

RESOLUTION OF THE TWIN HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT #2025-594
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGARDING REQUEST TO RENEW THE CHARTER OF
TWIN HILLS CHARTER MIDDLE 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, Twin Hills Charter Middle School ("Twin Hills Middle " or "Charter School"), has been operating in the District since the **2007-2008** school year; and

WHEREAS, in or around February 2025, the Charter School submitted a request to renew its charter for term of July, 1, 2025 through June 30, 2032; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with Education Code §47605(b), the Board held a public hearing on March 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 April 24, 2025, meeting.

Evaluation of High-Performing Charter School

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

WHEREAS, Twin Hills Middle is a “high-performing” school per CDE designation; and

WHEREAS, a charter school is a “high performing” if either “[t]he charter school has received the two highest performance levels schoolwide on all of the state indicators ... for which it receives performance levels,” or “[f]or all measurements of academic performance, the charter school has received: a) performance levels schoolwide that are the same or higher than the state average; and b) for a majority of subgroups performing statewide below the state average in each respective year, received performance levels that are higher than the state average” (Education Code §47605(c)(2)(A)) and;

WHEREAS, a high performing charter school “that satisfies the academic requirements under this section shall be only required to update the petition to include a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed and as necessary to reflect the current program offered by the charter” (Education Code §47605(c)(2)(F)); and

WHEREAS, the chartering authority shall not deny renewal to a high-performing charter school, unless “upon a finding that the school is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition due to substantial fiscal or governance factors, or is not serving all pupils who wish to attend,” and only after the issuance of a written notice of violation and request for corrective action plan (not applicable here.) (Education Code §47605(c)(2)(A));

WHEREAS, a charter renewed under this section shall be renewed for a term of between five (5) and seven (7) years (Education Code §47605(c)(2)(E)).

The Board’s Options: Approve the Renewal

WHEREAS, the Education Code does not require that the Board make findings if it elects to grant a renewal of a high-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 Twin Hills Middle Charter School for a renewal term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2032.

* * *

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

- ☐ The Board hereby grants the request to renew the Charter of Twin Hills Middle Charter School for a renewal term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2032. [Recommended]

The foregoing **RESOLUTION** was passed and adopted at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the **TWIN HILLS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT** on the 24th day of April, 2025, on a motion by trustee _____, seconded by trustee _____ by the following vote:

	<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Vote</u>
AYES: _____	Terry Beck	_____
NOES: _____	Jeff Harding	_____
	Rebecca Houghton	_____
ABSENT/ ABSTAIN: _____	John Moise	_____
	Michael Ost	_____

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true, and correct resolution duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Twin Hills Union School District.

Dated this 24th day of April, 2025

Clerk/President, Board of Trustees

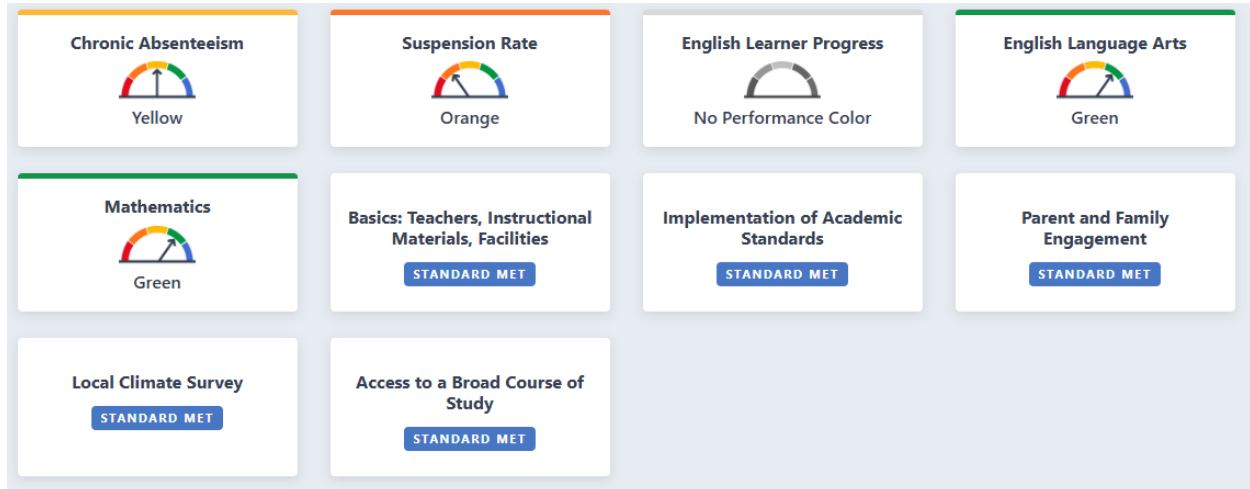
EXHIBIT A

California School Dashboard Report

The Charter School's 2024 performance on State assessment measures placed it in the "high-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	Orange	Green	Green

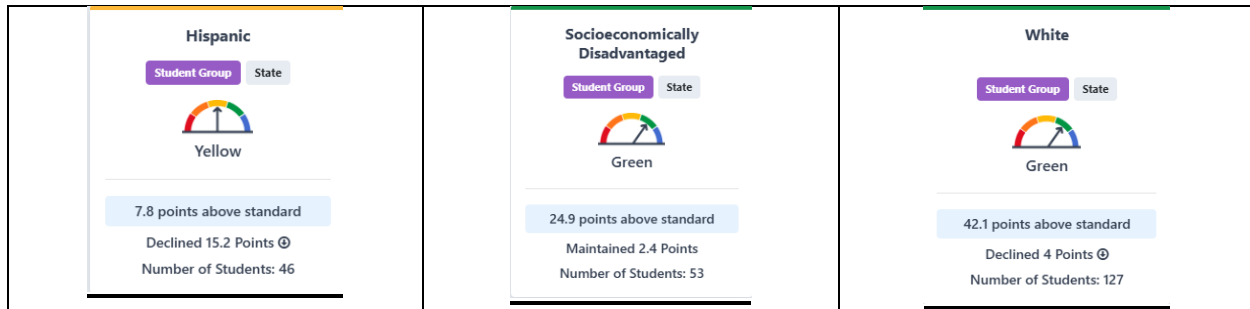
Basics: Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities	Implementation of Academic Standards	Parent and Family Engagement	Local Climate Survey	Access to a Broad Course of Study
Standard Met	Standard Met	Standard Met	Standard Met	Standard Met



English Language Arts

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

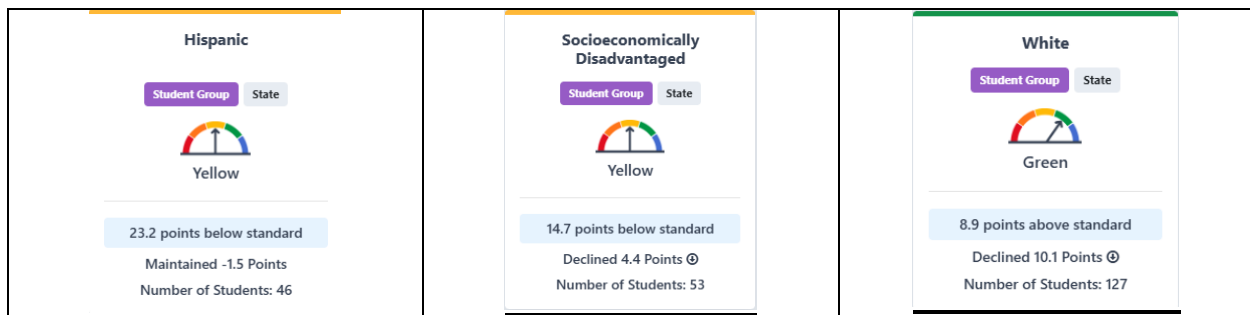
Group	Number of Students Tested	Change	Points Above Standard
Total	197	Decline 7.4	37
Hispanic	46	Decline 15.2	7.8
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	53	Maintained 2.4	24.9
White Students	127	Decline 4	42.1



Mathematics

In 2024, Twin Hills Middle received a **Green** rating for Mathematics. The performance of statistically significant pupil subgroups is as follows:

Group	Number of Students Tested	Change	Points Above/Below Standard
Total	197	Decline 4.1	7.5
Hispanic	46	Maintain -1.5	23.2 below
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	53	Decline 4.4	14.7 below
White Students	127	Decline 10.1	8.9 above



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	Twin Hills Middle Percent of Total Enrollment¹	Twin Hills School District Percent of Total Enrollment²
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.5%	0.3 %
Asian	0.5%	0.7 %
Black or African American	0.5%	0.5 %
Filipino	0.5%	0.2 %
Hispanic or Latino	23.7%	19.6 %
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0 %
Two or More Races	10.6%	7.8 %
White	63.8%	70.7 %

Student Enrollment by Subgroup (School Year 2023–24)

Subgroup	Charter School Enrollment	Twin Hills SD (non-Charter)	County (non-Charter)
English Learners	4.8%	5.2%	20.8%
Foster Youth	0.0%	0.3%	0.5%
Homeless Youth	0.0%	3.5%	1.5%
Migrant Education	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%
Students with Disabilities	14.0%	8.0%	16.9%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	26.6%	28.8%	52.4%
All Students		288	46,185

(Source: DataQuest)

¹ Source: Dataquest: (<https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqcensus/EnrCharterSub.aspx?aggllevel=School&year=2023-24&cde=49709616052302&ro=y>)

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