



Determination Hearing for the Charter Renewal of Sacramento Charter High School (SCHS)

Board Meeting
September 19, 2024
Agenda Item No. 10.2

Presented by:
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Director, Innovative Schools

SCUSD Authorizes Charter Schools in alignment with core beliefs and guiding principles

CORE BELIEF

We recognize that our system is inequitable by design and we vigilantly work to confront and interrupt inequities that exist to level the playing field and provide opportunities for everyone to learn, grow and reach their greatness.

SCUSD GUIDING PRINCIPLE

All students are given an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options

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:

→ June 28, 2024

Notice to Cure Issued:

→ July 26, 2024

Initial Public Hearing to Determine Level of Support:

→ August 8, 2024 (41 days)

Corrective Action Plan Received:

→ August 26, 2024

Publication of Staff Renewal Report:

→ September 4, 2024 (68 days)

Determination Hearing / Board Vote:

→ September 19, 2024 (83 days)



The Charter

(A promise or roadmap for serving students)



**Students
at the Center**

The BIG Idea

An Inch
of
Flexibility

A Foot of
Innovation

A Yard of Achievement

Flexibility can be governance,
academic program, pedagogy...
all based on their charter

Flexibility
comes with
Accountability
from
Authorizer

Data and Oversight Records

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

Reflection and Continuous Improvement Efforts

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

Review Team =
Director of Innovative
Schools with support
from CCAP consultants

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



- 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.
- Can deny for the reasons in High OR can deny if:
 - (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
- 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








SCHS has been placed in the Middle Tier by the California Department of Education

SCUSD Renewal Report for PS7

Published 9/4/2024

Middle Performance Level

-  School has submitted verified data suggesting students made at least 1 year of academic growth (CAASPP Data Spring 2023 and A-G eligibility)
-  School has submitted a comprehensive petition with a necessary affirmations
-  School's petition describes sound educational program
-  School does not appear unlikely to implement their described program (with corrective action)
-  School appears to be serving all students who wish to attend

Executive Summary

Performance Level assigned by CDE (High, Middle, Low)	MIDDLE
Has a notice to cure an alleged violation been issued?	YES
→ If notice was issued, has a response been submitted?	YES

Did the charter petition meet all primary requirements for renewal?		YES
1	Does this charter present an <u>unsound</u> educational program?	NO
2	Are the petitioners demonstrably <u>unlikely</u> to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition?	SEE ANALYSIS
3	Does the petition contain the necessary affirmations and assurances of the Charter Schools Act?	YES
4	Does the petition contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all of the 15 elements described below?	YES
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?	YES
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 set forth in the petition due to substantial fiscal or governance factors?	SEE ANALYSIS
7	Does the charter school serve the pupils who wish to attend, as documented by E.C. section 47607(d)?	YES



The Charter

(A promise or roadmap for serving students)



Students at the Center

Data and Oversight Records

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

Reflection and Continuous Improvement Efforts

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

Charter Petition is Comprehensive and Meets Requirements

Corrective Action Plan submitted to SCUSD responds to fiscal and governance concerns

Middle Tier; historically strong outcomes; recent declines

Based on the above findings of fact and **Sacramento Charter High School's** designation as a **MIDDLE-PERFORMING** charter school, the District's review team has concluded that the renewal petition, coupled with the corrective action plan submitted in response to the Notice to Cure, **collectively meet the minimum legal standards** under the Education Code **to qualify for approval for the requested five-year term, beginning July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030.**

If the District's Board takes action to approve the renewal petition, District staff will oversee SCHS's full satisfaction of the corrective actions described in the plan and any other conditions or oversight items that the Board may direct

Next Steps / Suggestions

Should the board vote to renew, district staff suggests the following conditions:

- PS7 will enter into an operational MOU to be signed no later than May 1, 2025
- Full implementation of corrective action plan proposed by PS7
- Submission of aligned fiscal documents
- Plan to reduce suspension rates
- Plan to improve academic performance, especially among students with disabilities

Sacramento Charter High School
Determination Hearing
St. HOPE Public Schools Presentation

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September 19, 2024

Introduction & Highlights

- Sac High is a mission driven, public, college preparatory, independent charter school serving students in 9-12th grade.
- Sac High is aligned with SCUSD's focus on traditionally underserved students and is serving them with excellence.
- The school was initially authorized by SCUSD in 2003 and is in its 22nd year of operation as a charter school. This is Sac High's fourth charter renewal.
- Sac High recently received a 6-year WASC accreditation through June 30, 2030.
- At our HBCU college fair last week, scholars visited with 26 universities. Many of our students received on-the-spot acceptances scholarships. Three scholars received full-ride scholarships!



Sac High Meets Renewal Criteria

Sac High is a MIDDLE-PERFORMING charter school, as determined by state law and the 2022 and 2023 Dashboard results, and qualifies for approval of five-year term from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2030.

SCUSD's staff report says: "The design and description of the educational program at SCHS are sound and meet renewal criteria."

SHPS and Sac High appreciate SCUSD's partnership and look forward to continuing to work with the District to serve students and families in Oak Park and South Sacramento.



SCUSD Staff Report Findings

“SCHS serves a historically underserved community and, for many years, has had notably strong academic and post-secondary outcomes, particularly for African American and socio-economically disadvantaged (SED) student groups.”

“The graduation rate for African American students consistently exceeded the rate for the African American student group statewide. For most years, the graduation rate for students in the SED student group has exceeded the rate for the SED student group statewide.”

The SHPS program “includes a commitment to rigorous academic standards, character development, college preparation, and extended learning time. SCHS operates a full-inclusion special education program supported by the El Dorado Charter SELPA.”

“Based on the review of items submitted with the petition, in conjunction with the identified corrective action plan, SCHS seems likely to succeed with the implementation of its education program.”

Looking Ahead: Our Areas of Focus

We will work with SCUSD to chart a path forward to build deeper public trust, create greater transparency in our processes, and drive excellence in all aspects of our operations.

SHPS, on behalf of both PS7 and Sac High, is committed to:

- ✓ Focusing on reducing suspensions and ensuring students stay in class, especially students with disabilities.
- ✓ Continuing robust professional development and teacher support, while investing in commercially-developed curriculum.
- ✓ Continuing to ensure all teachers maintain appropriate credentials or documents required to teach while monitoring credential agreements and providing teachers with support to attain effective and, ultimately, clear credentials.
- ✓ Implementing the corrective action plan submitted to SCUSD on August 26.
- ✓ Providing SCUSD staff with opportunities to review progress on implementation of SHPS' action plans.



Sac High's Commitments & Thank You

We agree with SCUSD's proposed next steps and look forward to continuing our partnership with the District. Our commitment to SCUSD includes:

- Entering into an operational MOU.
- Continuing implementation of the action plans provided to SCUSD on August 26.
- Working with SCUSD on monitoring our implementation of the action plans.

We will work tirelessly toward continuous improvement at SHPS so we can continue to help our scholars do and be their best.

We are excited to continue to serve our students and families in partnership with SCUSD and are happy to answer Board member questions.



Three Options for the Board

Approval

The charter is approved for the term July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030.

The charter and the district will enter into an MOU before the end of the year.

Approval with Conditions

The charter is approved for the term July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030.

The charter and the district will enter into an MOU before the end of the year.

The board will indicate conditions by which the charter must abide or risk board consideration of revocation due to noncompliance.

Denial

The charter renewal is not approved.

The charter and the district will begin closure proceedings to close the school by June 30, 2025.

The charter may appeal the denial to the County.