

## **YPI CHARTER SCHOOLS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**December 13, 2018**

*The mission of YPI Charter Schools (YPICS) is to:*

- *Prepare students for academic success in high school, as well as post-secondary education.*
- *Prepare students to be responsible and active participants in their community.*
- *Enable students to become life-long learners.*

*Students at YPICS will become active citizens who characterize the ideals of a diverse and democratic society. Students will provide service to their community, take responsibility for their own learning, and develop the habits of mind and body that will empower them to be successful in high school and beyond.*

### **CCSA:**

#### **“CCSA Calls for Closure of Seven Academically Underperforming Charter Schools”** *Public Call Demonstrates Charter Schools' Steadfast Commitment to Accountability*

Sacramento, CA - For nearly a decade, the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) has publicly called each year for the non-renewal of chronically underperforming charter public schools. Today, CCSA called for the non-renewal and closure of seven charter schools across the state.

A commitment to student learning is woven into the DNA of California's charter schools. In exchange for the freedom and flexibility to tailor teaching to meet students' individual needs, charter schools agree to be held to higher standards. No other type of public school has a greater commitment to accountability for its student outcomes.

"We want all schools to provide a high-quality education to their students. And we believe all public schools should be as accountable as charters are to the public for their results. When charter schools fail to help students succeed academically, they should close," said Jed Wallace, president and CEO of CCSA. "We urge the school districts that authorize these charter schools to hold up their end of the bargain and close underperforming schools that have failed repeatedly to support student learning outcomes."

Recommending a school's closure is a difficult decision but CCSA is committed to working with closing schools to find new options that will better meet the academic needs of students and families.

"Charter schools in California aren't about bureaucracy or protecting the status quo," said Elizabeth Robitaille, SVP, School Performance, Development, and Support of CCSA. "Rather, charter schools innovate, they help students accelerate their learning and thrive, and families can choose the learning model that works best for their kids. Every five years they must work with their authorizing school district or county office of education to prove how they are supporting student learning. When charter schools fail to demonstrate they are increasing student learning, they must be held accountable, plain and simple."

As the membership and advocacy organization that supports the 1,323 charter schools in California in 2018-19, CCSA has used an [academic accountability framework](#) to guide its advocacy for renewing and replicating schools for nearly a decade. Guided by its members, CCSA worked to establish minimum criteria for charter renewal using a framework that assesses a multi-year view of a school's performance on multiple student outcome measures. CCSA starts with initial filters generated by publicly available data (State Rank, Similar Students Rank, Growth and Postsecondary Readiness). For charter schools below the initial filters, CCSA does a deep-dive Multiple Measure Review to ensure charter schools have the opportunity to provide additional compelling evidence of growth in student achievement. The following schools fall below CCSA's minimum renewal criteria for the 2018-19 school year and are chronically underperforming on several other academic performance measures.

**Charter Public Schools Below CCSA's Minimum Criteria for Renewal**  
Charter Schools up for Renewal in 2018-19 (based on 5-year charter term)

School Name	Authorizer	County
Delta Charter	New Jerusalem Elementary School District	San Joaquin
ICEF Inglewood Middle Charter Academy	Inglewood Unified School District	Los Angeles
Independence Charter Academy	Helendale Elementary School District	San Bernardino
New Jerusalem Elementary	New Jerusalem Elementary School District	San Joaquin
SCALE Leadership Academy	Acton Agua-Dulce Unified School District	Los Angeles
Valiant Academy of Southern California	Dehesa Elementary School District	San Diego
Vista Oaks Charter	Byron Union Elementary School District	Contra Costa

**Spotlight on New Jerusalem Elementary School District:**

Occasionally, charter schools and/or their authorizing school districts will seek to renew charter schools early (out of their 5-year cycle). CCSA's position is that charter schools should have five years to demonstrate results and should be held accountable for their performance during that charter term. If authorizers seek to renew charter schools early/under-the-radar, then CCSA calls for the authorizer to hold these schools to account in their fifth year and to revoke these schools due to their chronic underperformance. This is the case with both Delta Charter and New Jerusalem Elementary, both of which were renewed early and out-of-cycle by their authorizer (New Jerusalem Elementary School District).

**A Lack of Meaningful Accountability for Traditional Public Schools**

The focus of CCSA's Annual Public Call for Non-Renewal announcement is to hold underperforming charter schools accountable. Yet there is no similar accountability for district-run traditional public schools' performance. This means chronically underperforming district-run schools can languish year

after year to the profound detriment of the students they serve without any deep dive review or consequence.

Applying CCSA's Academic Accountability Framework, CCSA identified more than a thousand district-run schools across the state that are underperforming on publicly available measures of academic performance. These schools have low State Ranks, low Similar Students Ranks, low postsecondary readiness and lack of improvement over time on state test scores, and would require a Multiple Measure Review deep dive under CCSA's accountability framework. In fact, there are 14% of traditional public schools below the initial filters of CCSA's accountability framework, compared to 12% of charter schools. The public can view CCSA's [Regional Snapshots](#) to find the percentage of traditional public and charter schools meeting CCSA's initial filters by district, city, and county.

If these district-run schools were charter schools, once every five years they would be responsible for demonstrating how they are increasing student learning. While the state launched a new California School Dashboard, it is unclear how many schools will be identified under its numerous measures as underperforming and thus eligible for support. Traditional public schools identified for "support" under the Dashboard will be asked to reflect on their performance for extended periods of time, but without any real accountability, consequence, or clear pathway toward improved access to student learning. We call on school districts to hold a higher bar for their district-run schools to ensure all public schools are as effective as possible in supporting California's students to learn and succeed.

### **CCSA's Accountability Framework**

To meet the academic threshold for CCSA renewal advocacy support in 2018-19, a charter school needed to meet one of the four criteria below. Charters meeting ANY initial filter OR showing academic success through the Multiple Measure Review met the academic threshold to receive CCSA's full advocacy support for renewal or replication. The charter schools included in CCSA's Public Call for Non-Renewal did not meet any of the initial criteria and the Multiple Measure Review did not yield evidence of student outcome success and growth in achievement beyond that which is seen at other schools or the schools refused to participate in this secondary review. More information is available at <http://www.ccsa.org/accountability>.

#### **Initial Filters**

1. **Status measure:** State Rank of 4 or above in 2 of the last 3 years (2016, 2017, 2018)
  - Schools performing in the bottom 5th percentile of performance statewide on the status measure in 2 of the last 3 years were considered "below criteria" and needed to participate in CCSA's Multiple Measure Review in order to receive CCSA's advocacy support for renewal.
2. **Growth/ Postsecondary readiness**
  - **Elementary/middle schools:** Improvement on CAASPP (Distance from Level 3) over the last 3 years at/above the 75th percentile of growth statewide. (For the 2015-16 to 2017-18 period, the 75th percentile of 3-year growth was 12 scale score points on CAASSP, averaging ELA and math.)
  - **High schools:** 75 percent or more of 12th grade graduates completing all "a-g" requirements in 2 of the last 3 years (2016, 2017, 2018)
3. **Similar Students:** Similar Students Rank of 4 or above in 2 of the last 3 years (2016, 2017, 2018)

#### **Multiple Measure Review**

4. Schools below ALL the initial filters or in the bottom 5 percent statewide on SBAC can share outcomes aligned to California's 8 state priorities as described in the school's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). Schools can tell their own story of success by choosing measures most closely aligned to their mission.

*CCSA's Minimum Academic Accountability Criteria would not apply if a school is designated as Dashboard Alternative School Status "DASS," is less than four years old, or has less than 30 valid test takers.*

## **“California's Charter Schools Grow, Over 1,300 New and Expanded Charter Schools Open in 2018”**

Sacramento, CA - The California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) announced today that an estimated 660,000 students are enrolled in 1,323 charter public schools in California for the 2018-19 school year. This year the equivalent of 70 new schools opened across the state. The 70 schools include 63 new startups and replications, and seven planned significant expansions of existing schools.

The charter schools association includes significant expansions of existing schools in its annual tally because some expansions are similar to opening an entirely new school. For example, a K-5 elementary school expanding to serve grades 6-8 is very similar to opening an entirely new middle school. Another school might double their capacity in the current grades they serve. CCSA also considers that type of expansion the equivalent of a new school.

"It is gratifying to see that we have so many new schools this year because it shows the demand from parents who want more options for their children," said Jed Wallace, president and CEO of CCSA. "Even as we see resistance from authorizing districts, we have dedicated charter school leaders and parents who are undeterred in their fight to open a school that puts kids first."

The 70 new and replication schools and significant expansions added about 12,600 new students to the total number of students enrolled in California charter schools. Together with growing enrollment in existing charter schools, there is a total estimated increase of about 30,000 students in California charter schools for 2018-19 compared to 2017-18 (where the total was 630,000 students enrolled in 1,276 charter schools).

In addition to the equivalent of 70 new school equivalents, there were 44 charter schools that opened as a result of the [Anderson Union HSD v Shasta ruling](#). This ruling forced many non-classroom-based charter schools to re-petition their resource centers as new charter schools. Although these schools will be assigned new charter numbers by the California Department of Education, CCSA decided to separate them in its annual growth count because most were in existence last year as resource centers. There were 68 charter schools that closed last year. A number of these were affiliated with the Anderson Union HSD v Shasta ruling. California still remains the state with the greatest number of charter schools, and the most students enrolled in charters, anywhere in the country. This school year, the Los Angeles region had the largest charter school growth with 25 new charter schools opening. The Southern California region saw the second highest growth with 17 new charter schools.

### **“California School Finance Authority - FISCAL Notification”**

The State of California is in the process of converting to a new statewide accounting system called FISCAL (Financial Information System for California). The new system is intended to transform the existing budgeting, accounting, procurement, and cash management systems to optimize the financial business management of California's government. As a state entity, the California School Finance Authority (CSFA) has recently transitioned to the FISCAL system.

A FISCAL requirement for all entities that receive payments from the State is the completion and acceptance of a Payee Data Record Form (STD 204). CSFA staff and the Accounting division have been working with designated school contacts to ensure these forms have been received so that payments can be processed. There are numerous requirements that must be met in order for the forms to be accepted by the new system. **Most notable is the requirement that the school's Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN), name, and address information on file with the Internal Revenue Service match the information submitted on the STD 204.** For your reference, schools may check the FEIN information submitted at: [apps.irs.gov/app/eos/](https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/).

If schools have already submitted an STD 204, and have not heard back from CSFA staff, no changes to the STD 204 are required at this time. If schools have not submitted an STD 204, please start the process by downloading the form linked here: [www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dgs/fmc/pdf/std204.pdf](http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dgs/fmc/pdf/std204.pdf).

Please be aware that the CSFA cannot issue payments until the STD 204 has been received and accepted by the new system. Many of the STD 204s that CSFA staff have received have been rejected by the system, which has caused delays in processing payments to schools. CSFA staff have been working with, and will continue to work with, school staff to make any corrections so payments can be processed. **If you receive a call or email from the CSFA regarding your STD 204, please respond promptly so that payments can be processed.** If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact CSFA at (213) 620-4608.

**State:**

From School Services of California

*“Modest Growth Projected for School and Community College Funding in the Upcoming Budget Year.”*

Each year, the state calculates a “minimum guarantee” for school and community college funding based upon a set of formulas established by Proposition 98 (1988). Under our near-term outlook, the 2019-20 minimum guarantee is up \$2.4 billion (3.1 percent) over our revised estimate of 2018-19 funding. After accounting for this increase and backing out various one-time initiatives funded in the prior year, among other adjustments, we estimate the Legislature would have an additional \$2.8 billion for Proposition 98 programs in 2019-20. The state could use this funding to cover a 3.1 percent statutory cost-of-living adjustment for school and community college programs (estimated to cost \$2.3 billion) and certain other previously scheduled commitments (estimated to cost \$57 million). Were the state to fund those increases, about \$480 million would remain available for other activities. The Legislature might wish to consider using this remaining funding for one-time initiatives, as doing so would provide a modest buffer in case the minimum guarantee drops after the budget year. The volatility of the minimum guarantee, the possibility of a recession sometime after 2019-20, and the lack of funding in the state school reserve are all reasons the Legislature might wish to budget cautiously in the upcoming year.

***From Ed Source –***

**“LAO sees a near \$3b bump in Prop 98 funding next year”**

*by Tom Chorneau*

(Calif.) Under favorable economic conditions, schools could expect to see the minimum funding guarantee grow to nearly \$90 billion by the 2022-23 fiscal year—a jump of \$10 billion above this year’s appropriation, according to a forecast from the non-partisan Legislative Analyst.

A far less optimistic scenario projects a recession by 2020 and growth in the Proposition 98 allotment would then be restricted to only about \$6 billion over the next four years from the \$78 billion provided to schools and community colleges in the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Looking at just the near-term, the LAO expects the funding guarantee to increase by just over 3 percent next year, which would add about \$2.4 billion. When adjustments for other funding issues are taken into account, the number would grow to \$2.8 billion.

The LAO's 2019-20 forecast for state coffers is generally upbeat.

"We expect wages and salaries in California to grow at an above-average rate over the near term, similar to growth over the past few years," the agency said in its annual economic report to the Legislature in advance of the governor releasing his January budget. "We assume that job growth continues but at a slower rate, similar to the slowing trend over the past few years. These wage and job trends are due, in part, to record low unemployment."

The LAO, however, is less confident that the longest-running bull market in the history of the New Stock Exchange will continue.

"Regarding the stock market, the consensus forecast assumes that stock prices—which grew rapidly for several years but have been volatile recently—will grow much more slowly moving forward," they said.

A top off in the stock market would be important for lawmakers to keep an eye on because of the strong link between investor profits and California's tax collections.

During booming stock market cycles, the state collects billions in capital gains—the bull market of 1999-2000, for instance, generated close to \$130 billion in net capital gains. On the flip side, when the market slides, California coffers suffer—such as 2009-10 when only about \$20 billion in capital gains was taxed.

Even more to the point, the state collected \$17.4 billion in January, almost \$2.4 billion more than the governor's Department of Finance has estimated would come in that month just a few weeks before.

Although the markets have struggled since the beginning of the year, the Standard & Poor's Index still stands more than 2000 points ahead of where the record run started in March, 2009.

Assuming the LAO is largely on target for next year, lawmakers have about \$500 million in unrestricted funds that could be used for special projects.

Overall, most of the additional money coming in next year will likely go toward a cost-of-living adjustment the Legislature typically provides schools, an allocation likely to cost about \$2.3 billion.

After that, the Legislature would probably fulfill a commitment made in September to provide distress grants to Oakland Unified and Inglewood Unified, which is likely to cost about \$28 million.

Incoming Gov. Gavin Newsom may weigh in on using another \$27 million to open about 3,000 slots in the state's all-day preschool program. Newsom made early learning a key component of his election campaign.

Regardless of how lawmakers decide how to spend the leftovers, districts will still have pension clouds looming over them. The LAO estimates that statewide, districts will spend \$5.7 billion on retirement benefits next year. Costs are expected to go up another \$900 million in 2019-20, and \$600 million more in 2020-21.

### **Thurmond wins race for California schools chief**

Assemblyman Tony Thurmond has won the race for California state superintendent of public instruction, defeating Marshall Tuck in the nonpartisan contest.

Two million ballots have yet to be counted but in a tweet he issued this morning, Thurmond said Tuck had conceded the race in a “gracious call to congratulate me and wish me well.” Tuck has himself not yet said anything publicly about the outcome as of Saturday afternoon.

**District:**

***LA School Report***

As L.A. Unified and its teachers union ratchet up preparations for what is increasingly looking like the first teacher strike in 30 years, district parents are torn — and frustrated that the two sides can’t negotiate a solution.

**YPICS:**

YPICS has held two Professional development days since the last YPICS Board Meeting. The TPD, Total Staff Professional Development, days have focused on preparing all stake holders to remain focused on increased academic achievement for All students. In November, teachers and staff took a data dive to review Interim Benchmark results to devise a plan to respond to the data and to adjust instructional strategies and programs. In December the schools continued to focus on instruction and is monitoring closely the ongoing progress of ELs and students with disabilities. All YPICS TPD sessions and resources can be located at [tpd.ypics.org](http://tpd.ypics.org).

Both Monsenor and Bert Corona have successfully completed DVRs (District Validation Reviews). Executive Administrators will included outcomes in their respective reports.