

AUSD Analysis of Academy of Alameda K-5 Charter Petition

October 14, 2014

Process to Analyze the Charter

- AUSD convened a committee of experts to review the charter petition in their respective area of expertise and complete an analytical rubric as a measurement tool.
- Members of the committee included:
 - Kelly Lara, Director of Student Services
 - Sandy Wong, Coordinator of Employee Labor Relations
 - Shariq Khan, Director of Fiscal
 - Robbie Lyng, Director of Maintenance, Operations and Facilities
 - Susan Mitchell, Director of Special Education
 - Tracy Rohlfing, Coordinator of Assessments
 - Steven Fong, Director of Teaching and Learning

Process to Analyze the Charter

- Additionally, the committee facilitated an interview of Academy of Alameda leadership stakeholders to ask questions about the charter petition and seek clarification.
- The following slides represent the analysis conducted by the AUSD committee.

Criteria for Approval of Charter

Criteria for the approval of a new charter school petition are outlined in California Education Code section 47605. The six criteria are as follows:

1. Charter School petition must contain the required number of signatures (*Education Code 47605*): 50% of the signatures of parents/guardians meaningfully interested in attending OR 50% of the teachers needed for the first school year.

Criteria for Approval of Charter

2. A complete charter petition must address all of the required 16 elements outlined in California Education Code 47605. For example:
- Description of learning in the 21st Century
 - Measurable pupil outcomes
 - Method by which outcomes are measured
 - Governance structure
 - Method to achieve ethnic and racial balance
 - Admission requirements
 - Discipline procedures

Criteria for Approval of Charter

3. Four Conditions: The petition must identify that the charter school shall be nonsectarian in their programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations. The petition must identify that the charter school shall not charge tuition, shall not discriminate against any pupil on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability, and shall admit all students who reside in California who wish to attend.

Criteria for Approval of Charter

4. The petition must outline that an employee of the school district cannot be required to be employed in a charter school, a pupil enrolled in the school district cannot be required to attend a charter school, and no charter shall be granted that authorizes the conversion of any private school to a charter school (*Education Code 47605 and 47602*).

Criteria for Approval of Charter

5. The petition must indicate the charter's proposed location within the geographic boundaries of the school district receiving the petition. The petition must include a description of the facilities to be used and specific where the charter school intends to locate (*Education Code 47605*).
6. The petition must include a multi-year budget.

Academy of Alameda K-5 Charter

- AUSD staff recommends that the Alameda Unified School District's Board of Education approves the Academy of Alameda K-5 Elementary School Charter.
- The Charter Petition address all of the required elements. The following slides address each of the required elements.

Criteria 1: Signatures

- Academy of Alameda intends to open with two kindergarten classrooms and two 1st grade classrooms and will thus need four teachers. Academy of Alameda provided the signatures of four teachers and thus meets the signature criteria.

Criteria 2: 16 Elements

- The AoA petition adequately addresses each of the 16 elements. For example:
 - Description of learning in the 21st Century: AoA intends to provide students with a solid educational foundation in literacy and numeracy so that students have the skills to participate in a knowledge based economy.
 - Measurable pupil outcomes: AoA will administer benchmark assessments to measure student learning in all content areas and use the results to inform instruction, guide decision making, plan use of resources, and refer students to interventions.
 - Admissions: AoA will admit students who request admission. If more students apply than there are seats, AoA will perform a lottery and admit students in accordance with priorities listed in the petition.

Criteria 3: Four Conditions

- The AoA petition adequately addresses each of four conditions:
 1. AoA is nonsectarian in their programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations.
 2. AoA will not charge tuition.
 3. AoA will not discriminate against any pupil on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability.
 4. AoA will admit all students who reside in California who wish to attend.

Criteria 4: Three Prohibitions

- The AoA petition adequately addresses each of three prohibitions:
 1. No employee of AUSD will be required to be employed at the charter school.
 2. No student enrolled in the school district will be required to attend the charter school
 3. The charter was not a previous private school.

Criteria 5: Proposed Location

- AoA intends to locate the charter on the Chipman campus and utilize 6 classrooms during its initial operation year.
- For the purposes of approving the charter, identifying the location is the only requirement.
- Through the Proposition 39 Process which begins in November, we determine exactly how many classrooms are needed for Alameda resident children who intend to attend the charter school and allocate in accordance with the district's class size averages.
- The Chipman campus is currently fully occupied.
- In the interview of AoA leadership, AoA stated that should they not be able to acquire facility space within a district school, they are prepared to rent commercial space.

Criteria 6: Multi-Year Budget

- AoA has provided a multi-year budget that indicates that they will be able to meet their financial obligations for the next three years.
- This is predicated on AoA achieving their enrollment projections.
- Should AoA encounter financial difficulties, they have the ability to borrow from the middle school program.
- Should AoA need to rent commercial space, it will have an impact on their budget.

Recommendation

- Staff recommends that the Alameda Unified School District's Board of Education approve the petition for the Academy of Alameda K-5 Elementary School.
- 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)*).

Recommendation to Academy of Alameda

Staff recommends that AoA address the following:

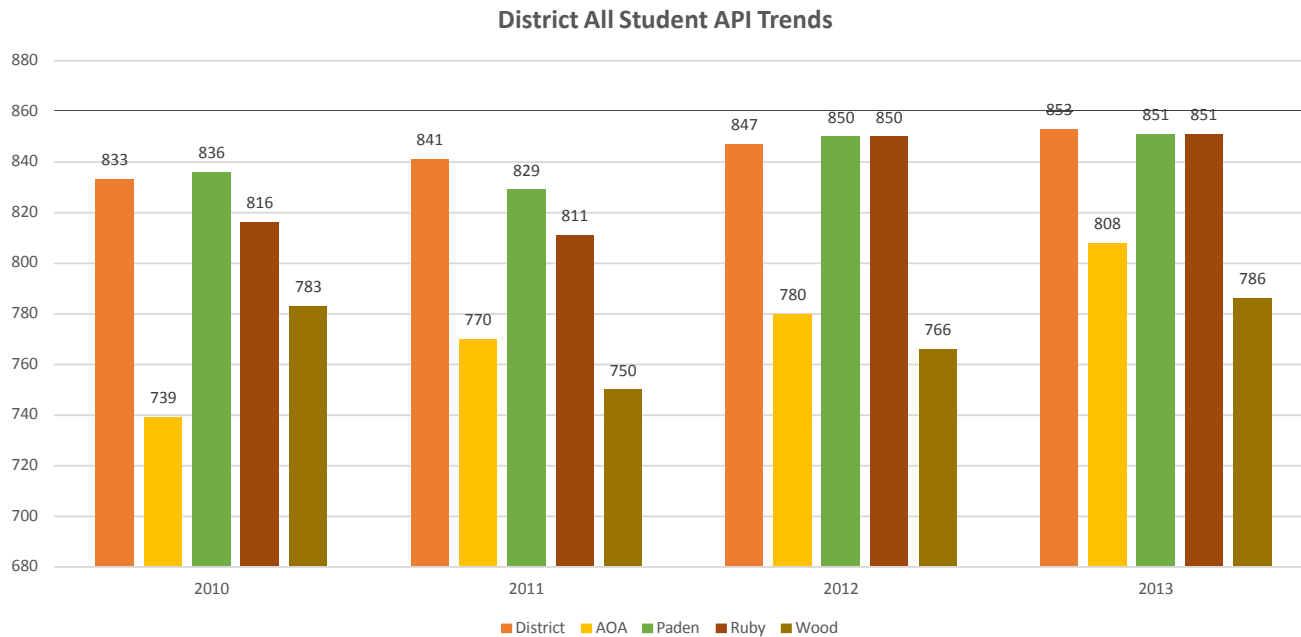
- It is recommended that the petitioners focus on how they will serve and meet the needs of English Learners. They are encouraged to be sure to provide designated ELD within the school day, focus on reclassification of English Learners, establish an ELAC committee, and specifically focus upon English Learners within their articulated school philosophy.
- It is also recommended that the petitioners focus on how their educational philosophy and instruction will benefit all target populations such as socio-economically disadvantaged, African-American, and Latino students.

Recommendation to Academy of Alameda

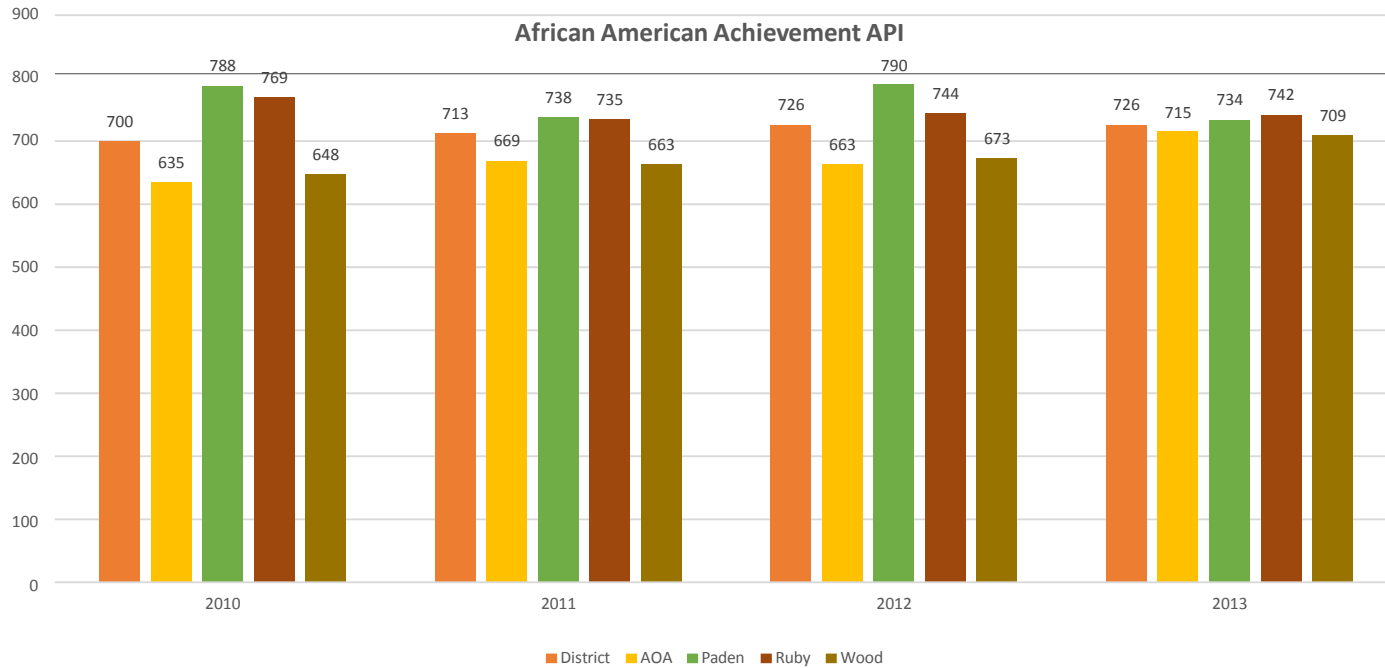
Staff recommends that AoA address the following (*continued*):

- Moreover, it is recommended that the petitioner build capacity in human resources monitoring for the entire charter organization as the petitioner is responsible for hiring NCLB compliant teachers.
- It is further recommended that the petitioner implement local governance for the elementary school through the implementation of SSC and ELAC.
- Lastly, it is recommended that the petitioners utilize SACS accounting programs for their budgetary and fiscal management to be in alignment with AUSD. AoA is encouraged to hire an individual on staff to be responsible for fiscal management.

API (Annual Performance Indicator) Achievement Trends 2010-2014

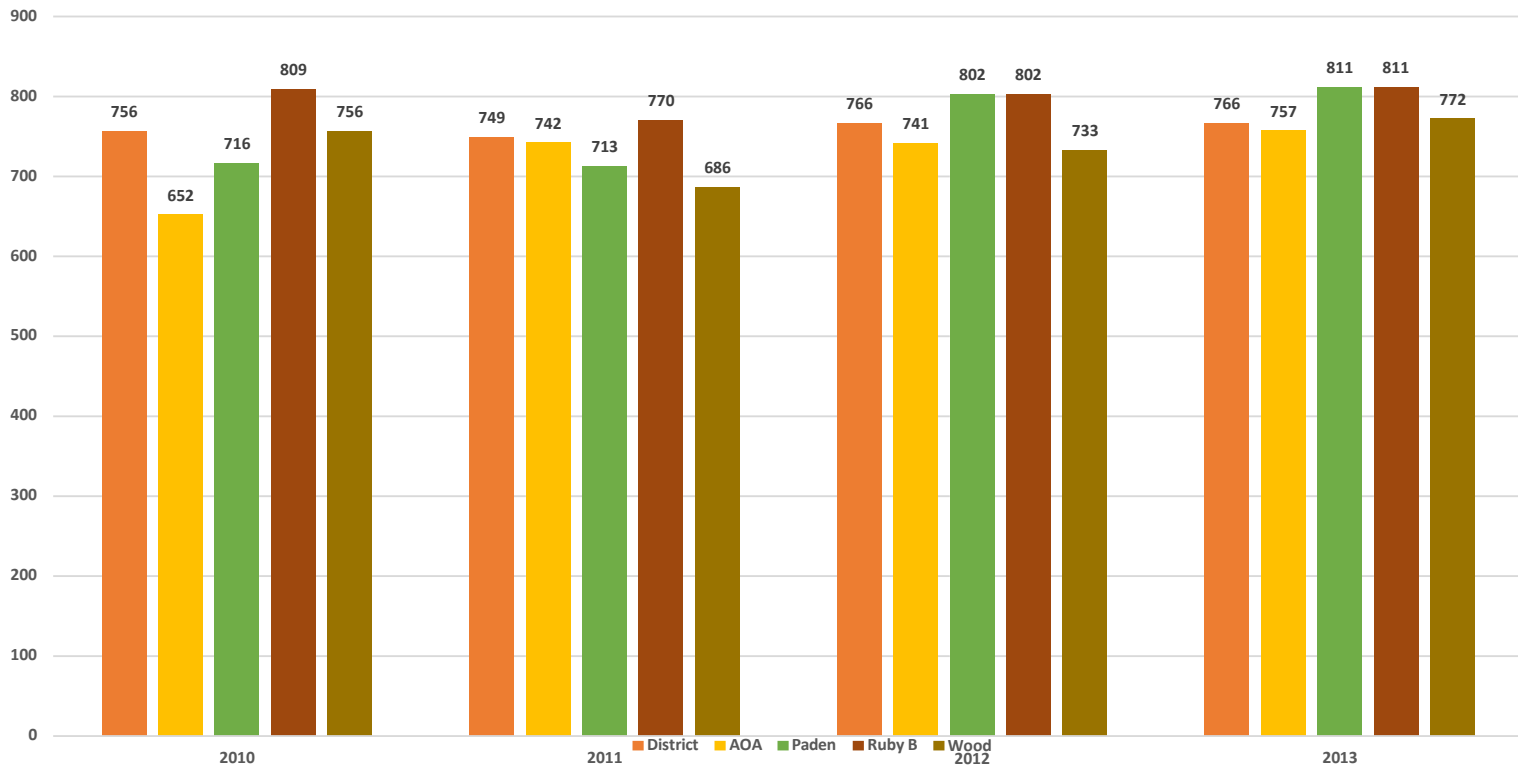


African American Achievement API Trends

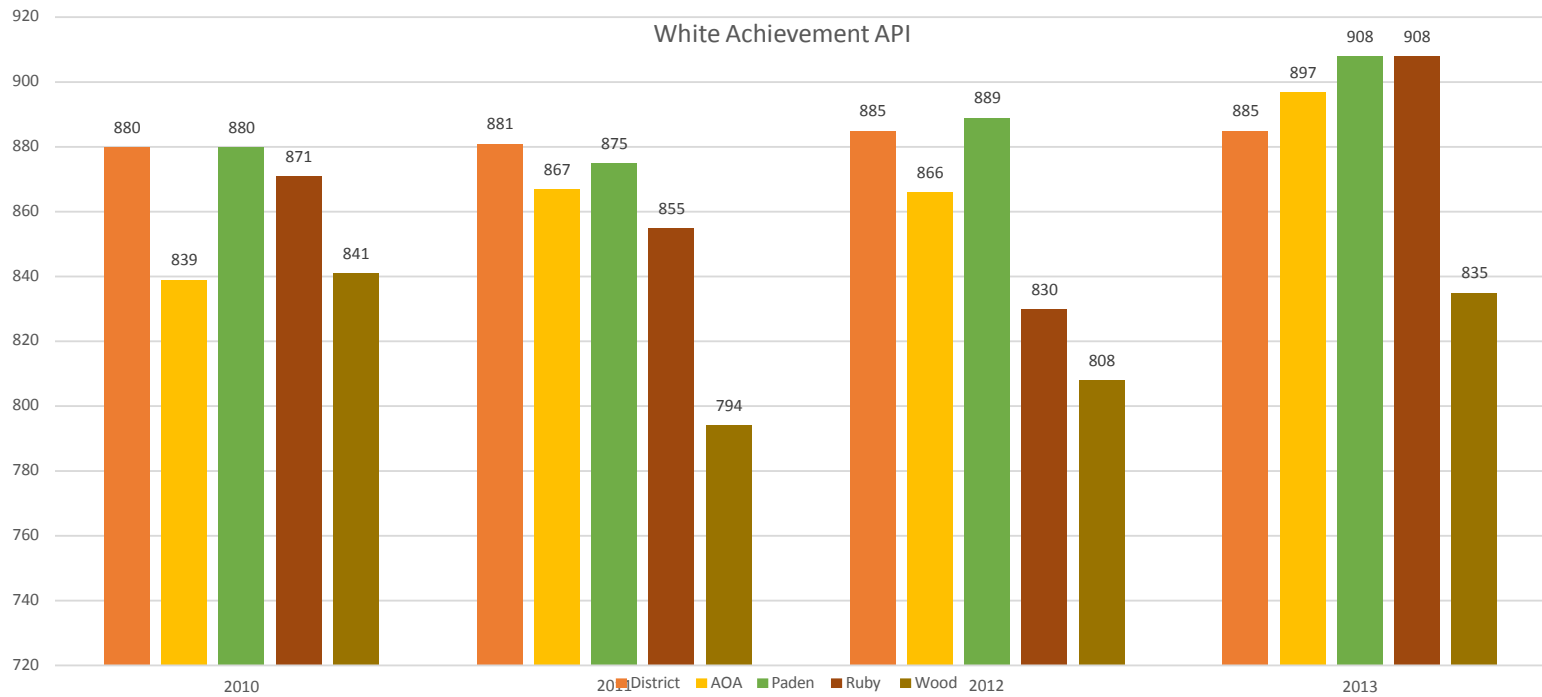


Latino Achievement API Trends

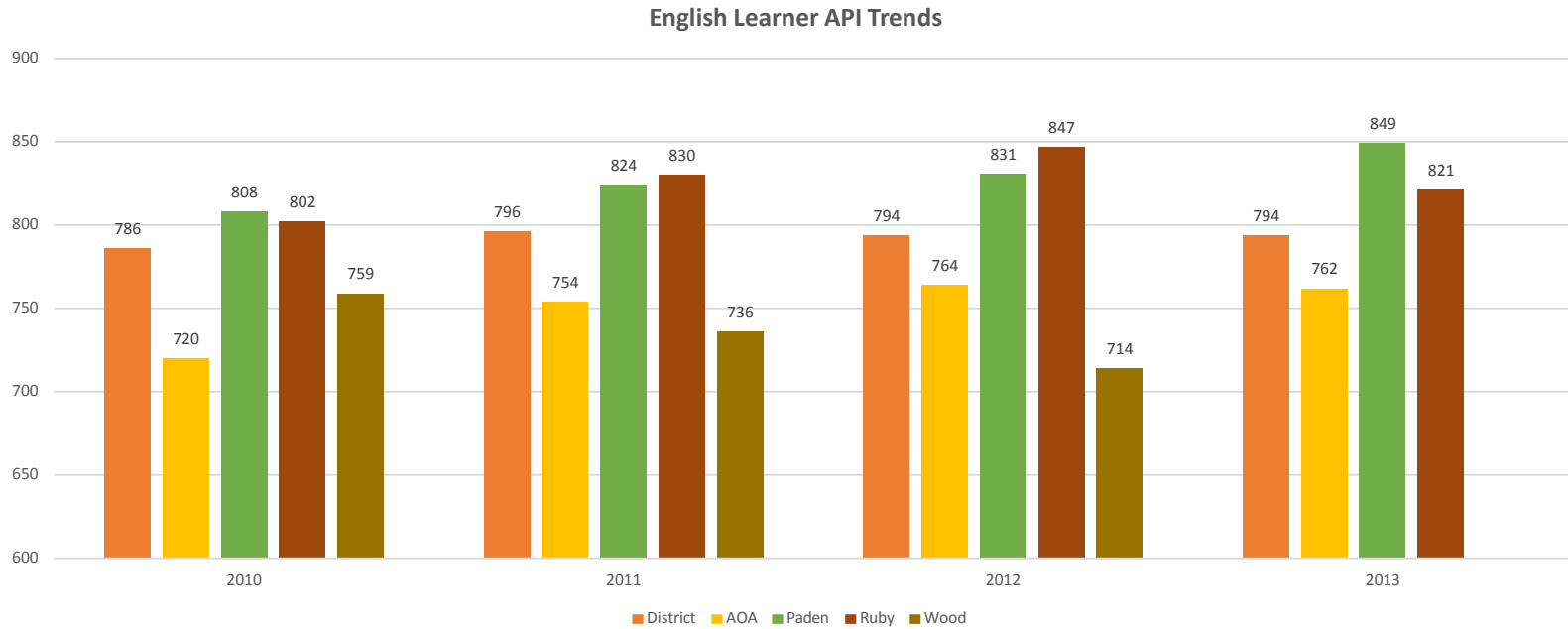
Latino Achievement API



White Achievement API Trends



English Learner Achievement API Trends



Low SES Achievement API Trends

