EXCEL ACADEMY

A TK-12 Public Charter School

2022-23

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO

Heidi Gasca

Excel Academy Charter School

Year in Review

INTRODUCTION & INSIGHTS

Excel Academy's 2022-2023 school year held incredible achievements and growth, despite the drop in enrollment from the 2021-2022 school year. The school really leaned into our "Made to Be Excellent" theme as we saw major growth in students' academic performance, high impact from our staff 's devotion to families, added value from our new programs, security in our quality financial planning, quality new team members, and a drive for excellence by all stakeholders, all culminating into the recognition as a California Distinguished school.

Though our areas of growth are clearly defined for the coming school year, I have faith in the future of Excel Academy from the success we've seen from this past year alone, and the determination of our staff to continue to grow, learn, and create a high value program for all students.

Heidi Gasca, Executive Director/CEO

GOAL 1:

Continue professional development by participating in a Preliminary Administrative Services Credential program via Santa Clara Office of Education which will be completed in June 2023.

GOAL 2:

Increase involvement with board members, taking on a leadership role with numerous areas of board governance up to 100% by June of 2023; therefore empowering the executive team members to increase their responsibilities to make leadership decisions which will help build their capacity and further their leadership skills.

GOAL 3:

Align the Excel Academy Charter Schools mission and vision in three different aspects by:

1.   Maintaining strong fiscal health and sustainability with a projected fund balance of 20% and 60 days of cash on hand throughout the 2022-2023 school year.
2.   Furthering the development and the quality of the personalized and virtual paths by developing and assessing clear roles and responsibilities through monthly or quarterly collaboration sessions to measure our success.
3.   Maintaining a retention rate of students of 85% percent following each Learning Period as well as a 90% percent of staff

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Throughout the entire year we have served:
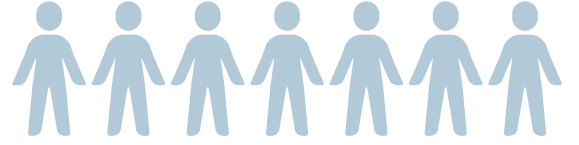
1762 STUDENTS
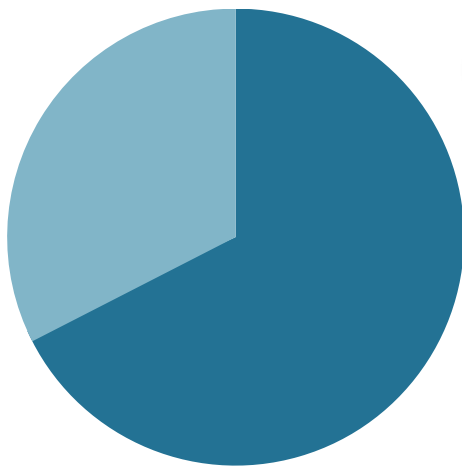
603 - HELENDALE

1159 - WARNER

128 STAFF MEMBERS

575 NEW

1187 RETAINED

FALL TO SPRING I-READY RESULTS OF STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE GRADE LEVEL

Reading   Math

80%

60%

40%

20%

0%

12.6% INCREASE

21.9% INCREASE

Fall 2022   Spring 2023

STATE TEST RANKINGS OUT OF 70 FLEX-BASED CHARTER SCHOOLS IN CA

ELA
11th
Helendale

MATH
6th
Helendale

ELA
3rd
Warner

MATH
1st
Warner
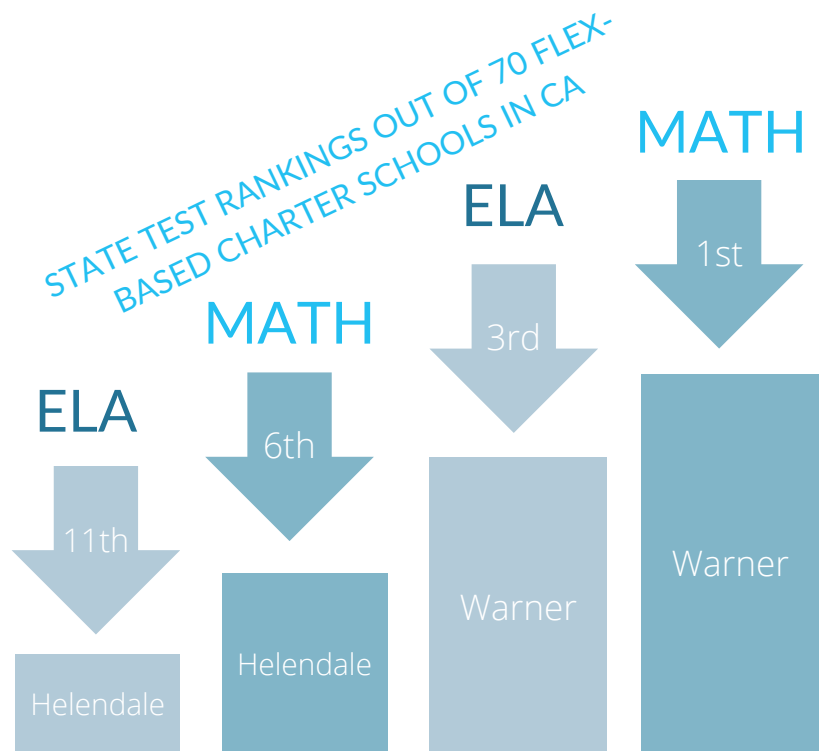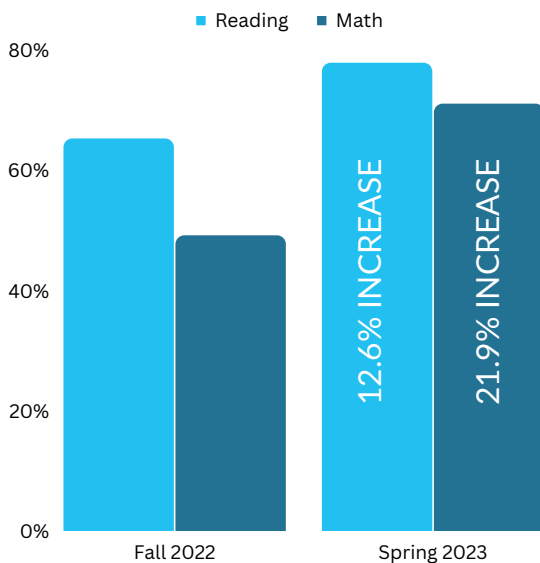
LEADERSHIP

Successfully delegated higher responsibilities and decision making to the Executive Leadership team in the areas below:

Keri Schneeweiss

General Education Services

Joe Sorrera

Financials & Budgeting

Jenny Craig

State Reporting & Assessments

Lara Ulmer

Special Education

Megan Anderson

Staff Performance & School Culture

Lauren Hansen

Marketing & Communications

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ACADEMIC

Excel Academy soared in academic achievements this year in several areas.

1. EACS placed 1st and 3rd in Math and 6th and 11th in ELA state testing scores out of 70 flex-based schools in California
2. EACS had a 96% participation rate in i-Ready Diagnostic Assessments and CAASPP testing.
3. EACS students had a 12.6% increase in students working at or above grade level in Reading, and a 21.9% increase in students working at or above grade level in Math from Fall 2022 to Spring 2023.
4. EACS was awarded the recognition as a California Distinguished School in 2023.

PROGRAM

Excel Academy launched the Virtual Path for 1st-8th grade students, with 160 students participating in the new path over the school year.

A New Elementary Principal position was created and was ran by long time Excel Academy staff member, Nick Romo, who lead the department into many successes.

At the WASC visit this year, Excel Academy was scored "Effective" or "Highly Effective" in all areas.

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Accrediting Commission for Schools

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MENTAL HEALTH

Supported the adoption of Panorama, an education technology company that provides a platform for Excel Academy to utilize research-based surveys to check in on the mental and emotional health of students.
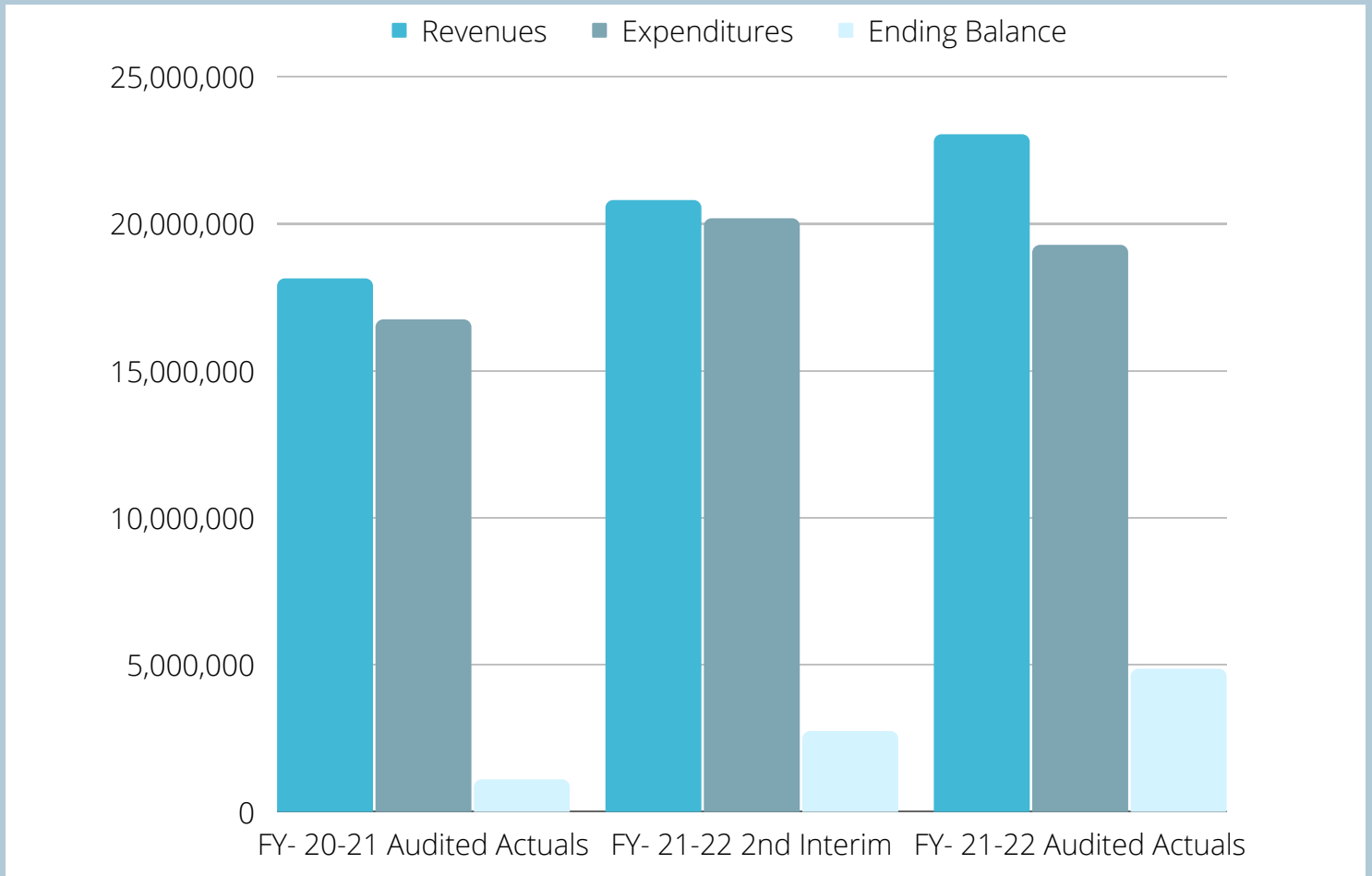

Supported the adoption of Care Solace, a mental health care coordination service for staff and families to connect to quality care.

Hired a new School Counselor to meet the needs of students.

EXCEL ACADEMY

FINANCIAL

Revenues ▪ Expenditures ▪ Ending Balance

	FY- 20-21 Audited Actuals	FY- 21-22 2nd Interim	FY- 21-22 Audited Actuals

- Started the school year with a 27% increased gross revenue and increased net revenue from the year prior.

- Successfully coordinated staffing and overall operations to balance the budget and pay off $4.5 million CAM loan.

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COMMUNITY

Theater Arts

Initiated a brand new Theater Arts program for students to gain confidence in theater, dance, and voice and to gain the rewards of a well-rounded theater education. Students performed in two theater productions at the end of each semester: Dare to Dream, and The Little Mermaid.

Field Trips

This year, we hired a new Field Trips Coordinator, who organized and put on over 50 field trips and community events for all Excel Academy students, with a high participation rate at each event.

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MARKETING

Successfully redesigned the Excel Academy website and partnered with Beehively as EACS' school communication platform to reduce overall costs, improve communication, and bring a newer, more modern look to Excel Academy.

In addition, Excel Academy partnered with Charter Connect to increase Excel's SEO, obtain expertise for Excel's marketing strategy, and shift to trackable advertising and marketing platforms to monitor ROI. With advisement from Charter Connect, Excel Academy launched Google ads, which proved to be very successful in guiding traffic to the Excel Academy website.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Created procedural manuals for areas of the school that lacked clarity and proper policy.
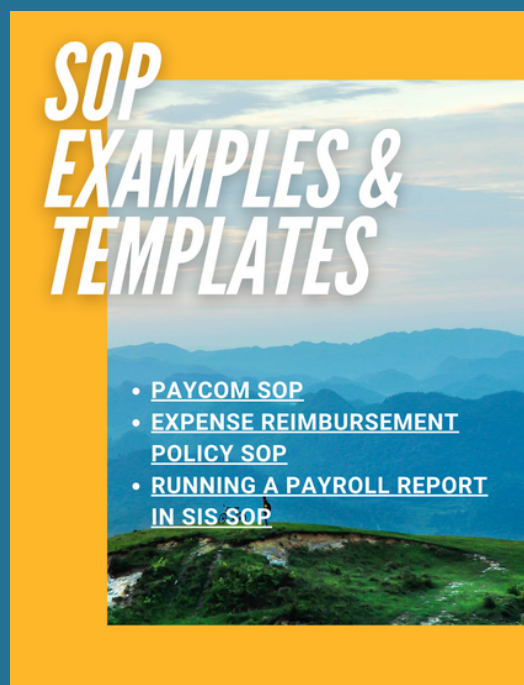
Board Manual

Travel & Expense Manual

Performance Planner

Department Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

AREAS OF GROWTH

Continued improvement in the coaching and evaluation process

Streamlined and efficient professional development for leadership team members

Leaning into the Executive Leadership team to develop and support them as they run each area of the school

THANK YOU