



# PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

*Empowering Educational Excellence.*

## **Executive Director/Principal Report Board of Trustees Meeting June 18, 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](#)

### **Special Education Study with the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) - Update**

The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) is a state agency that was established in 1992 as a service to assist California's local K-14 educational agencies in complying with fiscal accountability standards. FCMAT provides both management assistance and fiscal crisis prevention. Our school has entered into a management assistance agreement with FCMAT to review our special education program in the following areas:

- The implementation of student success teams, response to intervention and multitiered system of supports.
- The organizational structure and staffing of the special education program for our school.
- The staffing for paraeducators, special education teachers and related service providers.
- The identification rate for special education compared to the county and statewide averages.
- The school's continuum of special education and related services for students.
- The school's professional development/training program as it relates to special education.
- The costs of due process, mediations, and settlements for the past three years.
- The school's general fund contribution to special education.

FCMAT reviewed documents and data. Special education teachers, related service providers, and other school staff were selected for interviews. From the interviews, and school data and documents, FCMAT has developed findings and recommendations.

*PCHS has received a draft report of all FCMAT recommendations. The Executive Summary is included in the meeting materials. A representative from the FCMAT team will present the full report to the Board of Trustees at the August 20, 2024, meeting. PCHS will use the recommendations in the report to inform our work moving forward. PCHS has already incorporated recommendations from the study by adding an additional School Psychologist to address the expanding needs at PCHS.*

## LAUSD Charter School Division Annual Performance Based Oversight Visit Report 2023-2024 - *Report included in the meeting materials.*

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

- **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.
  - **Classroom Observations:** School administrators accompanied the CSD Team members on the classroom observations. During the opening meeting the CSD team determined the classrooms to observe. Classroom observations included a variety of grade levels and content areas.
  - **Special Education Review:** The CSD Team member conducting the review met with the Executive Director and SPED Director to discuss the systems and procedures for ensuring compliance with special education requirements, including a review of the current Welligent reports for services and IEP meeting timelines.
  - **Document Review/Clarifying Questions:** The CSD Team reviewed 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.
  - **Visit Debrief:** At the end of the visit day, the CSD Team met with the school's leadership team to debrief the activities of the day, including the results of the document and website reviews, and follow-up action items.

### Annual Schoolwide Goals Progress Report

The PCHS Board of Trustees, administrators, and student representatives from Pali Ambassadors, ASB Leadership, and Justice League met on Saturday, September 9, 2023 to review and provide feedback on the schoolwide goals for the coming year. This annual exercise included a summary of the guiding plans that are currently in place including the Local Control and Accountability Plan/Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (2021-2024), Western Association of Schools and Colleges Action Plan (2017-2023), LAUSD Charter Authorization (2020-2026), and Annual LAUSD Charter School Division Compliance Review. Each of these plans requires feedback from and vetting with educational partners. PCHS has established a clear vision and focus in each of these plans by layering common goals. Each plan reinforces the others by addressing similar areas which include academic achievement, communication, diversity, budget/development, and socioemotional well-being.

These goals establish school priorities and provide guidance for the PCHS Leadership Team. A working summary of progress made toward this year's goal is included in the meeting materials. In addition, the Academic Administrators' presentation to the Board of Trustees is also provided.

### Ethnic Studies Curriculum 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.

The *PCHS Ethnic Studies Team* comprised of teachers and administrators met regularly during the spring semester to review program models and materials.

The *PCHS Ethnic Studies Team* visited El Rancho High School, part of the El Rancho Unified School District to learn more about their model Ethnic Studies program implementation.

PCHS will pilot select ethnic studies units and a semester long course during the 2024-2025 school year to be taught by a highly qualified, credentialed social science teacher.