant qualifications of all persons whom the petitioner nominates to serve on the governing body of the charter school.	Yes
A reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed.	Yes

**Source**: Ed Code §47607(b), §47605(c)(4), §47605(c)(6), and §47607(g)

# **OUSD-Specified Requirements**

Figure 11: OUSD-Specified Requirements

OUSD-Specified Requirement	Included in Submission?
District Required Language	Yes
Cover letter signed by the charter school governing board president or designee	Yes
Evidence the Governing Board has approved the material revision	Yes
Budget reflecting the impact of the revision	Yes
Community Impact Questionnaire	Yes

Facility Lease	Yes
All relevant and required permits, certificates, inspections, etc.	Yes

**Source**: Staff analysis of the material revision submission

# **Appendices**

## A. Academic Performance

**California State Dashboard:** The below figure represents Triumph Tech's results on the California State Dashboard from the last two years with available data, 2022-23 and 2023-24.

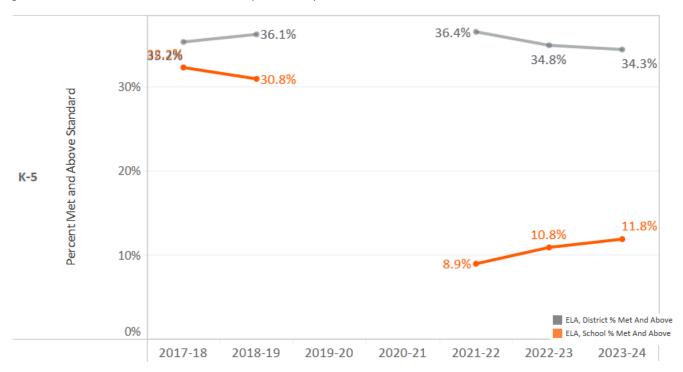
Figure 12: California State Dashboard Results

	ELA	Math	Science	EL Progress	Suspension	Chronic Absenteeism
22-23	Red 102 pts below ↓11.8 pts	<b>Red</b> 109.2 pts below ↓0.7 pts	(no science indicator in 22-23)	No Color 36% progressed †16.0%	<b>Green</b> 3% suspended ↓2.1%	<b>Yellow</b> 59.8% absent ↓7.1%
23-24	Orange 97.1 pts below †4.9 pts	Yellow 94.0 pts below †15.2 pts	No Color 30.4 pts below †1.2 pts	<b>No Color</b> 36.4% progressed ↑0.4%	<b>Green</b> 1.8% suspended ↓1.2%	<b>Yellow</b> 45.4% absent ↓14.4%

**Source**: California State Dashboard

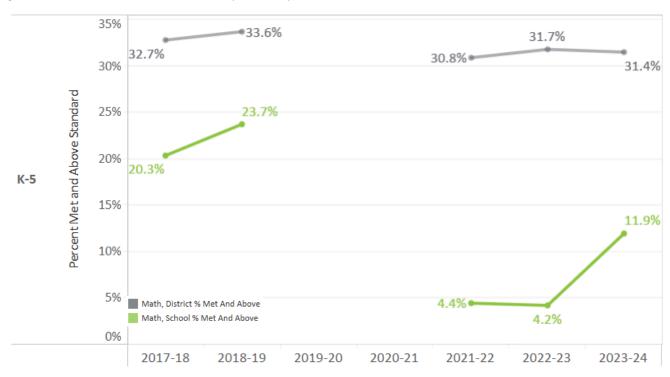
California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress ("CAASPP"): The below figure represents Triumph Tech's average proficiency on both the English and Math Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments ("SBAC"), with the OUSD average proficiency rates included as a comparison.

Figure 13: ELA SBAC Results Over Time - Triumph Academy vs. OUSD



Source: CAASPP Downloadable Data Files

Figure 14: Math SBAC Results Over Time - Triumph Academy vs. OUSD



Source: CAASPP Downloadable Data Files

## **B.** Enrollment Information

### **Enrollment Demographics**

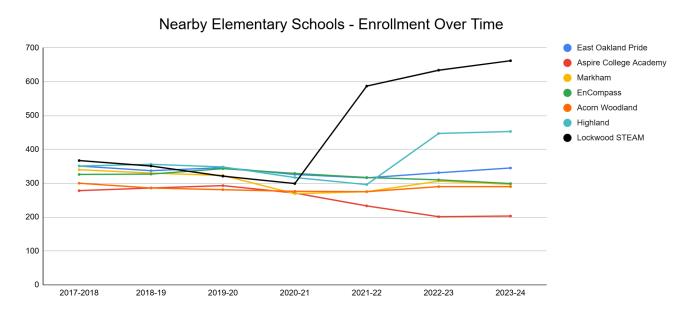
Figure 15: 2023-24 Triumph Academy Enrollment Demographics

Student Group Type	Student Group	Charter School	
	Black/African American	51.4%	
	American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.4%	
	Asian	0.0%	
Race/ Ethnicity	Filipino	0.0%	
Race/ Ethnicity	Hispanic/Latino	41.6%	
	Pacific Islander	0.0%	
	White	0.0%	
	Two or More Races	3.7%	
	Not Reported	2.9%	
	Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	92.2%	
Other Student Groups	English Learners	24.5%	
	Special Education	18.0%	

Source: CDE DataQuest

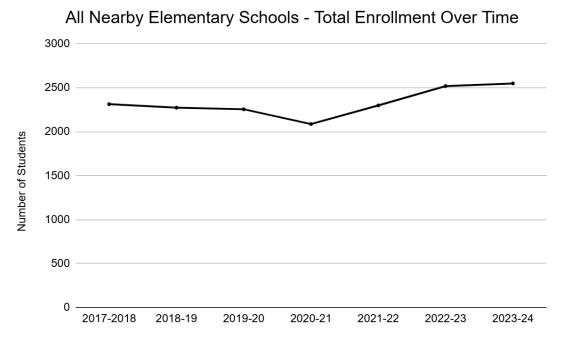
## **Enrollment Analysis of Nearby Elementary Schools**

Figure 16: Elementary Schools in Close Geographic Proximity to Proposed Location, Enrollment Over Time



Source: 2017-18 through 2023-24 Enrollment – CDE Downloadable School Enrollment Data Files

Figure 17: Elementary Schools in Close Geographic Proximity to Proposed Location, Total Enrollment Over Time



Source: 2017-18 through 2023-24 Enrollment – CDE Downloadable School Enrollment Data Files

## **Enrollment Analysis of Aspire College Academy**

Figure 18: Aspire College Academy Grade Level Enrollment Over Time

Student Enrollment by Grade Level and Total Enrollment									
Grade	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*			
TK	0	0	0	0	15	11			
K	53	36	29	35	23	19			
1	40	44	33	23	36	24			
2	51	40	44	27	24	38			
3	50	51	36	40	28	28			
4	51	52	45	34	43	30			
5	48	48	46	42	34	44			
Total	293	271	233	201	203	194			

Source: 2019-20 through 2023-24 Enrollment – CDE Downloadable School Enrollment Data Files; 2024-25 Enrollment – Census Day Enrollment Spreadsheet submitted to OUSD

<sup>\*</sup>The 2024-25 numbers are not yet certified by the CDE.

# C. 2021-22 Aspire Audit Report

# D. 2022-23 Aspire Audit Report

# E. 2023-24 Aspire Audit Report

# F. LCFF Calculator

# G. 2024-2025 Second Interim

# H. Blueprint of Proposed Location

# I. Moving Plan