Determination Hearing for the Charter Renewal for Sacramento New Technology Early College High School

Board Meeting
April 3, 2025
Agenda Item No. 11.2

Presented by:

Amanda Goldman, Ed.D. - Director, Innovative Schools

Jessica Martin, Principal

Process for Determination Hearing

- **Presentation: Equal Time and Process for District and Charter**
  - High Level Summary (Specifics available in renewal report)
  - 10 minutes split between District (5 min) and Charter (5 min)

- **Public Comment (15 min)**

- **Board Questions and Discussion**

- **Board Action**
  - Board has been provided with possible resolutions. The Board will need to approve one of them by the end of this item.

Review of Timeline

Petition Submitted:

→ **January 31, 2025**

Initial Public Hearing to Determine Level of Support:

→ **March 6, 2025** (34 days)

Publication of Staff Renewal Report:

→**March 19, 2025** (47 days)

Determination Hearing / Board Vote:

→ **April 3, 2025** (63 days)

a.k.a. "SNTECHS"
a.k.a. "New Tech"

3 Tiers for Renewal

Tier is determined based on the previous 2 years of published CA Dashboard Data

California School DASHBOARD

High Tier	**Middle Tier**	**Low Tier**
Blue or **Green** on all schoolwide indicators OR Schoolwide indicators are the same / **higher than State** and subgroups are **higher than State**	All other schools falls in the middle tier	**Red** or **Orange** on all schoolwide indicators OR Schoolwide indicators are the **same or lower than State** and subgroups are **lower than State**

Potential Denial Findings by Tier

High

- Shall not deny for academic reasons
- Can only deny with a finding that school is either
  - (A) unable to implement program due to fiscal/governance concerns OR
  - (B) is not serving all students who wish to attend.

Middle

- Can deny for the reasons in High OR can deny if:
  - (A) school has failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the students AND
  - (B) Closure is in the best interest of students AND
  - (C) Decision provided greater weight to academic performance

Low

- Presumptive denial, but may renew for 2 years if:
  - (A) the charter school is taking meaningful steps to address the underlying cause of low performance (with a written plan) AND
  - (B) Verified data shows 1 year progress for students OR strong postsecondary outcomes

Santa Clara County Office of Education

CGAP CALIFORNIA CHARTER AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONALS

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SNTECHS has been placed in the Middle Renewal Tier based on 2022-23 & 2023-24 Data.

Sacramento City UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SCUSD Renewal Report for SNTECHS

Published March 19, 2025

Did the charter petition meet all primary requirements for renewal?		YES
1	Does this charter present an <u>unsound</u> educational program?	NO
2	Are the petitioners demonstrably <u>unlikely</u> to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition?	SUBSTANTIALLY
3	Does the petition contain the necessary affirmations and assurances of the Charter Schools Act?	YES
4	Does the petition contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all 15 elements described below?	SUBSTANTIALLY
5	Does the petition contain a declaration of whether the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the charter school's employees?	YES
Were there any findings that could trigger a notice to cure an alleged violation under either of the following?		NO
6	Is the charter school demonstrably <u>unlikely</u> to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition *due to substantial fiscal or governance factors?*	NO
7	Does the charter school serve the pupils who wish to attend, as documented by E.C. Section 47607(d)?	YES

ELEMENT	TOPIC	MEETS STANDARD	KEY FINDINGS
Element 1/A	Educational Program	YES	
Element 2/B	Measurable Student Outcomes	SUBSTANTIALLY	Missing Metric
Element 3/C	Student Progress Measurement	SUBSTANTIALLY	Suggested Addition
Element 4/D	Governance	SUBSTANTIALLY	Advisory Council updates
Element 5/E	Employee Qualifications	YES	
Element 6/F	Health and Safety	SUBSTANTIALLY	Clarity between District policies and Charter School procedures
Element 7/G	Racial/ Ethnic Balance	YES	
Element 8/H	Admissions	YES	
Element 9/I	Independent Audits	YES	
Element 10/J	Suspension/Expulsion	SUBSTANTIALLY	Clarity between District policies and Charter School procedures
Element 11/K	STRS	YES	
Element 12/L	Attendance Alternatives	YES	
Element13/M	Post-Employment Rights	YES	
Element 14/N	Dispute Resolution	YES	
Element 15/O	Closure Procedures	YES	
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION		MEETS STANDARDS	KEY FINDINGS
Financial/ Administrative Plan		YES	
Facilities		YES	
Impact Statement		YES	
Special Education		YES	

Small fixes related to relationship to and collaboration with District can be addressed in an MOU.

The Charter
(A promise or roadmap for serving students)

Students at the Center

School has taken significant steps in recent years towards improving outcomes for students and working towards fiscal sustainability.

Middle Tier Based on Academic Outcomes; some areas of growth identified.

Data and Oversight Records
(Track record of how charter has kept their "promises" over past term)

Reflection and Continuous Improvement Efforts
(Acknowledging that we are not perfect, that we are always improving)

Based on **SNTECHS'** status in the **MIDDLE** renewal level, a comprehensive review of the charter petition, and a review of their most recent charter term, the review team has determined that **SNTECHS met requirements** on all required criteria. **SNTECHS is eligible for a 5-year renewal**
If approved, the term of the charter would be July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2030.

Next Steps / Suggestions

Should the board vote to renew, district staff suggest the following:
→ The District and its Dependent charter schools (including SNTECHS) develop an MOU specific to the unique nature of dependent charter schools with District employed staff.

Areas to Focus on in Oversight:
→ Continuous improvement in both mathematics
→ Meeting enrollment/fiscal targets

Options for the Board

The SCUSD Board of Education has several legally compliant options. The Board may also consider other options not listed here.

OPTION A

"Motion to Approve Resolution 3486-A to Renew the Charter of Sacramento New Technology Early College High School for a term of 5 years, from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030."

SNTECHS is permitted to continue operations through (at least) June 2030, in line with the language submitted in their charter and not required to make any updates at this time.

Required development of and agreement to an MOU is included in this resolution.

OPTION B

"Motion to Approve Resolution 3486-B to Renew the Charter of Sacramento New Technology Early College High School for a term of 5 years, from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030 with conditions."

Staff does not have any conditions to recommend at this time. Should the Board wish to apply conditions, they would need to be drafted from the dias.

SNTECHS is permitted to continue operations through (at least) June 2030 and would be required to abide by the listed conditions.

Required development of and agreement to an MOU is included in this resolution.

OPTION C

"Motion to Deny the Renewal of Sacramento New Technology Early College High School based on findings.

Staff does not have any recommend findings for non-renewal at this time. Should the Board wish to deny this renewal, findings would need to be drafted from the dias.

SNTECHS would be scheduled to close by June 30, 2025, pending a change of decision.

TOPICS:

- The Plan for Academic Growth in Mathematics
- College & Career Readiness Outcomes
- College & Career Indicator (CCI): Data Reporting Efforts
- Highlights

THE PLAN FOR ACADEMIC GROWTH IN MATHEMATICS
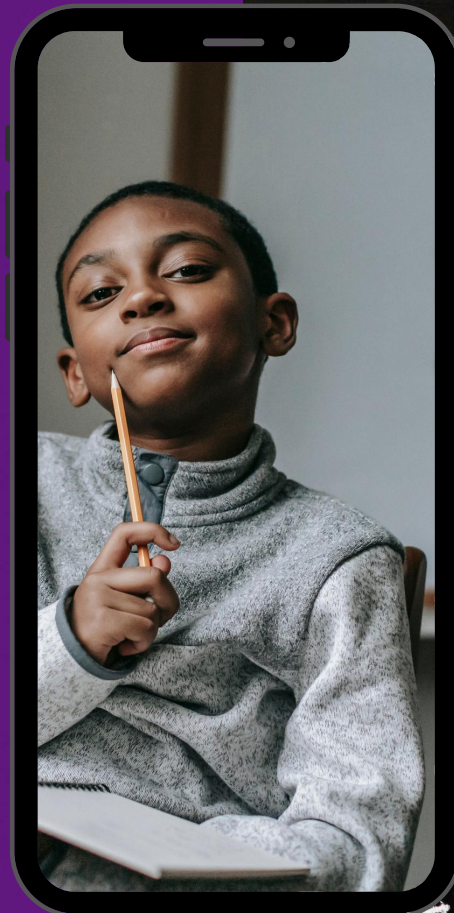
* **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
  * Collaboration with C&I, Training Specialist
  * Building Thinking Classrooms
  * PBL Workshops provided by NTN Coach
  * Release days for PD and planning

* **MATH DEPARTMENT GROWTH**
  * Hired an additional full time math teacher
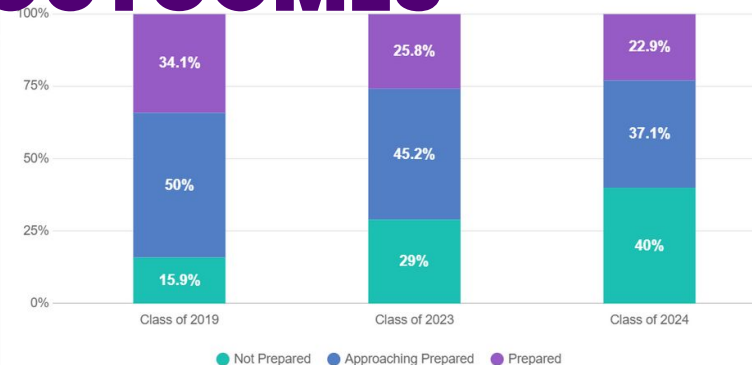 * Smaller class sizes

* **ASSESSMENT AND INNOVATION**
  * IXL Diagnostic & District Benchmarks
  * **FITMATH** (the integration of Math I and 9th Grade PE)

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS OUTCOMES

College/Career

The percent of students per year in a class of Not Prepared, Approaching Prepared, and Prepared.

	Class of 2019	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Prepared	34.1%	25.8%	22.9%
Approaching Prepared	50%	45.2%	37.1%
Not Prepared	15.9%	29%	40%

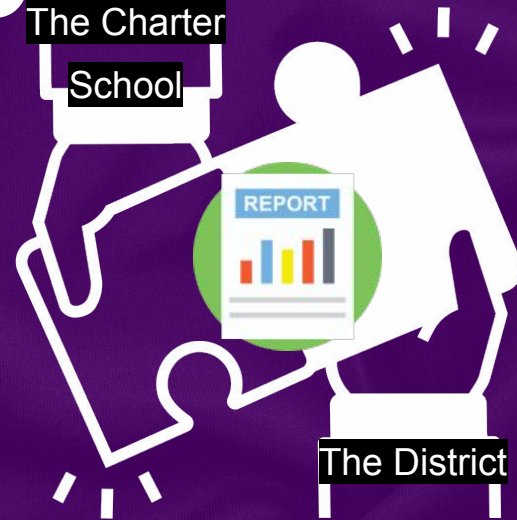● Not Prepared ● Approaching Prepared ● Prepared

CTE PATHWAY ADJUSTMENTS
- 2019 Fully Credentialed Graphics Art Pathway Teacher resigned at the end of the school year
- 2021 Switched from Graphic Arts to Film Production - teacher was not fully credentialed
- Fall 2024 Closed Film Production CTE Pathway
- Fall 2025 Adding a 2nd Concentrator CS Pathway Class

TRANSFORMATION TO EARLY COLLEGE
- 58% increase of students in dual enrollment from last year
- Extra support and monitoring for students inv dual enrollment (College Mentor, increase counselor to 1.0, increase registrar to 1.0)
- LMS change to Canvas to align with the college LMS

CCI: DATA REPORTING EFFORTS

The Charter School

The District

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Early College Access for ALL Students (Equity & Readiness)**
  - EVERY student takes at least one college course per year starting in the 9th Grade
  - Robust dual enrollment program with pathways to certificates and associate degrees
  - The model closes the equity gaps, preparing first-generation and underrepresented students for postsecondary success.

- **Career-Focused Computer Science CTE Pathway**
  - Full 4-Year CTE Pathway
  - Students are immersed in real-world tech skills
  - Emphasizes 21st-century readiness in a high-demand field

- **Project-Based Learning that Builds "Soft-Skill" Mastery (Post-Secondary Success & Readiness)**
  - Part of the school-wide instructional model, emphasizing real-world problem solving and student voice.
  - Students demonstrate learning through Defense of Learning and interdisciplinary projects.
  - This model build agency, communication skills, and civic engagement - core competencies for life and work

- **A Small, Inclusive Community with Strategic Partnerships**
  - Small student body allows for personalized learning and strong student support.
  - Actively builds partnerships with community organizations, colleges, and industries to enhance learning and expand student opportunities.
  - Strategic social media work is growing visibility and creating connections to support sustainability and growth.

THANK YOU

I welcome your questions and comments