



# **Renewal of Sierra Charter School Petition**

March 8, 2017

# Overview

Renewal of the Sierra Charter School (“Sierra”) Petition.

This presentation will cover the following:

- ▣ Background of Sierra
- ▣ Charter School Renewal Process
- ▣ District Assessment of Sierra
- ▣ Recommendation

# Sierra Charter School

- Sierra Charter has been in operation for 19 years. The school opened in Fresno in August of 1998.
- Originally chartered by Eastern Sierra Unified in Bridgeport, California.
- Due to a change in charter law, in 2007 Sierra Charter was granted authorization through Fresno Unified.
- Sierra was last renewed by the Board January of 2012.
- The mission of Sierra Charter School is to offer a personalized learning program which provides flexibility and support for students to reach their maximum potential in a safe environment.

# Valley Preparatory Academy Charter School

- Sierra’s target population is for students attracted to a personalized learning program.
- This includes students traditionally labeled as “at risk” based upon socio-economic status, or prior academic history, to those who perform high academically, older students who need to work or care for family members, families who travel and families who simply prefer to be part of their child’s education.
- Current student enrollment is approximately 386 with the following demographics:
  - 64% Hispanic
  - 25% White
  - 5% African American
  - 3% Asian
  - 2.5% Native American
  - 0.5% Pacific Islander

# Renewal Process

In the renewal process, there are two steps that must be met in order for the District to make a recommendation to renew a charter:

- **Step One** – Site visit to review the status of the charter school’s operations over the last five years; and
- **Step Two** – Review the Renewal Petition to ensure the program represents a sound educational program, demonstrates the likelihood of successful implementation, fiscal soundness, an affirmation of nondiscrimination, and reasonably comprehensive descriptions of charter petition elements.

# District Assessment – Step One

## Step One

1. Is the charter school an academic success?
2. Is the charter school an effective, viable organization?
3. Is the charter school fiscally sound?
4. Has the charter school remained faithful to the terms of its charter and fulfilled its legal obligations?

## Outcomes

1. Sierra consistently demonstrated growth annually that showed positive movement towards meeting goals.
2. Sierra's Educational Program is being followed as designed.
3. Sierra's financial position is stable and has maintained fiscal solvency.
4. Sierra has fulfilled its legal obligations.

# Educational Program Implementation

## Measurable Pupil Outcomes

- Increase ELA proficiency by 20%
- Increase Math proficiency by 32%
- Meet AYP established goals
- Increase percentage of growth in attendance, mobility, graduation, dropout and enrollment in 2 or 4 - year college or trade school

## Outcomes

- Sierra has increased the percentage annually.
- Sierra has increased the percentage annually.
- Met or obtained 10/18 in the four applicable years
- Sierra was able to meet or exceed its goals for attendance and post-secondary enrollment and was within 2% of its stated goal for mobility.

# Assessment of Renewal Petition – Step Two

- **Staff Review of Current Sierra Operations**
  - ▣ The District Charter Review Team has determined that the Sierra renewal petition presents a sound educational program.





# Recommendation

- It is the recommendation of staff; based on its thorough analysis of the charter school's performance, to **Approve** the charter renewal petition of Sierra Charter School for a five-year term from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2022.