



San José  
Unified  
School District

# **SAN JOSÉ UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **REQUEST TO RENEW THE CHARTER OF ACE INSPIRE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

**GOVERNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING DATE:**

January 15, 2026

**GOVERNING BOARD DETERMINATION MEETING DATE:**

March 12, 2026

**A. Background**

On December 12, 2025, the District received the request to renew the charter of the ACE Inspire Charter School (“ACE Inspire” or “Charter School”), seeking a renewal term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031.

The Board originally approved the charter for the operation of ACE Inspire in February, 2013. The Charter School has been in operation for 12 years and was last renewed by the Board on December 7, 2017.

On January 15, 2026, the Board conducted a public hearing on the Renewal as required by Education Code 47605(b) to consider the level of support for the Renewal by teachers, other employees and parents/guardians.

At its March 12, 2026 meeting, the Board must take action to grant or deny the Renewal under the standards set forth in Education Code section 47605(b).

**B. Legal Requirements**

Education Code section 47605(c)(5) requires that a charter petition or renewal contain a reasonably comprehensive description of the following required charter petition elements:

1. Description of educational program
2. Measurable pupil outcomes
3. Method for assessing pupil progress
4. Governance structure of the school
5. Employee qualifications
6. Health & safety procedures
7. Means to achieve race/ethnic balance
8. Admission requirements, if applicable
9. Manner in which annual independent financial audits shall be conducted
10. Student suspension & expulsion procedures
11. Staff coverage by State Teachers’ Retirement System, Public Employees’ Retirement System or Social Security
12. Public school attendance alternatives
13. District employee leave & return rights
14. Dispute resolution process
15. Procedures for closure of school

Education Code section 47605(k) contains other information required for a successful charter petition or renewal:

1. Information regarding the proposed operation and potential effects of school
2. Facilities to be utilized
3. Provision of administrative services
4. Potential civil liability effects, if any
5. Proposed 1st year budget, and 3 years of financial projections/cash flow

6. Required affirmations
  - a. Nonsectarian program
  - b. No tuition
  - c. No discrimination
  - d. Admission not according to residence of pupil or parents

**C. Grounds for Denial**

If a governing board denies a renewal, it must make written findings to support any of the following under Education Code § 47605(c):

- (1) The charter school presents an unsound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school;
- (2) The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition;
- (3) The petition does not contain the required number of signatures [not applicable for renewal];
- (4) The petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions described in subdivision Education Code §§47605(k);
- (5) The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all of the criteria set forth in Education Code §§47605(c)(5)(A)-(O); and
- (6) The petition does not contain a declaration of whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the employees of the charter school for purposes of Government Code § 3540 (the Rodda Act, the State's collective bargaining law for school employees.).

**D. Standards for Renewal of Charter**

By enacting the Charter Schools Act (Ed. Code §§ 47600, *et seq.*), the Legislature has declared its intent to provide opportunities to teachers, parents, pupils, and community members to establish and maintain schools that operate independently from the existing school district structure for the purposes specified therein.

The Legislature has declared its intent that charter schools are and should become an integral part of the California educational system and the establishment of charter schools should be encouraged, and that charter schools are part of and under the jurisdiction of the Public School System and the exclusive control of the officers of the public schools.

Assembly Bill 1505 (AB 1505) was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on October 3, 2019, adding a number of new provisions to the petition review and evaluation criteria, most of which took effect on July 1, 2020.

AB 1505 amended Education Code §47605(c) to state that an authorizer “shall grant a charter for the operation of a school under this part if it is satisfied that granting the charter is *consistent with sound educational practice and with the interests of the community* in which the school is proposing to locate. The governing board of the school district [or potential authorizer] *shall consider the academic needs of the pupils* the school proposes to serve.” (Emphasis Provided)

#### **E. Standards for “Mid-Performing” Charter School**

AB 1505 created three categories of charter schools for renewal: “high performing,” “mid-performing,” and “low-performing,” based upon the charter school’s performance on state standardized testing. CDE has designated ACE Inspire as a “mid-performing” charter school. A charter school’s performance tier is generally based upon its schoolwide performance, and performance of pupil groups, relative to the State average.

Under Education Code §47607.2(b), for mid-performing charters, the chartering authority, on renewal, shall consider the schoolwide performance and performance of all subgroups of pupils served by the charter school in the state and local indicators. For mid-performing charters, “[t]he chartering authority shall provide greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance in determining whether to grant a charter renewal.”

Under Education Code §47607.2(b), for mid-performing charters, the authorizer shall consider clear and convincing evidence that either:

- (1) The Charter School has achieved measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year’s progress for each year in school, or
- (2) Strong postsecondary outcomes, as defined by college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers (if applicable).

Under Education Code §47607.2(b), for mid-performing charters, the chartering authority may deny a renewal only upon making written findings, with sufficient facts to support the findings, that: (1) the charter school has failed to meet or make sufficient progress towards meeting standards that provide a benefit to the pupils of the school, (2) that closure of the charter school is in the best interest of pupils, and, (3) if applicable, its decision provided greater weight to performance of measurements of academic performance

For mid-performing charters, a charter granted under this subdivision shall be granted for a term of five (5) years. (Education Code §47607.2(b))

#### **F. Analysis of ACE Inspire Charter School’s Academic Performance**

##### **1. California School Dashboard**

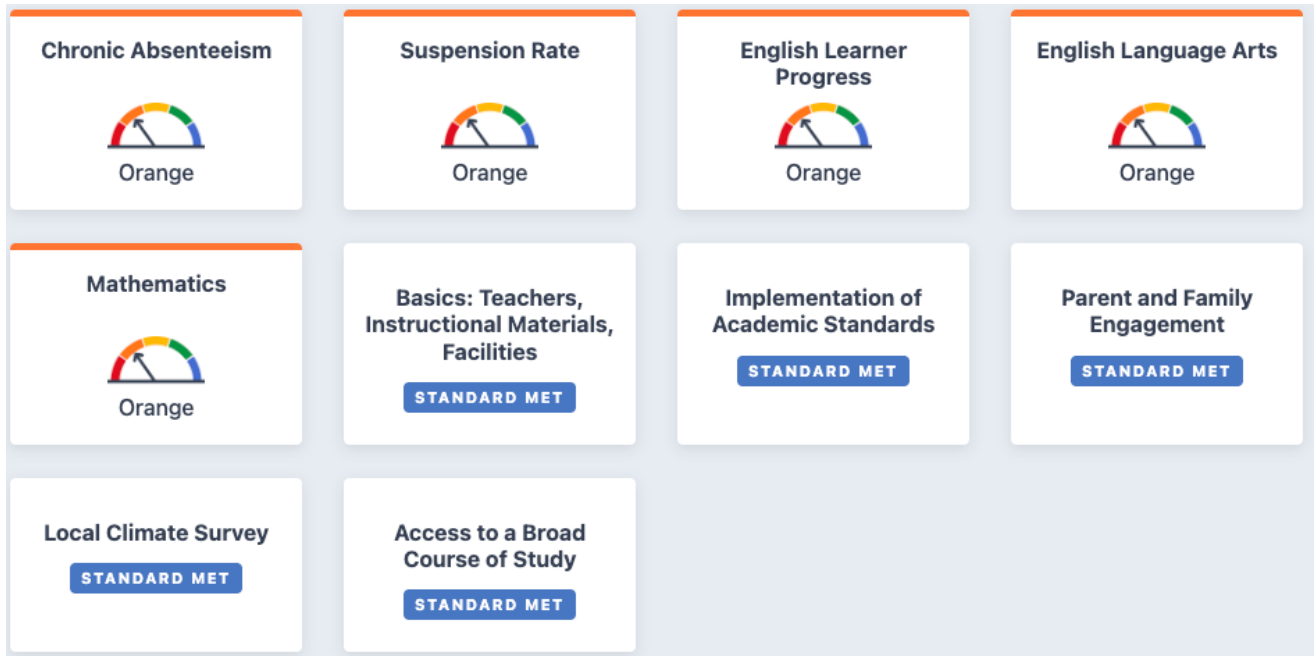
A charter school’s performance tier is based upon its performance on the California School Dashboard. Schools are rated on a scale of performance (measured by the average student’s distance from standard) compared to year-over-year growth.

**Object A:** Below is the color-coded system used by CDE to indicate the performance level of the school:



Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest 2026

**Object B:** Below are ACE Inspire’s 2024-2025 ratings on the California School Dashboard:



Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest 2026

**Object C:** Below is a snapshot of ACE Inspire’s California School Dashboard State Indicators in the three years prior to renewal:

**2023 Dashboard Performance Indicator Colors**

| Indicator           | ACE Inspire |
|---------------------|-------------|
| ELA (academic)      | Red         |
| Math (academic)     | Red         |
| ELPI (academic)     | Red         |
| Chronic Absenteeism | Yellow      |
| Suspension Rate     | Green       |

**2024 Dashboard Performance Indicator Colors**

| Indicator           | Ace Inspire |
|---------------------|-------------|
| ELA (academic)      | Red         |
| Math (academic)     | Red         |
| ELPI (academic)     | Yellow      |
| Chronic Absenteeism | Yellow      |
| Suspension Rate     | Orange      |

**2025 Dashboard Performance Indicator Colors**

| Indicator           | Ace Inspire |
|---------------------|-------------|
| ELA (academic)      | Orange      |
| Math (academic)     | Orange      |
| ELPI (academic)     | Orange      |
| Chronic Absenteeism | Orange      |
| Suspension Rate     | Orange      |

ACE Inspire Academy  
 Charter Renewal Petition, 2026-2031

ACE Inspire has had a mix of indicator colors for the past two years, with overall increase in academic performance in 2025 in the core subject matters of English Language Arts and Mathematics compared to the preceding two years. Chronic Absenteeism and Suspension Rate indicators did not show the same level of growth.

**English Language Arts**

**Object D:** The table below depicts ACE Inspire’s 2024-2025 English Language Arts CAASPP Scores Disaggregated by Subgroup:

| Group                           | Number of Students Tested | Change | Distance from Standard | Color Rating |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------------|
| All Students                    | 193                       | +6.6   | -100.6                 | Orange       |
| Socioeconomically Disadvantaged | 162                       | +1.4   | -112.6                 | Red          |
| Students w/ Disabilities        | 36                        | -6.7   | -154.2                 | Red          |
| English Learners                | 144                       | +6.8   | -120                   | Orange       |
| Long Term EL                    | 70                        | +22.7  | -111.4                 | Orange       |
| Hispanic                        | 177                       | +5.7   | -102.9                 | Orange       |

Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest 2026

**Analysis:** ACE Inspire’s schoolwide rating in English Language Arts is Orange. Three subgroups scored Orange, while two scored Red. However, four of the five subgroups showed increases, or maintained, from the previous year.

**Mathematics**

**Object E:** The table below depicts ACE Inspire’s 2024-2025 Math CAASPP Scores Disaggregated by Subgroup:

| Group                           | Number of Students Tested | Change | Distance From Standard | Color Rating |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------------|
| All Students                    | 193                       | +30.9  | -98.4                  | Orange       |
| Socioeconomically Disadvantaged | 166                       | +23.6  | -110.7                 | Orange       |
| Students w/ Disabilities        | 36                        | -18.9  | -190.9                 | Red          |
| English Learners                | 148                       | +25.6  | -118.3                 | Orange       |
| Long Term EL                    | 70                        | +35.3  | -121.3                 | Orange       |
| Hispanic                        | 181                       | +30.4  | -100.2                 | Orange       |

Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest 2026

**Analysis:** ACE Inspire’s schoolwide rating in Mathematics Arts is Orange. Four subgroups scored Orange, while one scored Red. Four of the five subgroups showed increases from the previous year. Therefore, ACE Inspire has demonstrated growth within most of its statistically significant subgroups.

**Suspension Rates:**

**Object F:** The table below depicts ACE Inspire’s 2024-2025 Overall Suspension Data Compared to SJUSD, County and State:

| Name                                | Cumulative Enrollment | Total Suspensions | Unduplicated Count of Students Suspended | Suspension Rate | Percent of Students Suspended with One Suspension | Percent of Students Suspended with Multiple Suspensions |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|-----------------|---|---|
| <a href="#">ACE Inspire Academy</a> | 224                   | 36                | 22                                       | 9.8%            | 54.5%   | 45.5%   |
| <a href="#">San Jose Unified</a>    | 26,788                | 2,153             | 1,159                                    | 4.3%            | 64.3%   | 35.7%   |
| <a href="#">Santa Clara County</a>  | 240,074               | 8,431             | 5,362                                    | 2.2%            | 71.7%   | 28.3%   |
| <a href="#">Statewide</a>           | 5,965,383             | 272,698           | 175,084                                  | 2.9%            | 71.0%   | 29.0%   |

Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest 2026

**Object G:** The table below depicts ACE Inspire’s 2024-2025 Suspension Data for Students with Disabilities Compared to SJUSD, County and State:

| Name                                | Cumulative Enrollment | Total Suspensions | Unduplicated Count of Students Suspended | Suspension Rate | Percent of Students Suspended with One Suspension | Percent of Students Suspended with Multiple Suspensions |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|-----------------|---|---|
| <a href="#">ACE Inspire Academy</a> | 42                    | 13                | 6  | 14.3%           | 50.0%   | 50.0%   |
| <a href="#">San Jose Unified</a>    | 4,231                 | 851               | 345                                      | 8.2%            | 46.7%   | 53.3%   |
| <a href="#">Santa Clara County</a>  | 32,786                | 3,137             | 1,629                                    | 5.0%            | 60.3%   | 39.7%   |
| <a href="#">Statewide</a>           | 931,649               | 88,623            | 47,445                                   | 5.1%            | 61.2%   | 38.8%   |

Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest 2026

**Object H:** The table below depicts ACE Inspire’s 2024-2025 Suspension Data for English Learners Compared to SJUSD, County and State:

| Name                                | Cumulative Enrollment | Total Suspensions | Unduplicated Count of Students Suspended | Suspension Rate | Percent of Students Suspended with One Suspension | Percent of Students Suspended with Multiple Suspensions |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|-----------------|---|---|
| <a href="#">ACE Inspire Academy</a> | 156                   | 27                | 19                                       | 12.2%           | 57.9%   | 42.1%   |
| <a href="#">San Jose Unified</a>    | 6,486                 | 741               | 401                                      | 6.2%            | 63.3%   | 36.7%   |
| <a href="#">Santa Clara County</a>  | 55,210                | 2,870             | 1,805                                    | 3.3%            | 71.0%   | 29.0%   |
| <a href="#">Statewide</a>           | 1,088,562             | 52,885            | 35,408                                   | 3.3%            | 72.7%   | 27.3%   |

Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest 2026

**Analysis:** ACE Inspire maintains a suspension rate well in excess of local and State average, both overall and among Students with Disabilities and English Learners

**Chronic Absenteeism Rates:**

**Object I:** The table below depicts ACE Inspire’s 2024-2025 Chronic Absenteeism Rates Compared to SJUSD, County and State:

| Name                                | Chronic Absenteeism Eligible Enrollment | Chronic Absenteeism Count | Chronic Absenteeism Rate |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <a href="#">ACE Inspire Academy</a> | 213                                     | 53                        | 24.9%                    |
| <a href="#">San Jose Unified</a>    | 26,194                                  | 6,147                     | 23.5%                    |
| <a href="#">Santa Clara County</a>  | 236,586                                 | 36,249                    | 15.3%                    |
| <a href="#">Statewide</a>           | 5,903,507                               | 1,143,668                 | 19.4%                    |

Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest 2026

**Object J:** The table below depicts ACE Inspire’s 2024-2025 Chronic Absenteeism Rates for Students with Disabilities Compared to SJUSD, County and State:

| Name                                | Chronic Absenteeism Eligible Enrollment | Chronic Absenteeism Count | Chronic Absenteeism Rate |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <a href="#">ACE Inspire Academy</a> | 40                                      | 11                        | 27.5%                    |
| <a href="#">San Jose Unified</a>    | 4,013                                   | 1,362                     | 33.9%                    |
| <a href="#">Santa Clara County</a>  | 31,801                                  | 8,587                     | 27.0%                    |
| <a href="#">Statewide</a>           | 914,659                                 | 253,246                   | 27.7%                    |

Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest 2026

**Object K:** The table below depicts ACE Inspire’s 2024-2025 Chronic Absenteeism Rates for English Learners Compared to SJUSD, County and State:

| Name                                | Chronic Absenteeism Eligible Enrollment | Chronic Absenteeism Count | Chronic Absenteeism Rate |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <a href="#">ACE Inspire Academy</a> | 151                                     | 41                        | 27.2%                    |
| <a href="#">San Jose Unified</a>    | 6,291                                   | 2,000                     | 31.8%                    |
| <a href="#">Santa Clara County</a>  | 54,267                                  | 11,309                    | 20.8%                    |
| <a href="#">Statewide</a>           | 1,077,160                               | 229,682                   | 21.3%                    |

Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest 2026

**Analysis:** ACE Inspire’s overall Chronic Absenteeism Rate is commensurate with that of the District, and above that of the County and State. Its Chronic Absenteeism Rate for Students with Disabilities is commensurate with those at the local and State level, and for and English Learners commensurate with the District, and above County and State levels.

**English Language Learners**

**Object L:** The table below depicts ACE Inspire’s 2024-2025 English Language Learner Enrollment:

| Name                                | Total     | English Only (EO) | Initial Fluent English Proficient (IFEP) | English Learner (EL) | Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|--|----------------------|---|
| <a href="#">ACE Inspire Academy</a> | 205       | 13.7%             | 2.4%                                     | 70.2%                | 13.7%   |
| <a href="#">San Jose Unified</a>    | 25,409    | 52.7%             | 7.7%                                     | 23.1%                | 15.0%   |
| <a href="#">Santa Clara County</a>  | 231,385   | 47.1%             | 11.0%                                    | 21.9%                | 18.0%   |
| <a href="#">State</a>               | 5,806,221 | 61.0%             | 4.6%                                     | 17.4%                | 15.7%   |

Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest 2026

**Object M:** The table below depicts ACE Inspire’s 2024-2025 Summative ELPAC Scores compared to SJUSD and Santa Clara County. Level 1= Beginning to Develop, Level 2 = Somewhat Developed, Level 3 = Moderately Developed, Level 4= Well Developed:

| Reporting Categories  | ACE Inspire Academy | San Jose Unified | Santa Clara |
|---|---------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Mean Scale Score  | N/A                 | N/A              | N/A         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 4 <sup>1</sup><br>Percentage of students by grade for level | 13.18%              | 12.41%           | 17.77%      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 3 <sup>1</sup><br>Percentage of students by grade for level | 28.68%              | 28.93%           | 30.28%      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Level 2 <sup>1</sup><br>Percentage of students by grade for level            | 22.48%              | 28.61%           | 26.31%      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Level 1 <sup>1</sup><br>Percentage of students by grade for level            | 35.66%              | 30.04%           | 25.64%      |

Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest 2026

**Analysis:** ACE Inspire enrolls a significantly higher percentage of English Language Learners than the District, County and Statewide rates.

**G. Other Data**

**1. Student Demographic Profile**

**Object N:** The table below depicts ACE Inspire’s 2024-2025 demographic profile by ethnicity, relative to that of the District, County, and State:

| Name                                | Total     | African American | American Indian or Alaska Native | Asian | Filipino | Hispanic or Latino | Pacific Islander | White | Two or More Races | Not Reported |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------|----------|--------------------|------------------|-------|-------------------|--------------|
| <a href="#">ACE Inspire Academy</a> | 205       | 0.5%             | 0.0%                             | 0.0%  | 0.5%     | 97.1%              | 0.0%             | 0.0%  | 1.5%              | 0.5%         |
| <a href="#">San Jose Unified</a>    | 25,409    | 2.1%             | 0.2%                             | 13.8% | 1.8%     | 55.1%              | 0.3%             | 19.7% | 7.0%              | 0.0%         |
| <a href="#">Santa Clara County</a>  | 231,385   | 1.7%             | 0.3%                             | 31.0% | 3.5%     | 40.8%              | 0.4%             | 15.2% | 6.0%              | 1.2%         |
| <a href="#">Statewide</a>           | 5,806,221 | 4.9%             | 0.4%                             | 10.1% | 2.2%     | 56.1%              | 0.4%             | 20.0% | 4.8%              | 1.2%         |

Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest 2026

**Object O:** The table below depicts ACE Inspire’s 2024-2025 demographic profile by subgroup:

| ACE Inspire                     |            | San Jose U.S.D.<br>(Incl. Charters) | State of CA<br>(Incl. Charters) |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Subgroup                        | Enrollment | Enrollment                          | Enrollment                      |
| English Learners                | 70.2%      | 23.1%                               | 17.4%                           |
| Foster Youth                    | 0.0%       | 0.1%                                | 0.5%                            |
| Homeless Youth                  | 9.8%       | 1.1%                                | 4.0%                            |
| Migrant Education               | 0.0%       | 0.1%                                | 0.8%                            |
| Students with Disabilities      | 17.1%      | 13.9%                               | 14.2%                           |
| Socioeconomically Disadvantaged | 89.3%      | 45.2%                               | 63.6%                           |
| <b>All Students</b>             | <b>205</b> | <b>25,409</b>                       | <b>5,806,221</b>                |

Source: California Department of Education, Dataquest 2026

**Object P:** The table below depicts ACE Inspire’s 2024-2025 demographic profile by English Learner status:

| Name                                | Total     | English Only (EO) | Initial Fluent English Proficient (IFEP) | English Learner (EL) | Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) | To Be Determined (TBD) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|--|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| <a href="#">ACE Inspire Academy</a> | 205       | 13.7%             | 2.4%                                     | 70.2%                | 13.7%   | 0.0%                   |
| <a href="#">San Jose Unified</a>    | 25,409    | 52.7%             | 7.7%                                     | 23.1%                | 15.0%   | 1.5%                   |
| <a href="#">Santa Clara County</a>  | 231,385   | 47.1%             | 11.0%                                    | 21.9%                | 18.0%   | 1.7%                   |
| <a href="#">State</a>               | 5,806,221 | 61.0%             | 4.6%                                     | 17.4%                | 15.7%   | 1.1%                   |

Source: California Department of Education Dataquest 2026

**Analysis:** ACE Inspire enrolls a significantly higher percentage of English Learner and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students than the local or State level.

## 2. Renewal Site Visit

On February 9, 2026, San José Unified staff conducted a Renewal Site Visit to the ACE Inspire campus located at 1155 E. Julian Street, San José, CA. San José Unified staff visited classrooms and met with site and network leadership. During the visit, San José Unified staff observed instructional practices and routines consistent with the academic model outlined in the petition.

## 3. Fiscal Matters

Education Code 47605(h) also requires that a renewal contain the following:

The governing board of a school district shall require that the petitioner or petitioners provide information regarding the proposed operation and potential effects of the charter school, including, but not limited to, the facilities to be used by the charter school, the manner in which administrative services of the charter school are to be provided, and potential civil liability effects, if any, upon the

charter school and upon the school district. The description of the facilities to be used by the charter school shall specify where the charter school intends to locate. The petitioner or petitioners also shall be required to provide financial statements that include a proposed first-year operational budget, including startup costs, and cashflow and financial projections for the first three years of operation. If the school is to be operated by, or as, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, the petitioner shall provide the names and relevant qualifications of all persons whom the petitioner nominates to serve on the governing body of the charter school.

**Analysis:** ACE Inspire submitted in conjunction with its Renewal a Budget Narrative (Appendix 5.1), Monthly Cash Flow/Forecast (Appendix 5.2), Fiscal Policies and Procedures Manual (Appendix 5.3), and Consolidated Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (Appendix 5.4). The Charter School provides budget and cashflow information for the first three fiscal years of the renewal term (2026-2027 through 2028-2029). The budget is based upon a modest projected increase in enrollment from current year 232 to 245 in 2028-2029, and also projects positive ending fund balances and cash reserves for each of the first three fiscal years of the renewal term (Appendix 5.1). The Charter School's budget and financial information meet legal requirements for renewal.

#### **4. Teacher Credentialing**

**Analysis:** Upon reviewing the credential status of ACE Inspire's instructional and service staff including Special Education, English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, Physical Education (PE), and Counseling, all of the staff hold a valid authorization to teach and to serve students. That is, the instructional staff possesses authorizations ranging from a 30-day substitute permit, provisional internship permit (PIP), short-term staff permit (STIP), district internship, preliminary single subject, multiple subject with authorization, and single subject clear credential.

Since some instructional staff who hold expiring authorizations such as PIP, STIP, or Internship need to complete an Induction Program, the District recommends that ACE Inspire's Human Resources personnel review and track their credential status at least twice a year. Furthermore, the recommendation is to conduct a bi-annual review to address any instructional staff not making progress towards achieving their credential (Clear, CLAD/BCLAD, etc.) and reduce the reliance of rotating substitutes.

**H. Reasonably Comprehensiveness Requirement**

District staff has determined that the Renewal has met the requirement that the charter school provide a reasonably comprehensive description of all 15 required elements.

| Element   | Standard Met? Yes/No |
|---|----------------------|
| Description of educational program  | Yes                  |
| Measurable pupil outcomes   | Yes                  |
| Method for assessing pupil progress   | Yes                  |
| Governance structure of the school  | Yes                  |
| Employee qualifications   | Yes                  |
| Health & safety procedures  | Yes                  |
| Means to achieve race/ethnic balance  | Yes                  |
| Admission requirements, if applicable   | Yes                  |
| Manner in which annual independent financial audits shall be conducted                                      | Yes                  |
| Student suspension & expulsion procedures   | Yes                  |
| Staff coverage by State Teachers’ Retirement System, Public Employees’ Retirement System or Social Security | Yes                  |
| Public school attendance alternatives   | Yes                  |
| District employee leave & return rights   | Yes                  |
| Dispute resolution process  | Yes                  |
| Procedures for closure of school  | Yes                  |

11. Staff coverage by State Teachers’ Retirement System, Public Employees’ Retirement System or Social Security

ACE Inspire’s *ACE Charter School 401(K) Plan - 2026 Empower Retirement Information Package* states that certificated staff are provided the option to join the State Teachers’ Retirement System (STRS), while non-certificated staff have the option to participate in a 401K retirement plan. Moreover, ACE Inspire renewal petition mentions a 403(b) option as well. However, this option is not available to ACS Inspire staff, according to its Human Resources personnel. Hence, San José Unified recommends deleting the 403(b) option from their Renewal document.

**I. Recommendation for Board Action**

Education Code section 47605(b) requires that “[t]he governing board of the school district shall publish all staff recommendations, including the recommended findings ... regarding the petition at least 15 days before the public hearing at which the governing board of the school district will either grant or deny the charter[/renewal].” This staff recommendation was posted on February 25, 2026, in compliance with Education Code section 47605(b).

The Board renewed the ACE Inspire charter on December 7, 2017 upon findings that ACE Inspire met its commitment in its original petition to serve a “high concentration of socioeconomically disadvantaged students,” and also noted the directive in Ed. Code section 47601(b) that that one of the objectives of the Charter Schools Act is to “[i]ncrease learning opportunities for all pupils, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for pupils who are identified as academically low achieving.” The Board renewed the charter even though ACE Inspire had “not achieved pupil growth in English/Language Arts or Mathematics over the past two school years, which would provide grounds for denial of the renewal petition” under the pre-AB 1505 renewal standard then in effect.

ACE Inspire has maintained its commitment to serving a high concentration of socioeconomically disadvantaged students and has also demonstrated pupil growth in English Language Arts and Mathematics in most statistically significant subgroups. Accordingly, staff recommends that the Board select Option 1 below.

**Option No. 1:** Education Code section 47605(b) requires that the Board “grant or deny” the renewal. Staff recommends that the Board grant the renewal of the ACE Inspire Charter for a term of July, 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031, as Charter School has demonstrated that it has met the requirements for renewal, including “measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year’s progress for each year in school,” through the performance on Statewide tests submitted with the Renewal. (Ed. Code 47607.2(b).)

**Option No. 2:** Under Education Code section 47605(c), “[t]he governing board of the school district shall not deny a petition for the establishment of a charter school [or renewal of a charter] unless it makes written factual findings, specific to the particular petition[/renewal], setting forth specific facts to support” findings under one of the above-stated grounds for denial. If the Board votes to deny the renewal, it should include in its motion the citation to, and adoption of, findings in this Report in support of the denial.

Respectfully Submitted.

San José Unified School District Charter Renewal Petition Review Team