



**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION**

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**AUSTIN BEUTNER**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**FRANCES GIPSON, Ph.D.**  
*Chief Academic Officer  
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**JOSÉ COLE-GUTIÉRREZ**  
*Director, Charter Schools Division*

February 13, 2019

Palisades Charter High School  
15777 Bowdoin Street  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Attention: Dr. Pamela Magee Executive Director/Principal, and Leslie Woolley, Governing Board President

**Via Email and U.S. Mail:**  
**RESPONSE DUE: On or before**  
**Friday, March 8, 2019**

**SUBJECT: CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL for Palisades Charter High School**

Dear School Leader Dr. Pamela Magee and Governing Board President Woolley:

Our records indicate that Palisades Charter High School will be up for renewal during the 2019-2020 school year. In an effort to have a shared understanding of the school's current performance status as you approach the charter renewal process, the Charter Schools Division (CSD) has summarized below what we consider to be areas of concern based on the District's ongoing oversight of your school, as previously documented over the course of your current charter term. Please note that this summation is not exhaustive, but instead strives to highlight key, salient factors considered at the time of renewal.

The Charter Schools Division is providing this correspondence to support a transparent, consistent, and predictable renewal process. However, this letter should not be taken as an indication of whether your school will be recommended for renewal by the CSD, or eventually approved by the Board<sup>1</sup>. Rather, the information provided below is intended to support, inform, and/or guide the school's decision-making as it approaches the fifth year of its charter term. For your awareness, an update of the school's Facilities Use Agreement with the District will need to occur as part of the renewal process.

According to our preliminary review of the Palisades Charter High School's record of performance, based on available CAASPP (SBAC) data, it appears that the school will partially meet minimum renewal criteria which requires clear and convincing evidence that the academic performance of the charter school is at least equal to the academic performance of the public schools that the charter school pupils would otherwise have been required to attend, as well as the academic performance of the schools in the school district in which the charter school is located, taking into account the composition of the pupil population that is served at the charter school (e.g. Resident Schools and District Similar Schools). For example, on the 2017-2018 CAASPP (SBAC) assessment in English Language Arts, 75.86% of Palisades Charter High School students Met and

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<sup>1</sup> The feedback provided herein is not intended to supplant or supplement the renewal criteria established by the Charter Schools Act, nor is the letter intended to serve as a Notice to Cure or Notice of Violation for purposes of charter revocation. Please also note that the timing of this letter does not place formal or informal limitations or constraints on the timing of your charter renewal submission. Each charter renewal petition will be assessed based on the criteria outlined in Education Code sections 47607(b) and 52052(3)(4)(c), and the policies and procedures outlined in the District's Administrative Procedures for Charter Authorizing.

Exceeded the performance standards, which is higher than the Resident Schools Median of 38.95%, but lower than the Similar School's Median at 90.32%. In Math, 47.77% of Palisades Charter High School's students Met and Exceeded the performance standards, which is higher than the Resident Schools Median of 13.39%, but lower than the Similar Schools Median at 63.44%. The school's reclassification rate for the 2017-2018 school year was at 33.3%, which is 20.5 percentage points above the Resident Schools Median at 12.8%. In 2016-2017, the school's reclassification rate was at 22.5%, which was 9.5 percentage points above the Resident Schools Median at 13.0%. The school's CALPADS demographics for Students who qualify for Free/Reduced Priced Meals, African Americans, English Learners, Latinos, and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students reflect rates below the Resident Schools Median and/or Similar Schools Median. The school's CALPADS demographics for White students reflect a rate higher than the Resident Schools Median and Similar Schools Median.

In addition to the above, pursuant to the requirements of SB 1290, the District "shall consider increases in pupil academic achievement for all group of pupils served by the charter school as the most important factor in determining whether to grant a charter renewal." (Ed. Code 47607(a)(3)(A).) Based on the past two years of CAASPP (SBAC) data from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018, while the schoolwide outcomes demonstrate slight declines in English Language Arts and Math performance, comparison of the percentages of students that Met and Exceeded the performance standards reveals that several of Palisades Charter High School's student subgroups experienced declines in academic performance. In ELA, five out of six numerically significant subgroups demonstrated declines. Asian students decreased by 4.31 percentage points, from 92.31% to 88.0% Met and Exceeded; Latino students decreased by 2.71 percentage points, from 65.48% to 62.77% Met and Exceeded; Socioeconomically Disadvantaged decreased by 0.62 percentage points, from 64.19% to 63.57% Met and Exceeded; Students with Disabilities decreased by 7.61 percentage points from 40.00% Met and Exceeded to 32.39% Met and Exceeded; White students decreased by 0.93 percentage points, from 84.35% to 83.42% Met and Exceeded, while African American students demonstrated growth by 3.00 percentage points, from 51.90% to 54.90% Met and Exceeded. In Math four out of six numerically significant subgroups demonstrated declines. Asian students decreased by 8.58 percentage points, from 78.85% to 70.27% Met and Exceeded; Socioeconomically Disadvantaged decreased by 0.61 percentage points, from 30.95% to 30.34% Met and Exceeded; Students with Disabilities decreased by 0.66 percentage points from 15.94% Met and Exceeded to 15.28% Met and Exceeded; White students decreased by 6.86 percentage points, from 61.50% to 54.64% Met and Exceeded, while African American students demonstrated growth by 2.71 percentage points, from 22.78% to 25.49% Met and Exceeded and Latino students also demonstrated growth by 3.03 percentage points, from 29.09% to 32.12% Met and Exceeded.

Moreover, in the three year comparison 2015-2016 to 2017-2018 for the SBAC ELA assessment, two out of six of Palisades Charter High School numerically significant subgroups experienced declines. Asian students decreased by 4.00 percentage points, from 92.00% to 88.0% Met and Exceeded; Students with Disabilities decreased by 7.61 percentage points from 40.00% Met and Exceeded to 32.39% Met and Exceeded, while African American students demonstrated growth by 12.90 percentage points, from 42.00% to 54.90% Met and Exceeded; Latino students demonstrated growth by 2.77 percentage points, from 60.00% to 62.77% Met and Exceeded; Socioeconomically Disadvantaged demonstrated growth by 9.57 percentage points, from 54.00% to 63.57% Met and Exceeded, and White students demonstrated growth by 2.42 percentage points, from 81.00% to 83.42% Met and Exceeded. In Math three out of six numerically significant

subgroups demonstrated declines. Asian students decreased by 8.73 percentage points, from 79.00% to 70.27% Met and Exceeded; African American students demonstrated declines by 0.51 percentage points, from 26.00% to 25.49% Met and Exceeded; White students decreased by 7.36 percentage points, from 62.00% to 54.64% Met and Exceeded, while Latino students also demonstrated growth by 4.12 percentage points, from 28.00% to 32.12% Met and Exceeded; Socioeconomically Disadvantaged demonstrated growth by 2.34 percentage points, from 28.00% to 30.34% Met and Exceeded, and Students with Disabilities demonstrated growth by 0.28 percentage points from 15.00% Met and Exceeded to 15.28% Met and Exceeded. Please know, the CSD is looking forward to reviewing the 2018-2019 CAASPP results for your school, along with other relevant data you may provide as part of your full renewal analysis.

On May 19, 24, and 26, 2017 and May 10 and 15, 2018, the CSD conducted its annual oversight visits to Palisades Charter High School. The 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Annual Performance-Based Oversight Reports indicate that the Palisades Charter High School earned ratings of “3” and/or “4” in the categories of Governance and Student Achievement. However, for the 2016-2017 Palisades Charter High School earned a rating of “1” (Unsatisfactory) in the category of Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations. This rating was a result of the school’s failure to conduct child abuse mandated reporter training in accordance with AB1432. Moreover, the school earned a rating of “3” (Proficient) in the category of Fiscal Operations for both Fiscal Years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. According to the school’s independent audit report for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, the school reported a negative fund balance at the end of 2017-2018, which was primarily due to its reporting obligations related to its Other Post-Employment Benefits, in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification 715.

Based on the above information, the CSD is requesting that the school provide a response, inclusive of the following information:

- 1) Root cause analysis and detailed plans (SMART goals) that outline the actions of the school’s executive team, Governing Board, and school-site leadership to improve the decline in performance in ELA for Asian, Latino, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, and White students.
- 2) Root cause analysis and detailed plans (SMART goals) to improve the decline in performance for all subgroups in Math. (Asian, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, and White students)
- 3) How the school conducts outreach for Students who qualify for Free/Reduced Priced Meals, African Americans, English Learners, Latinos, and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students.

Please provide responses, as well as documentation, on school letterhead on or before March 8, 2019. You may choose to include supporting documentation as separate email attachments. Again, the CSD will review further when the 2018-2019 CAASPP (SBAC) data is published by the California Department of Education. If you have questions or would like to discuss the items outlined above and/or the upcoming renewal process, please contact.

**Specialist:** Blanca A. Alves-Monaster, email: [b.alvesmonaster@lausd.net](mailto:b.alvesmonaster@lausd.net), (213) 241-8626.  
**Fiscal Services Manager:** Allan Villamor, [allan.villamor@lausd.net](mailto:allan.villamor@lausd.net) (213) 241-0338.

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Blanca A. Alves-Monaster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Blanca A. Alves-Monaster, Ed.D.  
Specialist, CSD

- c: José Cole Gutiérrez, Director CSD  
Robert Perry, Administrative Coordinator, CSD  
James Robinson, Fiscal Administrator, CSD  
Sharon Bradley, Senior Coordinator, CSD  
Emmaliza Baquir, Fiscal Oversight Administrator, CSD