

**RESOLUTION OF THE TWIN HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGARDING REQUEST TO RENEW THE CHARTER OF
SUNRIDGE CHARTER SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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 shall consider the academic needs of the pupils the school proposes to serve”; and

WHEREAS, although charter schools are exempt from many of the laws governing school districts, in return for that flexibility, they are accountable for complying with the terms of their charters and applicable law; and

WHEREAS, Education Code §47605(c) charges school district governing boards and county boards of education with the responsibility of reviewing charter petitions to determine whether they meet the legal requirements for a successful charter petition; and

WHEREAS, a successful charter petition must contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the criteria set forth in Education Code § 47605(c)(5)(A)-(O), as well as the affirmations and other requirements set forth in Education Code §47605; and

WHEREAS, if a governing board denies a petition to form a charter school, 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 to renewals]; (4) the petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions described in Education Code §§47605(e); (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), in addition to the two new grounds added as set forth below; and

WHEREAS, AB 1505 added the following grounds for denial of a petition to establish a new charter school, effective July 1, 2020:

(7) “The charter school is demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school is proposing to locate. Analysis of this finding shall include consideration of the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school. A written factual finding under this paragraph shall detail specific facts and circumstances that analyze and consider the following factors: (A) The extent to which the proposed charter school would substantially undermine existing services, academic offerings, or programmatic offerings. (B) Whether the proposed charter school would duplicate a program currently offered within the school district and the existing program has sufficient capacity for the pupils proposed to be served within reasonable proximity to where the charter school intends to locate,” and

(8) “The school district is not positioned to absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school. A school district satisfies this paragraph if it has a qualified interim certification pursuant to Section 42131 and the county superintendent of schools, in consultation with the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, certifies that approving the charter school would result in the school district having a negative interim certification pursuant to Section 42131, has a negative interim certification pursuant to Section 42131, or is under state receivership. Charter schools proposed in a school district satisfying one of these conditions shall be subject to a rebuttable presumption of denial.”

WHEREAS, the above two new grounds do not apply to a request to renew a charter, but do apply to the impact of a proposed material revision of a charter under Education Code section 47607(a)(4).

Procedural History

WHEREAS, Sunridge Charter School (“Sunridge” or “Charter School”), has been operating in the District since the 2002-2003 school year; and

WHEREAS, on or about December 12, 2024, the Charter School submitted a request to renew its charter for term of July, 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with Education Code §47605(b), the Board held a public hearing on February 13, 2025, to determine the level of support for the Renewal; and

WHEREAS, the Board, under Education Code §47605(b), is obligated to take action to grant or deny the Renewal within 90 days of its submission, unless the parties mutually agree to an extension of up to thirty (30) days; and

WHEREAS, the Charter School has agreed that the Board will take action to grant or deny the renewal at its March 13, 2025, meeting.

Evaluation of Mid-Performing Charter School

WHEREAS, AB 1505 created 3 categories of charter schools for renewal: “high performing,” “mid-performing,” and “low-performing; and

WHEREAS, Sunridge is a “mid-performing” school per CDE designation; and

WHEREAS, 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”; and

WHEREAS, under Education Code §47607.2(b), 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”; and

WHEREAS, 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]; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the Charter School scored 28.5 points above standard in English Language Arts on the 2024 California School Dashboard, while Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students scored 9.8 points above standard (Exhibit 1); and

WHEREAS, the Charter School maintained -2.4 points, and scored 8.2 points below standard in Mathematics on the 2024 California School Dashboard, while Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students scored 12.9 points below standard and increased by 8.7 points (Exhibit 1); and

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

The Board’s Options: Approve or Deny the Renewal

WHEREAS, the Education Code does not require that the Board make findings if it elects to grant a renewal of a mid-performing charter school; and

WHEREAS, if a governing board denies a petition to renew a charter school, it must make written findings to support any of the grounds listed under Education Code § 47605(c).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Twin Hills School District Board of Trustees that:

Option 1: The Board hereby grants the request to renew the Charter of Sunridge Charter School for a renewal term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030; or

Option 2: *The Board hereby denies the request to renew the charter of Sunridge Charter School for a renewal term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030 on the following grounds (all findings herein support all grounds listed for the Board’s decision):*

1. *Petitioners are Demonstrably Unlikely to Successfully Implement the Program Set Forth in the Petition (Education Code § 47605(c)(2)).*
2. *Under Education Code §47607.2(b), the Board finds 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.*

The Board of Education’s decision is based on all of the factual findings contained in this Resolution.

* * *

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Twin Hills School District Board of Education that [select one]:

The Board hereby grants the request to renew the Charter of Sunridge Charter School for a renewal term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030. [Recommended]

The Board hereby denies the request to renew the charter of Sunridge Charter School for a renewal term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030, and hereby adopts the above factual findings contained in the accompanying staff report in support of its decision.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on March 13, 2025, by the Twin Hills School District by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENCES:

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted on the date and by the vote stated.

Secretary of the TWIN HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

EXHIBIT A

California School Dashboard Report

The Charter School’s 2024 performance on State assessment measures placed it in the “mid-performing” tier for renewal purposes. The Charter School attained the following ratings on the California School Dashboard:

Chronic Absenteeism	Suspension Rate	English Language Arts	Mathematics
Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow

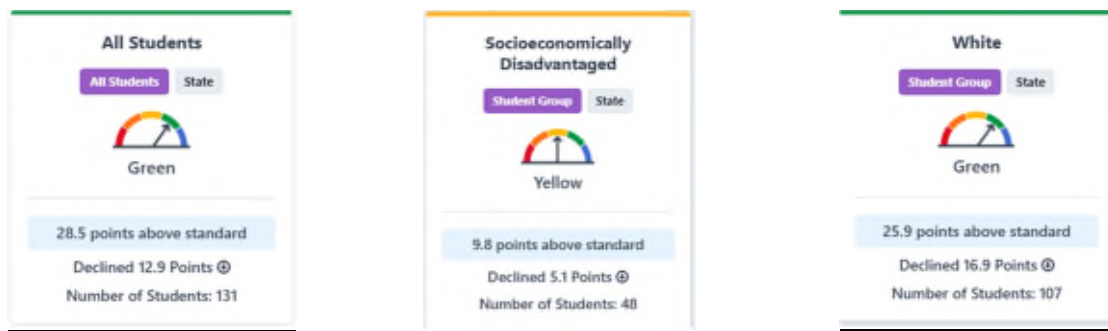
Basics: Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities	Implementation of Academic Standards	Parent and Family Engagement	Local Climate Survey	Access to a Broad Course of Study
Standard Met	Standard Met	Standard Met	Standard Met	Standard Met



English Language Arts

In 2024, Sunridge received a Green rating for English Language Arts. The performance of statistically significant pupil subgroups is as follows:

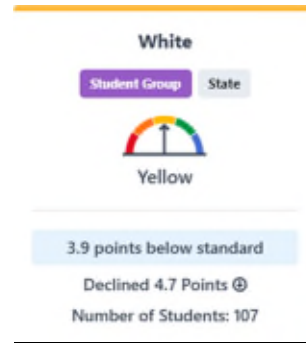
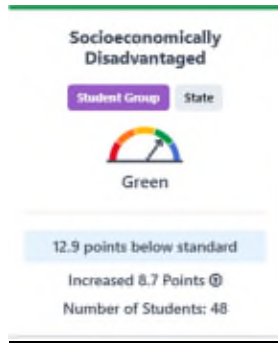
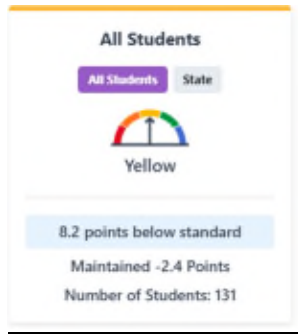
Group	Number of Students Tested	Change	Points Above Standard
Total	131	Declined 12.9 Points	28.5 Points Above
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	48	Declined 5.1 Points	9.8 Points Above
White Students	107	Declined 16.9 Points	25.9 Points Above



Mathematics

In 2024, Sunridge received a Yellow rating for Mathematics. The performance of statistically significant pupil subgroups is as follows:

Group	Number of Students Tested	Change	Points Below Standard
Total	131	-2.4 Maintained	8.2 Points Below
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	48	8.7 Increased	12.9 Points Below
White Students	107	4.7 Declined	3.9 Points Below



Student Demographic Profile

The following chart shows the Charter School’s demographic profile by ethnicity, relative to that of the District and County:

Student Enrollment by Student Group (School Year 2023–24)

Student Group	Sunridge Percent of Total Enrollment ¹	Twin Hills School District Percent of Total Enrollment ²
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.00%	0.3 %
Asian	0.00%	0.7 %
Black or African American	0.40%	0.5 %
Filipino	0.40%	0.2 %
Hispanic or Latino	11.10%	19.6 %
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.00%	0 %
Two or More Races	8.10%	7.8 %
White	79.90%	70.7 %

¹ Source: SARC: (<https://sarconline.org/public/summary/49709614930350/2023%E2%80%932024>)

² Source: Ed-Data (<https://www.ed-data.org/district/Sonoma/Twin-Hills-Union-Elementary>)

Subgroup	Charter School Enrollment	Twin Hills SD (non-Charter)	County (non-Charter)
English Learners	0.0%	5.2%	20.8%
Foster Youth	0.9%	0.3%	0.5%
Homeless Youth	0.4%	3.5%	1.5%
Migrant Education	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%
Students with Disabilities	5.6%	8.0%	16.9%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	35.0%	28.8%	52.4%
All Students	234	288	46,185

(Source: DataQuest)