



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Report

Report Number:	058 – 11/12
Date:	October 4, 2011
Subject:	Approval of the Amendment to the Charter for Larchmont Charter School
Responsible Staff:	
Name	José J. Cole-Gutiérrez, Director, Charter Schools
Office/Division	Innovation and Charter Schools Division
Telephone No.	(213) 241-2487

BOARD REPORT

Action Proposed: Staff recommends the following action:

Approve the amendment for Larchmont Charter School.

Background: Staff of the Innovation and Charter Schools Division (ICSD) recommends the approval of the material revision for Larchmont Charter School amending the following charter provisions:

- Element 1 – Educational Program to include grades 9-12 with a distinct (block) schedule for these students; A-G aligned curriculum; and standards-based textbooks
- Element 2 – Measurable Pupil Outcomes to include goals for grades 9-12
- Element 3- Method by Which Student Outcomes Will Be Measured to include grades 9-12 assessments and high school graduation requirements

While Larchmont's amendment is primarily related to its addition of grades 9-12 as reflected above, it also has updated language throughout the petition to reflect the most recent District-required language, dated August 4, 2011.

Larchmont Charter School was originally granted its charter in February 2005 for a term of three (3) years which began in July 2005. It was approved by the LAUSD Board of Education as a K-6 program with a total capacity of 380 students. In February 2010, the LAUSD Board of Education approved Larchmont's material revision to expand to include grades 7-8 and to serve up to 732 students. The current amendment to add grades 9-12 will allow for an additional approximate 32 students the first year of expansion with a final total addition of 437 students upon full expansion. Its total approximate grades K-12 enrollment will be 1169 students.



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This charter school serves students at two sites. The first site is located in Board District 1, Local District 4, at 815 N. El Centro Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038 where grades K-5 are served. Its second site which serves grades 6-8 is located at 668 S. Catalina St., Los Angeles, CA 90010 within Board District 2 and Local District 4. Larchmont Charter School’s current charter term runs through June 30, 2015.

As part of the Innovation and Charter School’s review of the amendment request, staff analyzed Larchmont’s overall performance in the areas of academic achievement, governance/leadership, and finance. Overall, the school is in good standing with the District and based on its performance and oversight review from last year, the ICSD has assessed that the school is excelling in these areas.

Larchmont demonstrates strong academic performance. Its API has experienced growth since 2007-08. When comparing the 2009 and 2010 API and 2009-10 CST proficiency rates, Larchmont outperforms resident schools and significantly outperforms schools within a two-mile radius (see tables below). The school’s 2011 API Growth score is 931, reflecting a 23-point gain from the prior year.

API Academic Performance

Year	API Base	Growth Target	API Growth	Actual Growth
2007-08	823	A	872	49
2008-09	875	A	889	14
2009-10	889	A	908	19
Aggregate Growth		0		82

Rankings

Year	API State Rank	API Similar Schools Rank
2007	8	N/A
2008	9	8
2009	9	7
2010	9	10

Comparison

	2010 API Growth	2009 API Base
LARCHMONT CHARTER	908	889
Median LAUSD Similar Schools from CDE	893	889
Median Resident Schools	819	783
Median Comparison Schools within Two Mile Radius	734	733



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CST Proficiency Comparisons

	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	Basic, Below Basic & Far Below Basic	Proficient & Advanced	Basic, Below Basic & Far Below Basic	Proficient & Advanced
LARCHMONT CHARTER	18%	83%	22%	78%
Median LAUSD Similar Schools from CDE	26%	73%	23%	77%
Median of Resident Schools	44%	55%	37%	62%
Median Comparison Schools within Two Mile Radius	61%	38%	48%	49%

NOTE: Aggregated median percentages may not equal 100%.

The school’s API scores and 2009-10 CST proficiency rates provide evidence of Larchmont’s strong academic performance. The tables also provide a brief comparative view of its high rate of performance compared to resident schools; Larchmont significantly outperforms schools within a two-mile radius. Larchmont minimally outperforms (or is equal to in the case of the 2009 API Base) LAUSD Similar Schools from CDE.

ICSD staff also assessed Larchmont’s progress to increase diversity among its student body. The Office of Data and Accountability provided demographic data for Larchmont as well as a comparison to LAUSD Similar Schools from the California Department of Education (CDE), resident schools, and schools within a two-mile radius.

	% Free/ Reduced Lunch
Larchmont Charter School	29
<i>Median LAUSD Similar Schools from CDE</i>	33
<i>Median Resident Schools</i>	80
<i>Median Comparison Schools within Two Mile Radius</i>	92

Source: 2009 API Base and 2010 API Growth Demographics Data (STAR data), Office of Data and Accountability



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	Total Enroll.	% Sp Ed	% GATE	% EL	% Hisp	% White	% Af. Amer	% Asian	% Fili.
Larchmont Charter School	496	9%	0%	11 %	17%	55%	9%	16%	3%
<i>Median Resident Schools</i>	584	11%	4%	26 %	55%	7%	5%	5%	2%
<i>Median LAUSD Similar Schools from CDE</i>	611	13%	12%	8%	21%	59%	7%	8%	2%
<i>Median Comparison Schools within Two Mile Radius</i>	529	10%	4%	41 %	87%	1%	2%	2%	1%

Source: 2010 CBEDS Demographics Data, Office of Data and Accountability

	Total Enroll.	% Sp Ed	% GATE	% EL	% Hisp	% White	% Af. Amer	% Asian	% Fili.
Larchmont Charter School	449	9%	0%	11 %	15%	57%	9%	14%	3%
<i>Median Resident Schools</i>	532	11%	3%	30 %	57%	7%	5%	5%	2%
<i>Median LAUSD Similar Schools from CDE</i>	560	13%	12%	9%	24%	58%	7%	8%	2%
<i>Median Comparison Schools within Two Mile Radius</i>	480	9%	3%	45 %	87%	1%	3%	2%	2%

Source: 2009 CBEDS Demographics Data, Office of Data and Accountability

	Total Enroll.	% Sp Ed	% GATE	% EL	% Hisp	% White	% Af. Amer	% Asian	% Fili.
Larchmont Charter School	366	10%	9%	12 %	15%	60%	8%	15%	1%
<i>Median Resident Schools</i>	292	13%	4%	33 %	56%	3%	6%	5%	2%
<i>Median LAUSD Similar Schools from CDE</i>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Median Comparison Schools within Two Mile Radius</i>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: 2008 CBEDS Demographics Data, Office of Data and Accountability



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The data indicate several trends, including:

- Similar to resident schools students would otherwise attend, Larchmont's student population reflects the enrollment of students representing several racial/ethnic groups, not solely one or two groups.
- Larchmont's percentage of white and Latino students, however, are significantly disproportionate to the comparison resident schools.
- Over the last three years, CBEDS data show that the number of white students has decreased each year (from 60% to 57% to 55%). Latino enrollment has increased from 15% to 17%.
- Larchmont has enrolled more African American and Asian students in comparison to resident schools.
- Larchmont has a comparable population of students with disabilities and a lower rate of English Learners; however, the EL rate is high when considering the total number of Latino students (i.e., in 2008 about 80% ratio vs. about 51% for the resident schools).
- Its overall free and reduced lunch rate (29%) is significantly lower than the median of resident schools (80%).

Required Self-Reported Progress on Diversity Benchmarks

As part of the school's renewal last year, the Board of Education requested improvement in the school's attainment of diversity benchmarks, as noted below:

"As a condition of charter renewal and the granting of the request for a material revision to add grades 7-8 (an additional 224 students), this specific benchmark must be met:

- By the date of July 1, 2015, as documented by the California Department of Education, Larchmont Charter School's student body will reflect and demonstrate the increased strengthening and monitoring of school-wide recruitment/outreach that significantly increases school wide diversity in comparison to neighboring schools."

In addition, the Board requested an annual report regarding Larchmont's efforts to increase the diversity of its student body. On approximately



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November 1, 2010, Larchmont submitted its first such report to the ICSD based on its analysis of progress towards this benchmark. Based on this report, Larchmont notes the following increases when comparing its enrollment in October 2009 and October 2010: 2% among Latino population; 6.6% free and reduced lunch population; 1% among Asian/Pacific Islander and 0.4% African-American population with a 3.4% decrease among its Caucasian population. However, it reports more significant increases among its kindergarten cohort. This includes “over 40%” eligibility for free and reduced lunch.

Overall, Larchmont needs to continue to exert its efforts in order to have a student population more closely representative of that of its resident schools as it relates to socioeconomic status and ethnicity (white/Latino). However, based on the data, the school is demonstrating more of a positive trend, though nominal in aggregate numbers; at this rate, though, it may be challenging for Larchmont Charter School to attain its 2015 diversity benchmark. However, ICSD will continue to monitor this.

Expected Outcomes: Larchmont Charter School is expected to operate its charter school in a manner consistent with local, state, and federal ordinances; laws; and regulations; and the terms and conditions set forth in its petition as amended.

Board Options and Consequences: “Yes” – The approval of the amendment of the charter would give Larchmont Charter School the right to operate as a charter school under the terms of the amendment for the final four (4) years of a five-year charter.

“No” – The denial of the amendment of the charter would cause Larchmont Charter School to continue operating under the terms of its current charter.

Policy Implications: The Policy for Charter Schools adopted in 2010.

Budget Impact: State Revenue Limit income and various other income sources to the District are reduced when current District students enroll at a charter school, and comparable or offsetting expenditure savings may not occur in such cases. Under Education Code section 47604(c), a school district that grants a charter to or operates a charter school that is formed as a non-profit public benefit corporation is not held liable for the charter school’s debts or obligations as long as the school district complies with all oversight responsibilities. The District will continue to have monitoring and supervisory responsibility for charter school finances, as specified in the Charter Schools Act. Any modifications to the charter school’s petition or operations with significant financial implications would require



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District approval prior to implementation. Petition approval is also contingent upon adequate liability insurance coverage.

Issues and Analysis: If all pending issues are not resolved at the time of the Board meeting, the Office of General Counsel will recommend the denial of the material revision.

Attachments:

Informative

Desegregation
Impact Statement



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Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED BY:

DR. JOHN E. DEASY
Superintendent of Schools

MICHELLE KING
Senior Deputy Superintendent
School Operations

APPROVED & PRESENTED BY:

REVIEWED BY:

JOSÉ J. COLE-GUTIÉRREZ
Director, Charter Schools
Innovation and Charter Schools Division

DAVID HOLMQUIST
General Counsel

Approved as to form.

TONY ATIENZA
Director of Budget Services and
Financial Planning (Interim)

Approved as to budget impact statement.



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DESEGREGATION IMPACT STATEMENT (DIS) LARCHMONT CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT 058 – 11/12 October 4, 2011

I. Category of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would amend the charter for Larchmont Charter School allowing expansion for grades 9-12. It currently serves up to 732 K-8 grade students. Year one it will add approximately 32⁹ grade students. By the end of its expansion, it will add approximately 437 students in grades 9-12 to reach a final total of approximately 1169 K-12 students in the year 2015.

II. Summary Description of Current District Practice:

Charter schools are schools of choice by legislation and are open to any student in the State of California. Charter schools are granted single charter status for a maximum of five (5) years. It should be noted, however, that although State legislation allows students to attend a charter school from any area in the state, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is under Court Order, Crawford v. LAUSD, which applies to all schools within or chartered through the LAUSD. Any modifications to the Court-Ordered Integration Program must first be approved by Student Integration Services.

III. Proposed Change:

The approval of this amendment would allow Larchmont Charter School to expand to include grades 9-12, beginning July 1, 2012.

IV. Effects of This Proposal:

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) does not guarantee availability of Court-ordered Integration funding. The charter school will be responsible for maintaining the Court Order and providing information requested by the LAUSD as set forth in the Charter petition. Modifications or school decisions cannot negatively impact or cause additional costs to the Court-ordered Integration budget.

V. Analyze the Impact of This Proposal on Integration, Desegregation, Re-segregation and/or Segregation:

If the Charter goals are met, there should be positive results on the five (5) Harms of Racial Isolation which are low academic achievement, low self-esteem, lack of access to post-secondary opportunities, interracial hostility and intolerance, and overcrowded conditions. The Court-ordered Integration Program for participating students will operate under various Court Orders for schools within the Los Angeles Unified School District. Any modification of the Court-ordered Integration Program must first be approved by Student Integration Services.

VI. If proposed action affects negatively any desegregation program, list other option(s) identified:

If the District Court-ordered Integration Guidelines are followed, there will not be a negative effect on the District's Court-ordered Integration Program.

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

CLAUDIA M. LARA, ED.D.
Specialist
Innovation and Charter Schools Division

ESTELLE SHEPHERD LUCKETT
Director
Student Integration Services

AMENDMENT TO CHARTER OF LARCHMONT CHARTER SCHOOL

This Amendment to the Charter of Larchmont Charter School (“Amendment”) is made between Los Angeles Unified School District (“District”), a California public school district, and Larchmont Charter School (“Charter School” and/or “LCS”), **a California non-profit corporation**. This Amendment is to be read in conjunction with and shall expressly amend the Charter of Larchmont Charter School approved by the Los Angeles City Board of Education on February 8, 2005 (“Charter”) and renewed on February 16, 2010. The effective date of this Amendment is the date of approval by the Board of Education.

RECITALS.

A. WHEREAS, Charter School agrees to amend its Charter, and where required, its Bylaws, to reflect changes to the Charter as noted below.

B. WHEREAS, District and Charter School jointly agree to amend certain provisions of the Charter to reflect District policy and applicable state and federal laws, statutes, and regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereby acknowledge the adequacy of the consideration given for this Amendment and, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary set forth in the Charter, the parties hereto expressly agree as follows:

1. All material changes in the Charter approved on February 16, 2010 reflected in bold italicized fonts in the petition attached hereto as “Larchmont Charter School. Charter School Renewal Petition & Material Revision to expand to add grades 9 through 12.”
2. The Charter shall be amended to include and update all District’s required language for charter schools.
3. All references to grades configuration as K-8 in the Charter shall be deleted and replaced with “K-12.”
4. Any references to operational capacity in the Charter, or specifically on page 22 as “30 classrooms and approx 730 students” and the chart on page 23 to the grade levels and approximate number of pupils served shall be deleted and replaced with “47 classrooms and approx 1169 students,” including the provisions in the chart on page 24.
5. The Charter shall be amended to include 9-12 standards. The K-8 standards remain unchanged.
6. All references to K-8 grade level curriculum and assessments shall be amended to include K-12 standards. The K-8 grade level curriculum and assessments remain unchanged.

7. All references in the Charter to “Curriculum Maps” shall be deleted and replaced with **Standards Maps**.
8. All statements or contents in the Charter that are inconsistent with or do not meet the standards, assessments or accountability required for the expansion of the Charter School to expand to grades 9 through 12 shall be deleted in its entirety or replaced.
9. Element 4 – Governance: Element 4 of the Charter shall be amended as follows:
 - The section on page 99 of the Charter titled “Audit and Inspection of Records” shall be deleted and moved to Element 9.
 - The section and organizational chart under the title “Decision Making Process and Organizational Chart” on page 101 of the Charter shall be deleted and replaced with the provisions and chart under the same headings on page 25, Element 4.
10. The Charter School warrants that employer contributions are being made towards the STRS and PERS funds for its eligible employees, as stated in the Charter Petition. LAUSD, as the authorizing oversight entity, is not and shall not be liable for any arrears, interest and penalties Charter School may owe and incur towards the STRS and PERS fund.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Amendment to be duly executed and delivered in their respective names by their authorized representatives as of the date set forth below.

DATED: September ____, 2011 LARCHMONT CHARTER SCHOOL
 (“Charter School”)

By: _____

Title: _____

Authorized Representative of Larchmont Charter School

DATED: September ____, 2011 LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
 (“District”)

By: _____

Title: _____

Authorized Representative of Los Angeles Unified School District