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# Charter Renewal Staff Recommendation

Lodestar: A Lighthouse Community Charter  
Public

October 21, 2025

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**OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Community Schools, Thriving Students*

# 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



## Criterion 1

Has the Charter School Presented a Sound Educational Program?



## Criterion 2

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



## Criterion 3

Is the Petition Reasonably Comprehensive?



## Criterion 4

Is the Charter School Serving All Students Who Wish to Attend?\*

*\*Limited to enrollment data from CDE and suspension, expulsion, and disenrollment compliance*

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# **Renewal Analysis and Staff Recommendation**

**Lodestar: A Lighthouse  
Community Charter Public**

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# Charter School Overview

## Lodestar: A Lighthouse Community Charter Public (“Lodestar”)

|                                        |                                     |                                    |                         |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Charter Management Organization</b> | Lighthouse Community Public Schools | <b>OUSD Attendance Area</b>        | Castlemont/CCPA/Madison |
| <b>Grade Span</b>                      | TK-12                               | <b>Current Enrollment</b>          | 755                     |
| <b>OUSD Board District</b>             | District 7                          | <b>5-Year Projected Enrollment</b> | 732, 732, 732, 732, 732 |

### Lodestar was placed in the Middle Tier

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

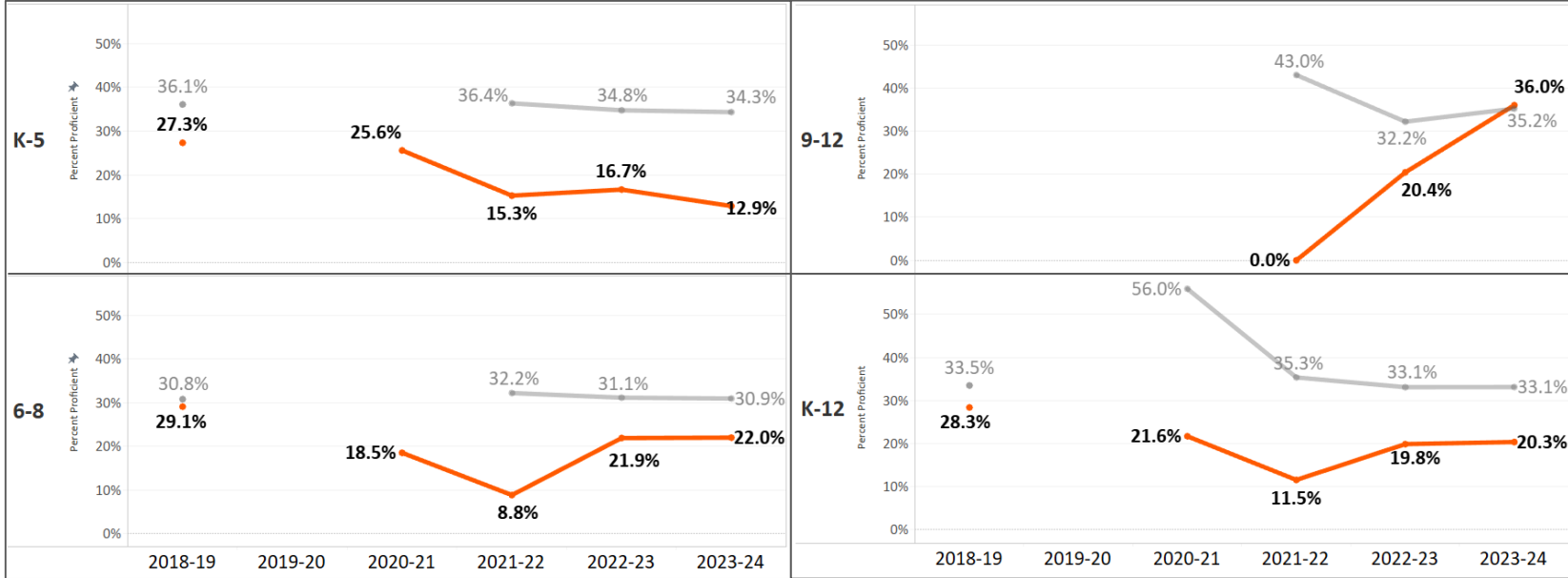
# CA Dashboard Overview

|         | ELA                                                                 | Math                                                                   | EL Progress                                                    | Suspension                                               | Chronic Absenteeism                                   | College/ Career                 | Graduation Rate                    |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2022-23 | <b>Orange</b><br>80.7 pts below standard<br><i>Increased 36 pts</i> | <b>Orange</b><br>115.3 pts below standard<br><i>Increased 28.1 pts</i> | <b>Green</b><br>50.7% making progress<br><i>Increased 3.1%</i> | <b>Green</b><br>3% suspended<br><i>Declined 0.3%</i>     | <b>Yellow</b><br>39.2% absent<br><i>Declined 4.9%</i> | N/A                             | N/A                                |
| 2023-24 | <b>Red</b><br>83.9 pts below standard<br><i>Declined 3.2 pts</i>    | <b>Orange</b><br>99.9 pts below standard<br><i>Increased 15.4 pts</i>  | <b>Red</b><br>37.8% making progress<br><i>Declined 12.9%</i>   | <b>Orange</b><br>3.9% suspended<br><i>Increased 0.9%</i> | <b>Yellow</b><br>34.5% absent<br><i>Declined 4.6%</i> | <b>No Color</b><br>75% Prepared | <b>No Color</b><br>89.5% Graduated |



# Renewal Criterion 1

## Academic Performance - English Language Arts

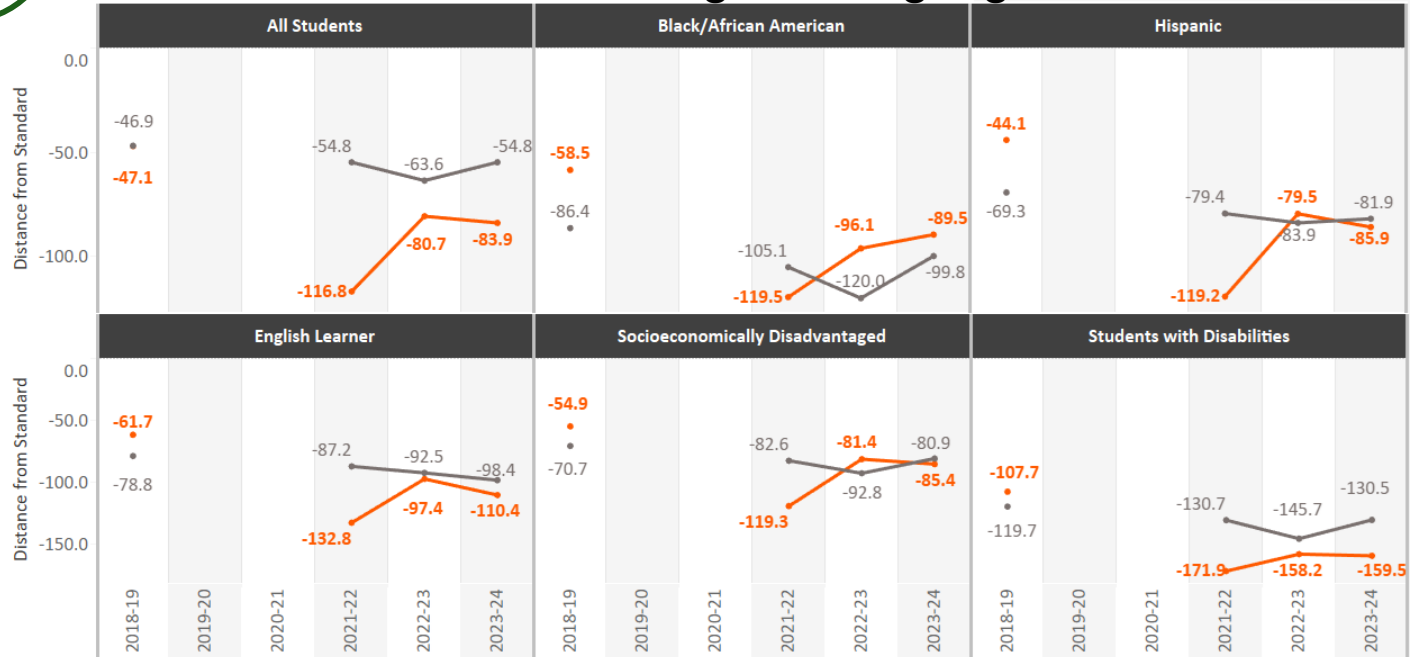


*ELA Proficiency has increased post-pandemic for the middle and high school grade spans, and decreased for the elementary school grade span.*



# Renewal Criterion 1

## Academic Performance - English Language Arts

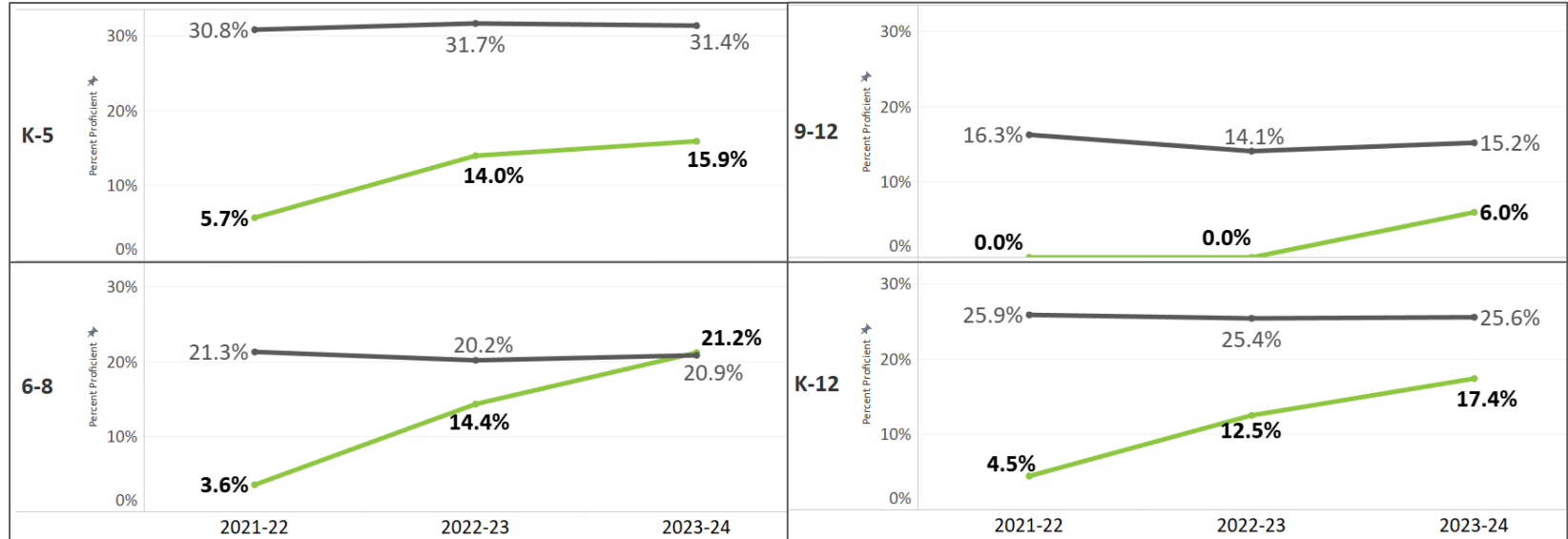


*Between 2021-22 and 2023-24, all student groups saw a **net** increase in average DFS.*



# Renewal Criterion 1

## Academic Performance - Math

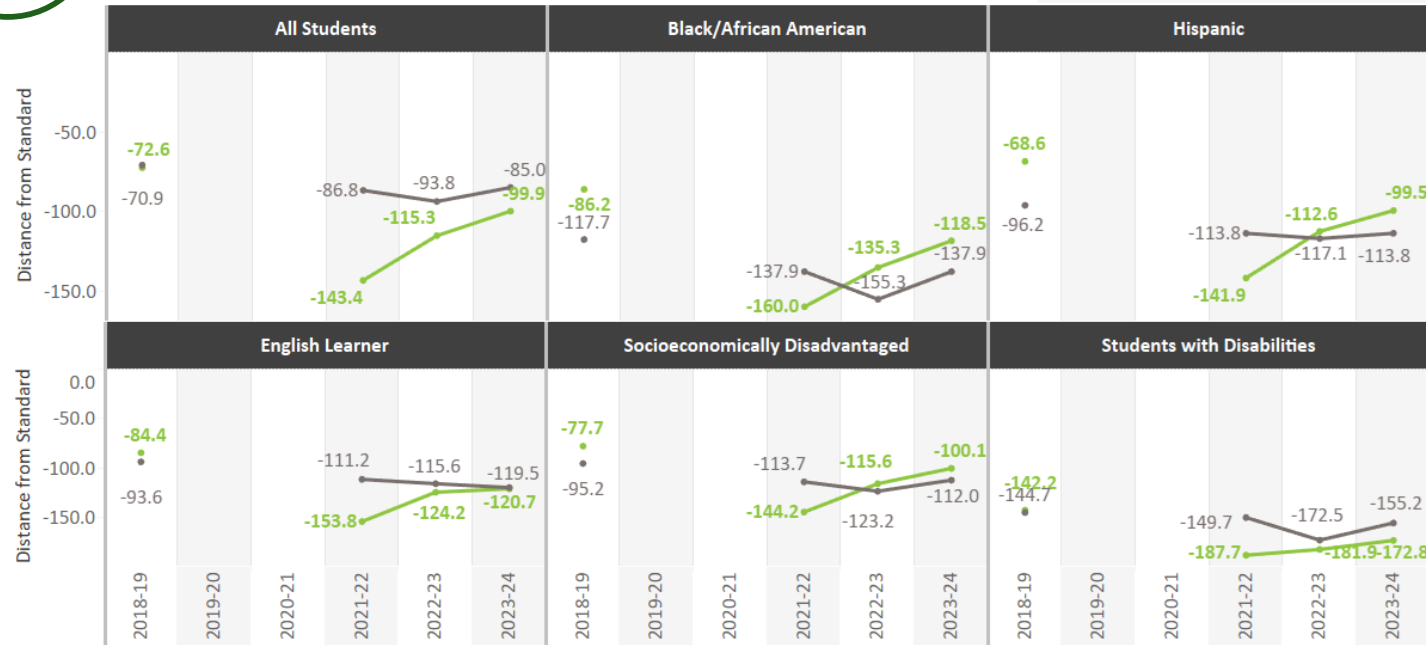


*Math proficiency increased for each grade span, but remains lower than the OUSD average.*



# Renewal Criterion 1

## Academic Performance - Math



*Between 2021-22 and 2023-24, average DFS schoolwide and for the above student groups increased.*



# Renewal Criterion 1

## Graduation Metrics

**89.3%**

OUSD: 80%

***2023-24 Four Year Grad Rate***

**90.0%**

OUSD: 61.2%

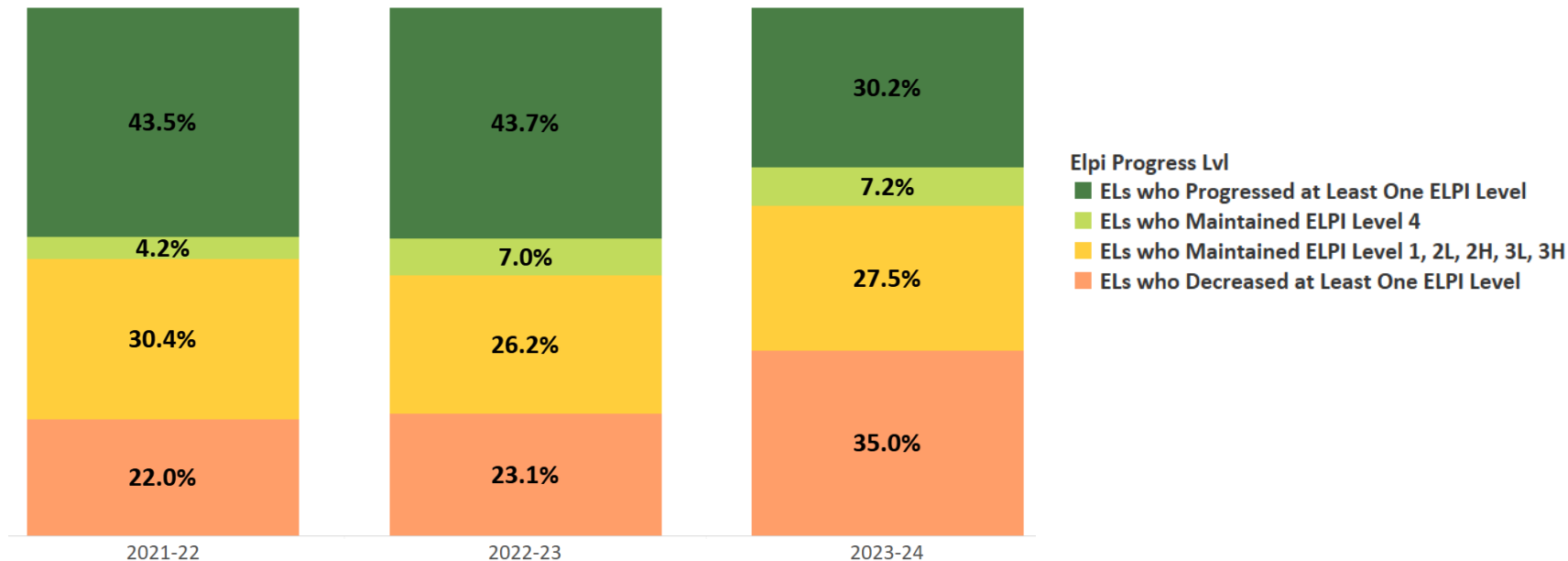
***2023-24 A-G Rate***

*Lodestar served its first senior class in 2023-24, which is reflected in the data above.*



# Renewal Criterion 1

## English Learner Progress

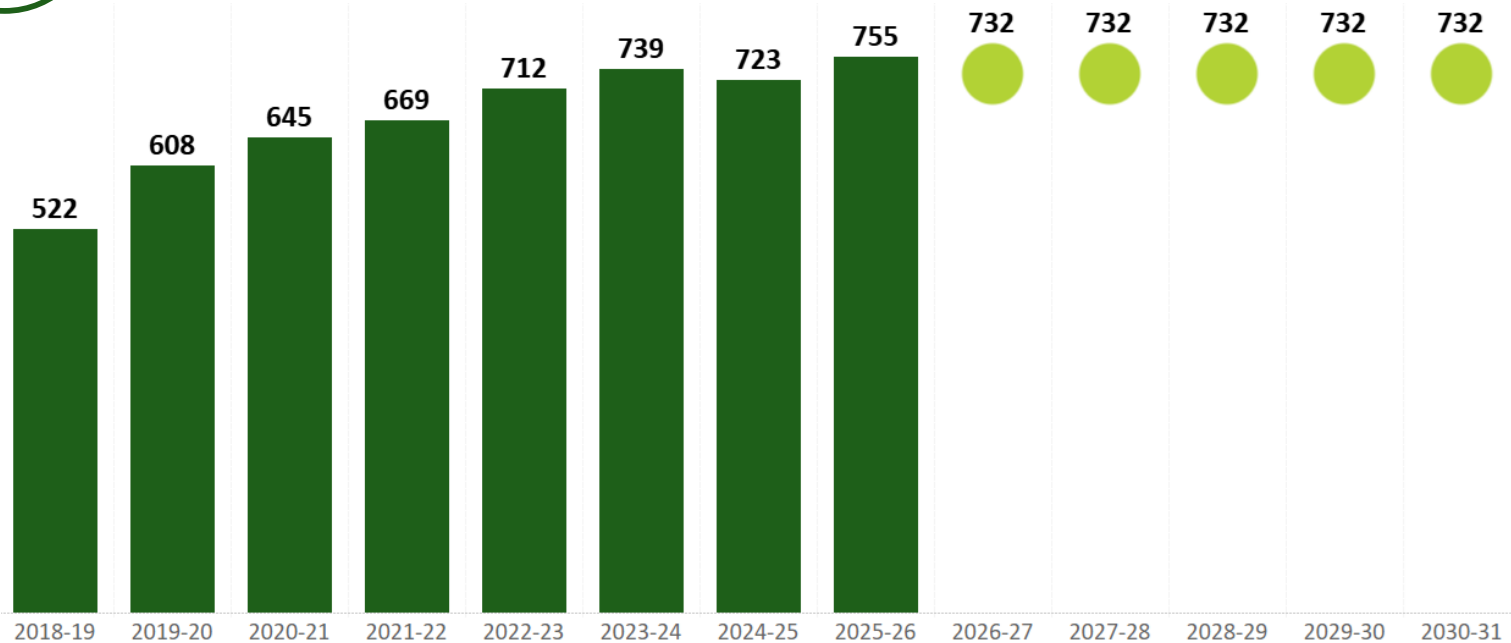


*The percentage of students progressing at least one ELPI Level remained consistent in 2022-23 but decreased in 2023-24.*



# Renewal Criterion 2

## Total and Projected Enrollment Over Time



*Lodestar's total enrollment increased as they phased in grade levels and sections, and they are now projecting steady enrollment over the next five years.*



# Renewal Criterion 2

## Fiscal Health

|                                    | 2021-22     | 2022-23     | 2023-24     | 2024-25 2nd Interim |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| <b>Ending Fund Balance</b>         | \$2,320,731 | \$2,025,074 | \$4,068,848 | \$4,821,079         |
| <b>Annual Surplus or (Deficit)</b> | (\$294,896) | (\$295,657) | \$2,043,774 | \$752,231           |
| <b>Budgetary Reserve</b>           | 20%         | 14%         | 27%         | 30%                 |
| <b>Audit Findings</b>              | None        | None        | Yes         | N/A                 |

*Latitude's fiscal health is adequate, with a healthy fund balance and realistic budget projections.*



## **Renewal Criterion 3**

### **Renewal Petition Review**

The charter petition included a reasonably comprehensive description, per State standards, of the 15 required elements outlined in California Education Code.



## **Renewal Criterion 4**

### **CDE Enrollment Data and Complaints**

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

## The OUSD Office of Charter Schools recommends **APPROVAL**

*with a Fiscal Benchmark to track audit finding clearance and a Performance Benchmark to track ELA progress.*

### Strengths

- Schoolwide improvement in both ELA and Math proficiency in most recent three years.
- Improvement in average DFS for all student groups in both ELA and Math in most recent three years.
- Majority of grade levels and student groups made at least one year's progress per verified data results in 2023-24
- First graduating class had high graduation and A-G completion rates.
- Post-pandemic decline in chronic absenteeism.
- Stable and sustainable enrollment with healthy fund balance.

### Challenges

- Schoolwide average proficiency and DFS remained below District average in both Math and ELA in most recent year, with ELA receiving a Red indicator on the 2024 Dashboard.
- ELs making progress declined in most recent year, with Red on the ELPI Dashboard indicator.
- Low high school Math proficiency: 0% in 2021-22 and 2022-23, and 6% most recently.
- Most recent audit identified a material weakness.
- Approximately 53% of teaching assignments considered "Ineffective".