



# PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

*Empowering Educational Excellence.*

## **Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting February 20, 2024**

*Our mission: PCHS will empower our diverse student population to make positive contributions to the global community by dedicating our resources to ensure educational excellence, civic responsibility, and personal growth.*

**Schoolwide goals addressed in this month's report:** [Academic Achievement](#), [Communication](#), [Diversity](#), [Student Socioemotional Well-being](#), and [Health](#)

**Palisades Charter High School is constantly engaged in analysis and reflection to guide continuous improvement and increase student achievement. In support of this objective, PCHS is preparing for multiple compliance and self-review visits during March:**

March 13 - LAUSD Charter School Division Oversight Visit

March 15 - Special Education Leadership Fellowship (SELF) Visit

March 17-20 - Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) Visit

### **LAUSD Charter School Division (CSD) Oversight Visit**

- **Thursday, March 7, 2024** - Virtual meeting for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Grid Review
- **Wednesday, March 13, 2024** - In-person campus visit with a Fiscal Separation of Duties Review and Special Education Review
  - **Opening Meeting:** Discussion of guiding and special education questions. Board members (as long as the number of members present does not reach quorum) are welcome to participate in this meeting, as well as the other activities of the visit.
  - **Classroom Observations:** School administrators accompany the CSD Team members on the classroom observations. During the opening meeting the CSD team will determine the classrooms to observe. Classroom observations will ideally include a variety of grade levels and content areas.
  - **Special Education Review:** The CSD Team member conducting this review will meet with the Executive Director and SPED Director to engage in a discussion about the school's systems and procedures for ensuring compliance with special education requirements, including a review of the school's current Welligent reports for services and IEP meeting timelines.
  - **Document Review/Clarifying Questions:** The CSD Team will review the school's documents in Dropbox folders in addition to the ESSA Grid review of any staff member/vendor/volunteer added, or with updated information, after the initial (tri-annual) submission of the ESSA Grid along with all accompanying/supporting documentation. CSD may also engage the school leader(s) with clarifying questions regarding the document review during this time.

- **Visit Debrief:** At the end of the visit day, the CSD Team will meet with the school's leadership team to debrief the activities of the day, including the results of the document and website reviews, and identify follow-up action items, as applicable.

### **Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) Visit Sunday, March 17- Wednesday, March 20**

PCHS will host the visiting WASC Team for a three-day observation visit. The purpose of the visit is to validate the school's self-study report and provide constructive feedback for the school's action plan.

ACS WASC accreditation is a process schools use to monitor student learning and set school improvement goals. ACS WASC accreditation is an ongoing cycle of quality. Schools assess their program and the impact on student learning with respect to the ACS WASC criteria and other accreditation factors.

Every six years, \* accredited schools conduct a self-study and host a self-study visit. The self-study process culminates in the refinement of a schoolwide action plan. Throughout the accreditation cycle, schools are expected to address the schoolwide action plan and demonstrate evidence of acceptable student achievement and school improvement. Appropriate reports and reviews throughout the six-year cycle of accreditation support this process.

<https://www.acswasc.org/acs-wasc-school-process-overview/>

ACS WASC report and action plan highlights include:

- School Community
- Academic Support
- Growth Areas
- Reflection questions

Special thanks to Monica Iannessa and Tyler Farrell, primary writers and visit coordinators as well as the Academic Achievement Team, Department Chairs, Instructional Coaches, Coordinators, Long Term Strategic Planning meeting participants, and all PCHS community members who provided input for the self-study.

### **Special Education Leadership Fellowship (SELF) Visit Friday, March 15**

The purpose of the Special Education Leadership Fellowship (SELF) visit is to support Special Education Leaders through workshops, trainings, national school visits, partnerships with other Special Education Leaders in the field, and individual supports for Special Education Leaders in their current environment. This visit is designed to help develop a Special Education vision that aligns PCHS mission, visions, and demographics.

The visit will include the following:

1. 20-30-minute meet and greet with Leadership Team
2. Classroom Visits
  - Inclusion classrooms
    - RSP- Study Seminar Classes
    - SDP classes
    - Moderate Severe classes
3. Meeting with Special Education Teachers and Leadership

The SELF Group will provide feedback and recommendations to help improve program and services in alignment with the PCHS school vision.

### **Student Programs Update**

The Campus Unification Program, the umbrella program for Justice League and Link Crew among other activities, has ended. Following an assessment of current school needs, PCHS is developing a vision and plan to guide Pali's ongoing commitment to fostering and sustaining a positive campus environment where hate is not tolerated, and all are treated with dignity and respect. The action plan incorporates feedback from individual listening meetings scheduled this month with each of the student groups that comprise Justice League (Asian Student Union, Black Student Union, Human Rights Watch, Jewish Student Coalition, Latinx Student Union, Queer Student Union, and Transgender Awareness) in addition to student organizations including Associated Student Body (ASB) and Ambassadors. There will also be opportunities for the school community to participate. The PCHS Equity Task Force will review input and the proposed action plan for equity. Link Crew, an integral campus introduction program for incoming students as well as the many upperclassmen who serve as Link Crew leaders, will continue under the guidance of a PCHS administrator and staff member.

### **Ethnic Studies Course Development Update**

California legislation requires all students to complete a course in Ethnic Studies starting with the graduating class of 2029-2030; schools must begin offering the course in 2025-2026. Assembly Bill 101 requires curriculum that more closely reflects the history, culture, and struggles of California's diverse population. The legislation focuses on four ethnic and racial groups who have traditionally been underrepresented in educational materials: Blacks, Latinx, Native Americans, and Asian Americans. The revised state model curriculum also includes units on Sikh, Jewish, Arab and Armenian Americans. PCHS has formed an Ethnic Studies Team that is reviewing the state model curriculum and visiting school districts with strong Ethnic Studies programs to determine the best model for PCHS students. A goal of the team is to pilot select ethnic studies units in the coming school year. The Ethnic Studies Team will provide a report following school/district visits in March 2024.