



# Determination Hearing for the Charter Renewal of S.A.C. Prep

Board Meeting  
November 21, 2024  
Agenda Item No. 10.2

**Presented by:**  
Amanda Goldman, Ed.D.  
Director, Innovative Schools

# Process for Determination Hearing

- **Presentation: Equal Time and Process for District and Charter**
  - High Level Summary (Specifics available in renewal report)
  - 15 minutes split between District (7.5min) and Charter (7.5min)
- **Public Comment (15 min)**
- **Board Questions and Discussion**
- **Board Action**
  - Board has been provided with 3 possible resolutions. The Board will need to approve one of them at the end of this item.

# Review of Timeline

Petition Submitted:

→ **September 11, 2024**

Initial Public Hearing to Determine Level of Support:

→ **October 24, 2024** (43 days)

Publication of Staff Renewal Report:

→ **November 6, 2024** (56 days)

Determination Hearing / Board Vote:

→ **November 21, 2024** (71 days)



# 3 Tiers for Renewal

Tier is determined based on the previous 2 years of published CA Dashboard Data



## High Tier

Blue or Green

on all schoolwide indicators OR Schoolwide indicators are the same / **higher than State** and subgroups are **higher than State**

## Middle Tier

All other schools falls in the middle tier

## Low Tier

Red or Orange

on all schoolwide indicators OR Schoolwide indicators are the **same or lower than State** and subgroups are **lower than State**

## Potential Denial Findings by Tier

### High

- Shall **not** deny for academic reasons
- Can only deny with a finding that school is either
  - (A) unable to implement program due to fiscal/governance concerns OR
  - (B) is not serving all students who wish to attend.

### Middle

- (A) school has failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the students AND
- (B) Closure is in the best interest of students AND
- (C) Decision provided greater weight to academic performance

### Low

- Presumptive denial, but may renew for 2 years if
  - (A) the charter school is taking meaningful steps to address the underlying cause of low performance (with a written plan) AND
  - (B) Verified data shows 1 year progress for students OR strong postsecondary outcomes



**S.A.C. Prep has been placed in the High Tier by the California Department of Education based on 2021-22 & 2022-23 Data**

# High Renewal Track

→ Presumption of Renewal unless...

- The charter school will provide an unsound educational program for students during the term of its charter
- The petition does not contain the necessary affirmations and assurances;
- The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the fifteen required elements set forth in the Charter Schools Act.
- The petition does not declare whether the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the charter school's employees for purposes of Chapter 10.7
- The charter school is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition due to substantial governance factors or (Notice Provided per E.C. 47607(e) on October 18, 2024)

# SCUSD Renewal Report for S.A.C. Prep

Published November 6, 2024

Did the charter petition meet all primary requirements for renewal?		YES
1	Does this charter present an <u>unsound</u> educational program?	<a href="#">NO</a>
2	Are the petitioners demonstrably <u>unlikely</u> to successfully implement the program <u>set forth in the petition</u> ?	<a href="#">See Analysis</a>
3	Does the petition contain the necessary affirmations and assurances of the Charter Schools Act?	<a href="#">YES</a>
4	Does the petition contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all of the 15 elements described below?	<a href="#">See Analysis</a>
5	Does the petition contain a declaration of whether the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the charter school's employees?	<a href="#">YES</a>
Were there any findings that would potentially trigger a notice to cure an alleged violation under either of the following?		YES
6	Is the charter school demonstrably <u>unlikely</u> to successfully implement the program <u>set forth in the petition due to substantial fiscal or governance factors</u> ?	<a href="#">See Analysis</a>
7	Does the charter school serve the pupils who wish to attend, as documented by E.C. Section 47607(d)?	<a href="#">YES</a>

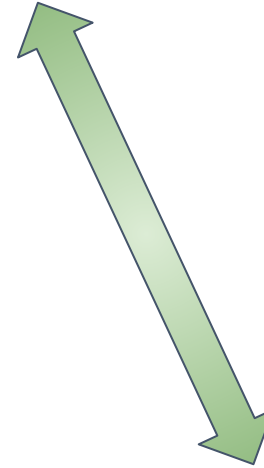
3 Substantive Items  
needing updates;  
**Approval can be  
with condition to  
make updates as  
described in findings**



**The Charter**  
(A promise or roadmap  
for serving students)



**Students  
at the Center**



- S.A.C. Prep was properly noticed that having **fewer board members than indicated in their by-laws** may be considered a serious governance issue
- S.A.C. Prep responded indicating that they **would consider an amendment to their by-laws at their December Board meeting**

**High Tier Based  
on Academic  
Outcomes**



**Data and Oversight  
Records**

(Track record of how  
charter has kept their  
“promises” over past  
term)



**Reflection and  
Continuous  
Improvement Efforts**

(Acknowledging that we are  
not perfect, that we are  
always improving)



# Priorities for “Substantial Governance or Fiscal Concerns”

SCUSD Priorities that drive oversight and renewal review:

- 1) Legal Compliance
- 2) Fiscal Solvency over the term of the charter
- 3) Limit liabilities that may result in:
  - a) Legal action against the charter school or district
  - b) Fiscal penalties for charter school or district
- 4) Documentation of practices that may limit equitable access to the charter school

→ Goal is always to do this through oversight.  
Successful oversight is dependent on time and engagement.



# CONCLUSION

S.A.C. Prep was placed into the “high” renewal tier under EC Section 47607(c)(2)(A) following the release of the 2022-23 California School Dashboard. Schools assigned a high-level renewal are entitled to a presumption of charter renewal with a 5-, 6-, or 7-year charter term.

Even with categorization in the “high” performance group, there are allowable grounds for denial of a renewal petition. Reasons for denial include:

1. Submission of a renewal petition that is incomplete does not include a reasonably comprehensive description of all new requirements applicable to charter schools since the last authorization or does not include reasonably comprehensive descriptions necessary to reflect the current program offered by the charter EC Section 47607(c)(2)(F);
2. Serious fiscal and/or governance concerns, which in the case of a school falling into the high renewal tier described below also must not have been adequately addressed, or are incapable of being addressed, during a required 30-day opportunity to correct (EC Section 47607(e))



# Options for the Board

The SCUSD Board of Education has several legally compliant options. The Board may also consider other options not listed here.

## OPTION A

**“Motion to Approve Resolution 3457-A to Renew the Charter of Sol Aureus College Preparatory for a term of 5 years, from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030.”**

\*May also consider 6 years, ending June 30, 2031 or 7 years, ending June 30, 2032

S.A.C. Prep is permitted to continue operations through (at least) June 2030, in line with the language submitted in their charter and not required to make any updates at this time.

## OPTION B

**“Motion to Approve Resolution 3457-B to Renew the Charter of Sol Aureus College Preparatory for a term of 5 years, from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030 with the conditions that:**

- a) preparation of an addendum to the renewal petition addressing all items described in this report, which shall be to the satisfaction of the District**
- b) the governance concerns listed in Element D be fully addressed**
- c) the LCAP be updated to meet legal compliance requirements.**

S.A.C. Prep is permitted to continue operations (at least) through June 30, 2030 and would be responsible for meeting the conditions specified above by March 1, 2024.

## OPTION C

**“Motion to Deny the Renewal of Sol Aureus Charter School, as outlined in Resolution 3457-C, based on the findings outlined in the Staff Renewal Report that:**

- The petition is incomplete, not reasonably comprehensive, and/or not legally compliant**  
**AND/OR**
- There are one or more serious governance concerns that were adequately noticed by SCUSD but not adequately addressed by S.A.C. Prep.**

S.A.C. Prep would be scheduled to close by June 30, 2026, pending a change of decision or appeal to the Sacramento County Office Education



Sol Aureus College Prep

Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education  
Public Hearing and Charter Renewal Vote Presentation  
November 21, 2024

# Agenda

- ❑ Staff Recommendations
- ❑ Track Record of Success
- ❑ Response to SCUSD
- ❑ Thank you and Ask
- ❑ Public Comment and Questions from the Board

# Staff Recommendations

SAC Prep agrees with the following in the staff recommendations:

- ❑ SAC Prep presents a sound educational program
- ❑ SAC Prep appears well-positioned financially to implement the proposed program

# Track Record of Success at SAC Prep

## 2023 Dashboard: SAC Prep & California

2023 Metric, Student Group	SAC Prep	State	Difference
ELA DFS, schoolwide	-4.4	-13.6	<b>SAC Prep, plus 9.2</b>
ELA DFS, African American	-13	-59.6	<b>SAC Prep, plus 46.6</b>
ELA DFS, Hispanic/Latino	-1.5	-40.2	<b>SAC Prep, plus 38.7</b>
ELA DFS, SD*	-14.9	-42.6	<b>SAC Prep, plus 27.7</b>
Math DFS, schoolwide	-39.1	-49.1	<b>SAC Prep, plus 10</b>
Math DFS, African American	-46.1	-104.5	<b>SAC Prep, plus 57.9</b>
Math DFS, Hispanic/Latino	-42.1	-80.8	<b>SAC Prep, plus 38.7</b>
ELA DFS, SD*	-41.4	-80.8	<b>SAC Prep, plus 39.4</b>
ELPI	61%	48.7%	<b>SAC Prep, plus 12.3%</b>

\*SD = Socioeconomically Disadvantaged

# Track Record of Success at SAC Prep

## 2023 Dashboard: SAC Prep & SCUSD

2023 Metric, Student Group	SAC Prep	SCUSD	Difference
ELA DFS, schoolwide	-4.4	-34.8	<b>SAC Prep, plus 30.4</b>
ELA DFS, African American	-13	-91.9	<b>SAC Prep, plus 78.9</b>
ELA DFS, Hispanic/Latino	-1.5	-54.6	<b>SAC Prep, plus 53.1</b>
ELA DFS, SD*	-14.9	-61	<b>SAC Prep, plus 46.1</b>
Math DFS, schoolwide	-39.1	-67.3	<b>SAC Prep, plus 28.2</b>
Math DFS, African American	-46.1	-132	<b>SAC Prep, plus 85.9</b>
Math DFS, Hispanic/Latino	-42.1	-91.2	<b>SAC Prep, plus 49.1</b>
ELA DFS, SD*	-41.4	-93	<b>SAC Prep, plus 51.6</b>
ELPI	61%	43.2%	<b>SAC Prep, plus 17.8%</b>

\*SD = Socioeconomically Disadvantaged

# Track Record of Success at SAC Prep

## % of SAC Prep Students Scoring 3 & 4 on CAASPP

Student Group	2022-23	2023-24	Increase or Decrease?
ELA, schoolwide	49.2%	51.7%	INCREASE
ELA, African American	47.2%	47.3%	INCREASE
ELA, Hispanic/Latino	50%	48.2%	Decrease
ELA, SD*	43.9%	48.1%	INCREASE
Math, schoolwide	30.9%	34.4%	INCREASE
Math, African American	26.4%	29.1%	INCREASE
Math, Hispanic/Latino	30.5%	32.1%	INCREASE
ELA, SD*	28.9%	29.2%	INCREASE

\*SD = Socioeconomically Disadvantaged

# Track Record of Success at SAC Prep

- ❑ SAC Prep is in the “high” track for renewal, meaning:
  - ❑ We “shall only be required to” update the petition to include a reasonably comprehensive description of new laws and to reflect the current program
  - ❑ Authorizer “shall not deny” renewal, except in extreme cases, which are not applicable here
  - ❑ We qualify for a seven-year renewal term



# Response to SCUSD

- ❑ On November 15, 2024 SAC Prep refuted all proposed findings by providing the Board and SCUSD staff with a response to the District's Staff Report
- ❑ The following slides summarize SAC Prep's response to the three areas where it is alleged that the petition "might not be considered reasonably comprehensive"

# Response to SCUSD: LCAP

- ❑ SAC Prep has submitted its LCAP to SCUSD each year, as required, since it first became a requirement in 2014
- ❑ Feedback was first received from SCUSD on the SAC Prep LCAP in October, 2024, after the charter renewal process started
- ❑ SAC Prep is reviewing the District's feedback, will consider amending its LCAP and, as required for any LCAP, will provide the document to SCUSD

# Response to SCUSD: Governance

- ❑ SAC Prep has responded to the District's notice to cure and will continue to pursue adding additional board members and amending its bylaws to reduce the minimum number of board members
- ❑ SAC Prep has operated for over twenty years and has never received a fiscal or legal penalty based on the number of Board members seated
- ❑ SAC Prep's charter petition language for governance meets the legal standards for renewal

# Response to SCUSD: Admissions

- ❑ SAC Prep does not have any barriers to enrollment and enrolls all students who wish to attend
- ❑ A lottery is used if needed to admit students
- ❑ Having families sign a document is not a barrier to enrollment and is common practice
- ❑ SAC Prep is not aware of any complaints regarding its enrollment practices made to the District and none have been received by SAC Prep

# Response to SCUSD: Next Steps

- ❑ SAC Prep has successfully served students and families for over two decades and done so in partnership with SCUSD - this will continue
- ❑ Items identified by SCUSD can and should be addressed through annual oversight
- ❑ SAC Prep commits to working with District staff to address outstanding items as well as strengthen annual oversight

# Thank You and Next Steps

- ❑ Thank you for giving us space in your meeting to present tonight. We are excited to continue to partner with SCUSD and serve students and families across the District.
- ❑ Our ask tonight is for the Board to approve Resolution 3457-A to approve SAC Prep's renewal for 7 years.
- ❑ SAC Prep provided a response to the District's Notice to Cure on Friday, November 15, 2024, and will continue to collaborate with SCUSD staff and Board members

# Public Comment, Questions from the Board

- ❑ We know there may be some public comments regarding our renewal.
- ❑ We also look forward to any questions and comments the Board may have.