

Board Meeting Discussion

Santa Rosa Accelerated Charter School



4th Grade Expansion

Date 1/11/2023

**Santa Rosa Accelerated
Charter School**

OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- History of expansion at Santa Rosa Accelerated Charter School (SRACS)
- Interest in expanding to 4th grade - Parent Survey Results
- Previous Expansion and Diversification Efforts
- Overview - Proposed Program
 - Current Student Demographics & Enrollment
 - RVMS Location Details
 - Course of Study
- Staffing and Management
- Reasons to Expand Now

LET'S GET STARTED

History of Expansion For Santa Rosa Accelerated Charter

- **2004** - The charter school opened with two classrooms, one 5th and one 6th grade. A companion charter school is approved at that time at Comstock Middle School, but there is not enough interest to open that school.
- **2005** - A combination 5th/6th class is added. The school is at capacity with 96 students.
- **2006** - Because of high demand, another classroom is added. There are two 5th grades and two 6th grades. Student population remains at capacity, 128, from that time on. Each year has a waiting list of at least 60% of the enrolled students.



SRACS Parent Survey Results

85 current SRACS families responded to the survey as of October 14, 2022

| # | Survey Question | Answers |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Do you feel that the district should support more opportunities for students to access the SRACS program? | Yes 71 Maybe 15 No 3 |
| 2 | Would you be in favor of expanding SRACS? | Yes 68 Maybe 15 No 6 |
| 3 | If you had a 4th grader, would you place them in this program? | Yes 66 Maybe 17 No 6 |

SRACS Parent Survey Results

Sample Pro and Con Parent Responses other than questions

P I have a current 3rd grader and we would LOVE for her to attend SRACS next year as a 4th
R grader. The SRACS program is unlike any other program offered by either RVUSD/SRCS and I
O would love for the opportunity be offered sooner to my younger child.

I love the idea of SRACS expanding. I think adding another grade level would be a huge benefit. I think it would make for an even stronger community if parents knew that their children were in one place for 3 years. I think that 4th graders are developmentally ready for a curriculum that emphasizes depth and complexity and I think it would make for a stronger overall experience if they could immerse in such learning for 3 consecutive years.

C 4th grade feels too young for this intensive style of learning. 5th grade feels just right.
O They've matured enough to handle what is required. I feel 4th graders would have a very
N hard time.

The main reason I would not send a 4th grader to SRACS is the proximity to, and interaction with, the older RVMS students.

Previous Expansion and Diversification Efforts

- Lewis campus was requested so SRACS could be more centrally located.
- Busing to the SRACS campus was requested several times.
- Moving SRACS to the Comstock campus was explored. Then CCLA used that space.
- Cook campus was offered as part of the Hope School, but there was not enough parent interest to move.
- Element H was revised and the lottery process now includes a 4 to 1 draw for free and reduced lunch applicants.
- Keysight integrated campus was proposed at the Satellite site. With the idea of changing SRACS to a magnet school to allow busing.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

2020-2021

| Ethnicity | Number of Students | Percentage |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------|
| Not Reported | 1 | 0.8% |
| Filipino | 3 | 2.3% |
| Multi-racial | 13 | 10.2% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 14 | 10.9% |
| Asian | 21 | 16.4% |
| White | 76 | 59.4% |

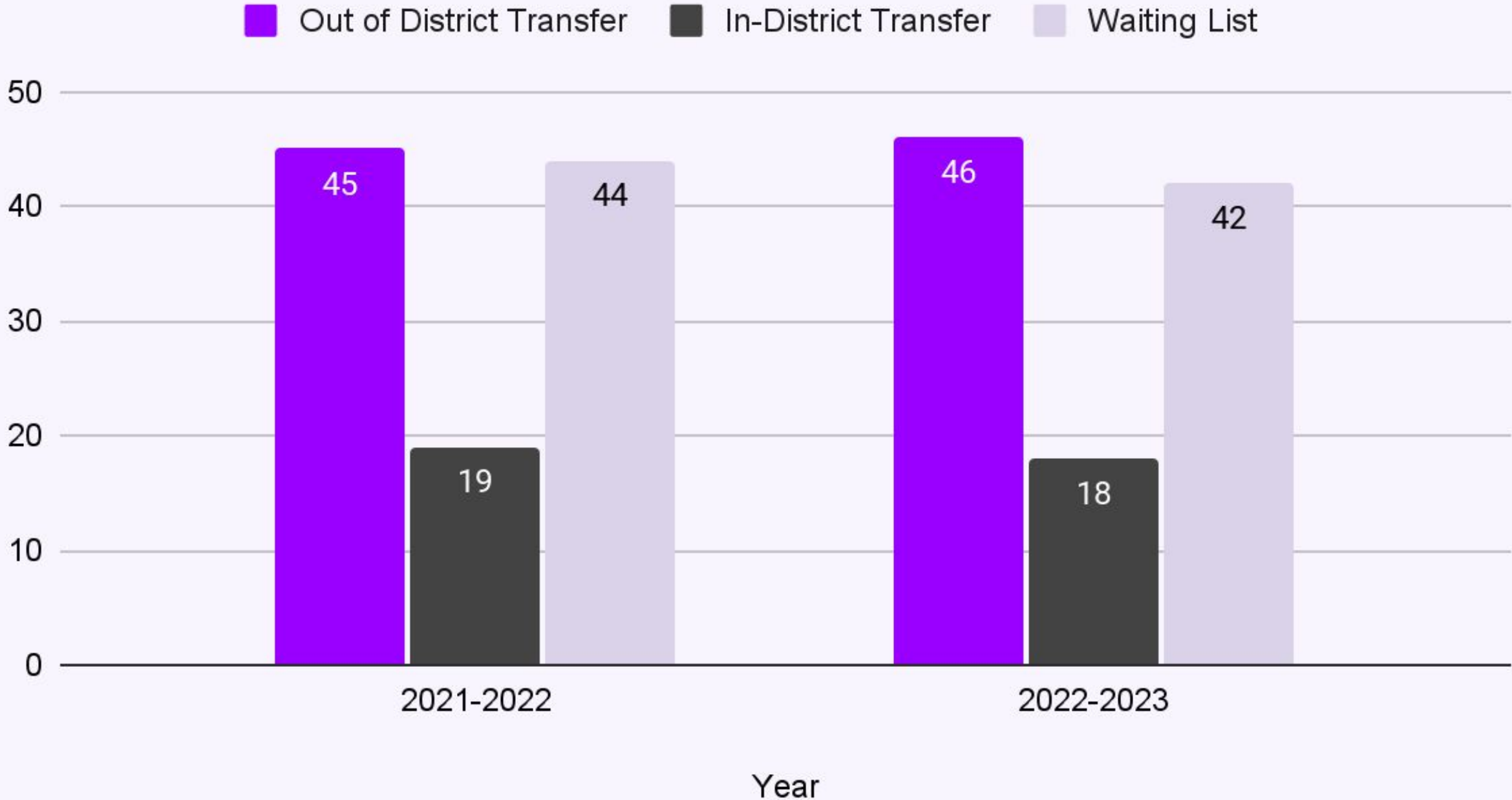
2021-2022

| Ethnicity | Number of Students | Percentage |
|------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Pacific Islander | 1 | 0.8% |
| Filipino | 2 | 1.6% |
| Multi-racial | 13 | 10.2% |
| Asian | 20 | 15.7% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 21 | 16.5% |
| White | 70 | 55.1% |

source: Data Reporting Office, California Department of Education

Student Enrollment and Wait List

Out of District Transfer, In-District Transfer and Waiting List



Course of Study and Foundational Curriculum



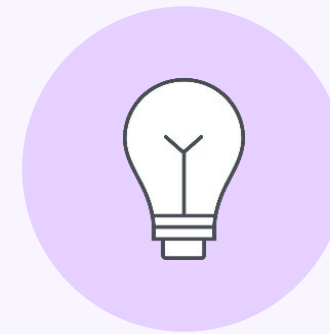
DEPTH

Instruction will examine the why's and how's of topics. Allowing students to work together to apply their understanding of the standards in various and meaningful ways.



COMPLEXITY

Students will use overarching concepts such as Power, Relationships, Change, and Systems to connect across the disciplines.



NOVELTY

Students are asked to take intellectual risks, to struggle as they enter a system of learning that goes beyond the facts and the basics.

REASONS TO EXPAND NOW

- **Parent interest** is sufficient to warrant an expansion.
- **Founding teachers** are retiring. Institutional knowledge will be lost. The expansion will allow for new teachers to work with the SRACS tenured teachers to keep the program strong.
- **Space at RVMS** is available.
- **Administration Turnover**
A larger population affords a full FTE position and may encourage admin retention.



THANKS FOR WATCHING

[Link to the Charter](#)