California Department of Education  
Charter Schools Division  
Created 01/2024  
memo-lacb-csd-jun24item02  
Attachment 4

# Academia Avance Charter Academic Memorandum Response

## Section 1. School Information

### General Information

1. **School Address:** 115 North Avenue 53, Highland Park, CA 90042-4005
2. **Located in District:** Los Angeles Unified School District
3. **Website Address:** www.academiaavance.org
4. **County-District-School (CDS) Code:** 19769680109926
5. **Charter Number:** 738
6. **Current Charter Term Start Date:** 07/01/2020
7. **Current Charter Term End Date:** 06/30/2028
8. **School Description:** Academia Avance Charter (AAC) seeks to set the standard for public charter school excellence via rigorous college and career preparation that inspires a lifetime of learning and leading.
9. **Grade Levels Served:** Grade Six through Grade Twelve
10. **2022–23 Enrollment:** 256
11. **Instruction Type:** Site Based

### Demographic Information

The following demographic information was obtained from the California School Dashboard website at <https://www.caschooldashboard.org/>.

Table 1. 2023 Student Group Information

| Student Group | School Total (Percentage) | District Total (Percentage) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| English Learners | 22.7% | 22.6% |
| Foster Youth | 1.6% | 0.8% |
| Homeless | 3.9% | 1.7% |
| Socioeconomically Disadvantaged | 91.0% | 86.0% |
| Students with Disabilities | 15.2% | 14.6% |

Table 2. 2023 Race/Ethnicity Information

| Race/Ethnicity | School Total (Percentage) | District Total (Percentage) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| African American | 0.8% | 2.9% |
| American Indian | Not Listed | 0.1% |
| Asian | 0.8% | 1.3% |
| Filipino | 0.8% | 0.6% |
| Hispanic | 96.5% | 77.2% |
| Pacific Islander | Not Listed | 0.1% |
| Two or More Races | Not Listed | 0.2% |
| White | Not Listed | 2.9% |

## Section 2. California School Dashboard Data Overview

### California School Dashboard

The following performance information was obtained from the California School Dashboard website at <https://www.caschooldashboard.org/>.

Table 1. 2023 Performance Levels

| **Dashboard Indicator** | **School Performance Level** | **State Performance Level** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Chronic Absenteeism** | Red  42.3% chronically absent | **Yellow**  24.3% chronically absent |
| **Suspension Rate** | Blue  0% suspended at least one day | **Orange**  3.5% suspended at least one day |
| **English Learner Progress** | Green  56.3% making progress | **Yellow**  48.7% making progress |
| **Graduation Rate** | Blue  95.1% graduated | **Orange**  86.4% graduated |
| **College/Career** | Medium  39.3% prepared | **Medium**  43.9% prepared |
| **English Language Arts** | Orange  65.4 points below standard | **Orange** 13.6 points below standard |
| **Mathematics** | Red  157.2 points below standard | **Orange**  49.1 points below standard |

### California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

The School’s California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) results are available on the CAASPP website at <https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/caaspp/>.

A direct link to the School’s CAASPP English language arts/literacy and mathematics test results is available at https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/caaspp/DashViewReportSB?ps=true&lstTestYear=2023&lstTestType=B&lstCounty=19&lstDistrict=76968-000&lstSchool=0109926&lstGroup=1&lstSubGroup=1&lstSchoolType=A&lstGrade=13&Keyword=avance&ct=2&cds=19769680109926.

## Section 3. Areas of Greatest Progress and Need

### Based on California School Dashboard (Dashboard) data, identify the School’s areas of greatest progress.

Graduation Rate - Blue: 95.1% graduated (vs. Orange: 86.4% for the state)

Academia Avance has returned to its pre-pandemic graduation levels, with over 95% of students graduating in the 2022-23 school year (the highest since 2018).

English Learner Progress - Green: 56.3% making progress (vs. Yellow: 48.7% for the state)

Academia Avance met the goal of improving the rate of 4s on ELPAC since 2021. See the charts below.

Special mention: College/Career - Medium 39.3% prepared (vs. 43.9% for the state). We believe this 2023 Dashboard Indicator does not accurately reflect the school’s true state, since this was Blue in previous years, when 100% of all Seniors met the A-G requirements, and/or achieved “Completer” status with the Avance CTE Pathway. We are confident that the 2024 College/Career Dashboard Indicator will show Green if not Blue. Evidence for this for the Class of 2024: More seniors are now grad and college ready than at the same point of the year for the previous class. We are on-track As of today, 69% of our seniors are HS grad ready and 45% are A-G ready. At time of this report, we have 70% of the Seniors already accepted to at least one 4 year university, with several weeks left in the acceptance season. With still plenty of time left in the Spring Semester, over 75% of the Seniors are projected to meet the A-G eligibility requirements, increasing to over 90% when accounting for the CTE Completers in the Business and Finance pathway.

### What internal assessments (not CAASPP) are being used to demonstrate the School’s areas of greatest progress? Are any of these assessments on the approved verified data list? If so, which ones?

Avance uses NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), which is on the approved verified data list. The SCHOOLWIDE 2023-2024 Winter MAP Scores show a turnaround occurring, with the most recent reading scores rising to the second highest in the school’s history of using NWEA MA. Math too shows a significant recovery and is on track to return to pre-pandemic levels. The outcomes for SWD students shows gains, but not for EL students.

### Based on Dashboard data, identify the School’s areas of greatest need. Include references to student groups.

Math - Red 157.2 points below standard (vs. 49.1 points below standard for the state)

ELA - Orange 65.4 (vs. 13.6 points below standard)

Chronic Absenteeism - Red 42.3% chronically absent (vs. 24.3% for the state)

The share of students that are Foster Youth and Homeless is too small to disaggregate for this report. The share of students that are Latinos, and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, are both at over 90%, thus closely matching the SCHOOLWIDE outcomes (thus are not disaggregated).

There are, thus, two significant student sub-groups for Academia Avance, with the data disaggregated for this report: English Learners (EL) at 23%, and Students with Disabilities (SWD) at 16% in 2024.

The NWEA Growth data show strong gains for SWD, in Math, Reading and Language at almost every grade level. We believe this stems from the significant expansion of the dedicated staff to support the SWD students.

These gains for SWD, contrast sharply with the overall lack of progress for EL students, for all the academic outcomes, at every grade. A significant factor is the sizable number (~30%) that are recent arrivals to the US, ie. less than 2 years.

### How is the School addressing these areas of need? Include references to student groups.

A key challenge has been the loss of the grade 6-8 social sciences teacher and the arts instructor early in the school year, requiring substitutes. Full time credentialed teachers have now been assigned.

Improving effective in-class instruction post pandemic has been a critical area of need, especially at grade 6-8. To address this need, we have increased monitoring of our teachers. More lead staff do class observations to complete rounds of all teachers at least once per month. The observations collect actionable data implementation of the Success for All Cycles of Instruction, SWD accommodations, and ELD strategies.

During the Fall Semester, co-teaching and double block schedules for Math were implemented. These actions have helped all students, but we are seeing how it is especially helping with our EL students, together with additional in-class staffing and tutoring.

For the 39 students with an IEP of 238 total students (16%), staffing has been expanded, so that we are in full compliance with all IEP requirements, with enhanced student support.

Like so many schools, we face the challenges of increased absenteeism since schools reopened post-pandemic, and increased behavior issues. We do anticipate we will have higher rates of student suspensions for 2024 (since it was zero in 2023).

The initiatives to reduce absenteeism for 2023-2024 include: increased student counseling and family directed intervention services; adjustments to the bell schedule to increase instructional time; shifted course schedule to have PE sections in the morning to better support discipline and instruction later in the day.

At the conclusion of the Fall 2023 Semester, we reached just over 90% ADA across all grades 6-12. 28% of the HS students finish with 95% attendance rate or better.

An additional strategy to address absenteeism is the Avance Athletics program. As we exit the pandemic, we are rebuilding the program in 2023-2024. At the time of this report, the winter sports seasons have completed: boys and girls basketball and soccer. The cross-country team participated in the Fall, and we have just the Volleyball season to complete.

The ELPAC results for 2022-2023 demonstrate how the initiatives to improve outcomes for our English Learners are starting to have positive impacts. The four circle charts below show how the lowest performance level (dark grey) has been reduced from 39.3% to 25%, and the highest performance level (dark blue) increased from 1.8% to 25%. Our hope is that in 2024-2025 these gains will be reflected in the NWEA MAP and SBAC outcomes.

## Section 4. Summary of Performance on Measurable Pupil Outcomes

### Identify the Measurable Pupil Outcomes in Element 2 of the petition. Summarize the performance for each outcome.

Academic Goal #1: Students will achieve increased proficiency levels in ELA from the 2019 base outcomes. Academic Goal #2: Students will achieve increased proficiency levels in Mathematics from the 2019 base outcomes. Academic Goal #3: Students will achieve increased proficiency levels in Social Studies from the 2019 base outcomes. Academic Goal #4: Students will achieve increased proficiency levels in Science from the 2019 base outcomes.

Progress on Goals #1, #2, #3 and #4 do not match the levels of achievement specified in the charter, due to the pandemic. But, as presented in this report, the NWEA MAP data shows improving outcomes, with levels at the time of this report that now reach those of before the pandemic.

Other Performance Targets in the Avance Charter include College-Readiness: 100% of Seniors meet A-G readiness.

The charter specifies that all seniors will be required to take the PSAT NMSQT and the SAT prior to graduation. This target has been dropped as the SAT has been deprecated as a requirement for almost all universities.

The Avance charter has a target of developing Life-Long Learners, with skills to continue their educational journeys in post-secondary training and beyond. The Avance Life Prep program meets this target with all HS students completing courses that develop career readiness and access skills. For the 2023-2024 school year, all students in every grade for every course, completed at least one AI based project in the Fall Semester, to be repeated in the Spring.

## Section 5. Local Control and Accountability Plan Progress

### Provide a summary of progress made in meeting the School’s 2022–23 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals.

Goal 1 - Consistency in Instruction: Mostly Met

90% Teacher Retention: Behind 95% Peer Observation: Met

5% office referrals: Met 10 dept meetings: Met

60% lessons use technology: Met

Goal 2 - Increase outcomes for English Learners: Mostly Met

21% of ELs showing progress on dashboard: Met 7.79% reclassification rate: Met

2.5% of ELs scoring 3 or 4 on ELA SBAC: Not Met 5% of ELs scoring 3 or 4 on Math SBAC: Not Met 100% of teachers using ELD strategies: Met

90% Attendance in ELD : Met 3.5% Reclassification: Met

Goal 3 - Increased Academic Achievement: Not Met

ELA Mean Scale Scores

6th: 2480/7th: 2501/8th: 2531/11th: 2555 Math Mean Scale Scores

6th: 2476/7th: 2478/8th: 2585/11th: 2524

Goal 4 - Graduation and Career Readiness: Met

Graduation Rate 85%

A-G Rate (Seniors): 50% A-G Rate (Juniors): 45% AP Pass Rate: 9%

CTE Participation: 30%

### Provide a summary of the School’s 2023–24 LCAP mid-year update that describes what the School is doing to increase community input.

The Avance LCAP represents the experiences and input of stakeholders at every level of the Avance community, by continuing the distributed leadership that closely engages with the stakeholder community throughout the year. Twice annually all stakeholders are convened; once in the Fall and again in the Spring. Both of these All Stakeholders Retreats included a comprehensive review and report on LCAP progress. In addition, the LCAP is reviewed with all staff during our Summer PD session in August. The LCAP is reviewed and monitored by the Avance Governance Board annually. At the February 16, 2024 retreat, committees were formed to cover the 5 LCAP goals, with representation of staff, students, paraprofessionals, resource specialists, administrators, and families. Each committee not only reviewed and responded to the prompts in their given focus area, but also made recommendations for improvements.

OCT 17-20 Parent Conferences - Over 90% participation/representation of all students