

ACLC Charter Renewal

March 10, 2015

Process for Approval of Charter Renewal

Staff members selected for Charter Renewal Inspection Team were:

- Kelly Lara, Director of Student Services
- Shariq Khan, Director of Fiscal Services
- Steven Fong, Director of Teaching & Learning
- Sandy Wong, Coordinator of Employee & Labor Relations

Criteria for Approval of Charter Renewal

According to California Education Code section 47607 (b), one of the following criteria must be met for renewal:

1. Attained its Academic Performance Index (API) growth target in the prior year or in two of the last three years, or in the aggregate for the prior three years.
 - In 2013, 2012, and 2011 ACLC met the API growth target established by the California Department of Education.

2. Ranked in deciles 4 to 10, inclusive, on the API in the prior year or in two of the last three years.
 - In 2013, ACLC's Statewide ranking was 10.

Criteria for Approval of Charter Renewal (cont..)

3. Ranked in deciles 4 to 10, inclusive, on the API for a demographically comparable school in the prior year or in two of the last three years.
 - ACLC's comparable school ranking in 2013 was a 3, the 2012 ranking was a 1, and the 2011 ranking was 2. As such, ACLC did not meet the standard set forth in this criteria.

Criteria for Approval of Charter Renewal (cont..)

4. Achieved academic performance at least equal to the academic performance of the public schools that ACLC pupils would otherwise have been required to attend, as well as the academic performance of the schools in AUSD, taking into account the composition of the pupil population that is served at ACLC.
 - The majority of ACLC students would have attended Wood Middle School and Encinal High School. ACLC's API scores exceed both Wood and Encinal for 2011, 2012 and 2013.

	2011	2012	2013
ACLC	824	825	869
EHS	751	760	797
Wood	749	762	786

Additional Criteria for Approval of Charter Renewal

The Charter Schools Act, Education Code 47605, outlines additional criteria for approving charter school renewal petitions :

1. The charter school presents a sound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school.
2. The petitioners are demonstrably likely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.
3. The petition contains the numbers of signatures required.
4. The petition contains an affirmation of each of the conditions described in Education Code 47605 (d).
5. The petition contains reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the 16 required charter elements.

Additional Criteria for Approval of Charter Renewal

1. **The charter school presents a sound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school.**
 - The Alameda Community Learning Center educational program is sound:
 - Academic test results confirm that the educational program is sound (see academic performance data).
 - The renewal petition describes a common core standards-based curriculum with the focus on all students being educated and successful citizens for the 21st Century.
 - ACLC's educational practices focus on fostering students' development to become self-motivated, competent and self-directed lifelong learners.
 - ACLC is implementing a research based project learning model.
 - ACLC provides supports and interventions for students.

Additional Criteria for Approval of Charter Renewal

- 1. The charter school presents a sound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school (continued).**
 - The Alameda Community Learning Center educational program is sound:
 - ACLC is consistently performing well, is demonstrating growth, and has exceeded the state API target of 800 school-wide in 2013, 2012, and 2011.
 - Socioeconomically disadvantaged students (67 students) achieved an over 800 API score.
 - English Learners (31 students) achieved an over 900 API score.
 - However, African American students (26 students) achieved a 672 API score and did not perform in alignment with their peers.
 - However, students with disabilities (15 students) fell below their peers achieving a 608 API score.

Additional Criteria For Approval of Charter Renewal

2. **The petitioners are demonstrably likely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.**
 - The petitioners are likely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition as evidenced by their 19 years of implementation.
 - The ACLC Board is comprised of 2 facilitators, 1 lead facilitator, 2 parents, 1 learner and 1 alumna. The ACLC Board focuses on issues relating to graduation standards, budget proposals, strategic planning for the academic program, and day-to-day facilities issues.

Additional Criteria For Approval of Charter Renewal

3. The petition contains the numbers of signatures required.

- Pursuant to CA Education Code Section 47605(a)(1)(B), the petition contains the signatures by a number of teachers that is equivalent to at least one-half the number of teachers that the charter school estimates will be employed at the school during its next year of operation.

Additional Criteria For Approval of Charter Renewal

4. The petition contains an affirmation of each of the conditions described in Education Code 47605 (d).
 - Pursuant to CA Education Code 47605(b)(4), the petition contains an affirmation of each of required conditions contained in CA Education Code section 47605(d)(1).

Additional Criteria For Approval of Charter Renewal

5. The petition contains reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the 16 required charter elements.

Examples of the these elements are:

- Element 2: Measures pupil outcomes
 - Learner Led Conferences: twice yearly authentic assessment
 - Benchmarks
 - Standardized Testing
 - ACLC's next step in the development of a cycle of inquiry would be to develop common benchmark assessments that measure students' performance against the standards, discuss the results with subject alike colleagues, and utilize the results to plan further instruction.

Additional Criteria For Approval of Charter Renewal

5. The petition contains reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the 16 required charter elements.

Examples of the these elements are:

- Element 5: Qualification to be met by individuals employed at the school
 - The school has started implementing systems to ensure that facilitators teaching CORE NCLB courses are properly credentialed in California. While there is flexibility for Charter schools in non-CORE areas, the school expressed a desire to develop a "standard" for credential requirements for on-CORE areas that will be further discussed.

Additional Criteria For Approval of Charter Renewal

5. The petition contains reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the 16 required charter elements.

Examples of the these elements are:

- Element 7: Means for achieving racial and ethnic balance
 - ACLC seeks to achieve racial and ethnic balance.

Ethnicity/ Race	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
% White	35%	37%	35%	43%
% A.A.	15%	13%	14%	6%
% Hispanic	17%	16%	16%	16%
% Asian/ Pacific Islander	19%	18%	16%	20%
% Mixed	13%	16%	18%	10%
% Other	1%	0%	1%	1%

Additional Criteria For Approval of Charter Renewal

5. The petition contains reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the 16 required charter elements.

Examples of the these elements are:

- Element 14: Dispute resolution procedures for school-authorizer issues related to charter
 - The charter displays a detailed dispute resolution procedure.
 - ACLC has agreed to work with AUSD to refine the dispute resolution procedures to mutual satisfaction through a MOU.

Approval of Charter Renewal – AUSD Rubric

The AUSD Charter Renewal Rubric focuses on five criteria:

1. Improving Student Achievement
2. Strong Leadership
3. A Focus on Continuous Improvement
4. Responsible Governance
5. Fiscal Accountability

Approval of Charter Renewal – AUSD Rubric

The AUSD Charter Renewal Rubric focuses on five criteria:

1. Improving Student Achievement

- In addition to achieving an above 800 API score school wide, ACLC's focus on student achievement can also be seen through its implementation of benchmark assessments, high graduation rates, project based learning model, a collaborative special education team, full inclusion of students with IEPs, and regular learner conferences.

2. Strong Leadership

3. A Focus on Continuous Improvement

4. Responsible Governance

5. Fiscal Accountability

Approval of Charter Renewal – AUSD Rubric

The AUSD Charter Renewal Rubric focuses on five criteria:

1. Improving Student Achievement

2. Strong Leadership

- ACLC learners, facilitators, and parents report that the school leadership is approachable, invites their voice, and involves all stakeholders in the leadership of the school.
- The ACLC Leadership is strongly focused on student success and learning.

3. A Focus on Continuous Improvement

4. Responsible Governance

5. Fiscal Accountability

Approval of Charter Renewal – AUSD Rubric

The AUSD Charter Renewal Rubric focuses on five criteria:

1. Improving Student Achievement

2. Strong Leadership

3. A Focus on Continuous Improvement

- ACLC is committed to expanding the scope of the LCAP process to increase the level of stakeholder engagement and continued alignment to the WASC process and school improvement plan.
- ACLC is also committed to focusing on implementing collaborative standards based benchmarks, formative assessments, and analyzing student learning results through a cycle of inquiry.

4. Responsible Governance

5. Fiscal Accountability

Approval of Charter Renewal – AUSD Rubric

The AUSD Charter Renewal Rubric focuses on five criteria:

1. Improving Student Achievement
2. Strong Leadership
3. A Focus on Continuous Improvement
- 4. Responsible Governance**
 - Both ACLC and CLCS Boards have responsibility for governance of the school.
 - ACLC seeks input from stakeholders through a variety of methods and includes stakeholders on personnel, curriculum, and budget committees.
5. Fiscal Accountability

Approval of Charter Renewal – AUSD Rubric

The AUSD Charter Renewal Rubric focuses on five criteria:

1. Improving Student Achievement
2. Strong Leadership
3. A Focus on Continuous Improvement
4. Responsible Governance
- 5. Fiscal Accountability**
 - ACLC prepared yearly budgets and long term multiyear projections in accordance with County and CDE guidelines. ACLC utilizes an independent auditor and shares those results publicly.

Charter Renewal – Staff Recommendation

- Staff recommends that the Alameda Unified School District's Board of Education **approve** the petition for the renewal of ACLC.
- The term of this charter will be from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020, the term required for a renewal under the *California Charter Schools Act (Education Code 47607 (a)(1))*.

Charter Renewal – Staff Recommendation

- Staff recommends that ACLC focus on addressing the following during the next five years:
 - Monitor the use of the “Center” to ensure that its use is alignment with the philosophy outlined in the charter.
 - Actively promote the ACLC program in diverse communities within Alameda so as to make diverse families aware of the opportunity to attend ACLC.
 - Provide clarity around complaint procedures for all stakeholder groups. The charter report as written displays ambiguity around the process.
 - Implement a regular cycle of inquiry to review standards based benchmark and formative assessment data with the goal of using the data to plan further instruction and use of resources.