

Friday Memo
April 3, 2015

Upcoming Events – Bruce Harter

April 6-10: Spring Recess, No School

April 6: District Holiday

April 8: Congressman Mark DeSaulnier holds town hall meeting at DeJean at 6:30 PM

April 13: Technology Subcommittee, IT Center, 4:00 PM

April 13: Agenda Setting, Superintendent's Office, 4:30 PM

April 13: Youth Commission, Helms, 6:30 PM

April 13: Special Education CAC, Cameron, 7:00 PM

April 13-15: Middle College WASC Visit

April 14: Facilities Subcommittee, FOC, 4:00 PM

April 16: Youth Commission LCAP Youth Engagement Townhall, Helms, 6:00 PM

Joint Meeting with Richmond City Council – Bruce Harter

We've confirmed the joint meeting with the Richmond City Council for Tuesday, April 28, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers at Richmond City Hall.

2013-14 Early Assessment Program Results – Selected School District Comparison – Nicole Joyner

At Wednesday's Board meeting, Ms. Block asked for information about other district's performance on the college readiness measure that was presented as part of the report on the Local Control Accountability Plan goals and progress indicators.

The Early Assessment Program (EAP) is a project of the California State University (CSU) system designed to gauge college-readiness among high school students. In their junior year, high school students have the opportunity to take the EAP tests in math and language arts. High scores allow students to skip CSU placement testing.

English scores are based on the 15 EAP multiple-choice questions, selected questions from the grade 11 CST test, and the EAP Essay. Math scores are based on the 15 EAP multiple-choice questions, plus selected questions from the Algebra 2 or Summative High School Math CST.

EAP uses three levels to report student achievement in English and in Math:

1. Ready for College in relation to the California State University (CSU) and California Community Colleges (CCC) content standards tested
2. Ready for College - Conditional in relation to the California State University (CSU) and California Community Colleges (CCC) content standards tested
3. Did Not Demonstrate College Readiness on This Assessment in relation to the California State University (CSU) and California Community Colleges (CCC) content standards tested

The table below lists the total percent of students scoring *Ready for College* or *Ready for College - Conditional* by selected school districts.

2013-14 EAP Results: % Students Ready for College/Conditional

	English	Math
Antioch Unified	37%	37%
Compton Unified	10%	10%
Fresno Unified	23%	33%
Hayward Unified	27%	46%
Inglewood Unified	16%	18%
Los Angeles Unified	31%	35%
Montebello Unified	27%	38%
Mount Diablo	45%	56%
Oakland Unified	23%	25%
Pittsburg Unified	27%	36%
Riverside Unified	35%	53%
Sacramento City Unified	31%	48%
San Francisco Unified	46%	52%
San Jose Unified	45%	50%
Stockton Unified	22%	39%
Vallejo City Unified	28%	36%
WCCUSD	27%	37%
STATE OF CALIFORNIA	40%	51%

WCCUSD April Professional Development – Nia Rashidchi

West Contra Costa USD provides abundant professional development opportunities for staff. We think it is important for board members to know about the variety of offerings. Attached are the April Professional Development opportunities.

System-wide Barriers in the 2014-15 Single Plans for Student Achievement – Nia Rashidchi

The 2014 – 15 Single Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA) include a section for schools to describe system-wide barriers that have impacted their ability to meet academic goals. In this section, schools provide a description of issue(s) they face and, as applicable, strategies for overcoming the barrier(s). The schools listed below did not complete the System-wide Barriers section of the 2014-15 SPSA. The School Site Councils and Instructional Leadership Teams at these schools are currently working on reviewing and completing this section; these schools will complete the System-wide Barriers section before the end of April. Staff from Ed Services, K-12 Operations, Technology, Human Resources, Facilities, and Fiscal departments will review the list of barriers in order to look for patterns and facilitate more efficient, effective and systematic support to address the issues raised. We will provide an update in May on system-wide barriers that are posing a challenge for our schools, along with some solutions in a follow-up Friday memo.

Chavez	Coronado	DeAnza High School
Downer	El Cerrito High School	Hanna Ranch
Harbour Way	Hercules Middle School	Lupine
Madera	Montalvin	North Campus
Murphy	Sheldon	Stege
Pinole Middle		

Contra Costa County School Insurance Group Art Poster Contest - Ken Whittemore

We received notice that three of our students won Art Poster Awards from the Contra Costa County School Insurance Group. The contestants were to create posters with safety messages which will be used throughout county school districts for the upcoming school year. Each first place winner receives a \$100 award and the teacher also receives a \$100 award. The second place student winner will receive a \$25 Target gift certificate.

First Place winners:

High School- Francisco Peralta, a sophomore at Kennedy High School, his teacher is Krystle Simon.

Middle School- Jasmine Montgomery, a 7th grader at Crespi Middle School, her teacher is Lee Ann Pfozter.

Second Place winner:

Middle School- Cassia Souza, a 7th grader at Crespi Middle School, her teacher is also Lee Ann Pfozter.

We are proud of these students and all of the students who submitted entries for their efforts in representing WCCUSD. A special thank you goes out to Marci Williams, Human Resources Director and Darlene Thompson, Employee Health, Safety and Training Coordinator for reaching out and involving our schools.

Williams Complaint- Vince Meyer

The District received two Williams's complaints during the January 1 – March 31, 2015 quarter, which will be on the April 22, 2015 Board agenda. The complaints focused on environmental air quality and "lack of heat" at the Cameron Early Intervention Education facility. To address the heating issue; the boiler was repaired to maintain classroom temperatures. The air quality issue was corrected by removing and permanently sealing an abandoned toilet that allowed sewer gas to enter the occupied area.

Scholar In Residence – Nia Rashidchi

The Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Janet Scott, has been working with the 14 Focus Schools this school year. Dr. Scott will present more information to the Board in May, but we wanted to share some of the work being carried out this year.

Dr. Scott serves as the *Scholar in Residence* in the WCCUSD for the 2014-2015 school year and contributes to improved student learning in areas congruent with and supportive of the District's Strategic/Local Control Accountability Plan in the following ways:

1. Provides professional development/coaching to admin, teachers, and parents on mindset, cultural competence, and efficacy to build beliefs and actions towards a student growth model that supports the transition to the Common Core State Standards, new ELD, and the Next Generation Science Standards;
2. Targets parent engagement strategies to increase knowledge of the CCSS, students' academic mindset, and self-efficacy;
3. Conducts action research on the above-mentioned service areas; and

4. Provides reviews of research/literature on inquiries submitted through the Superintendent and/or senior staff

SIR Focus: To Use Research to Build Knowledge of Mindsets

Mindsets are beliefs individuals hold about their most basic qualities and abilities. In a *Growth Mindset*, people believe they can develop their brain, abilities, and talents. This view creates a love for learning, a drive for growth and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishments and high achievement in school. However, people with a *Fixed Mindset* believe that basic qualities such as intelligence and abilities are fixed, and cannot be developed. They also believe that talent alone creates success, and see effort as a sign of weakness, rather than as an effective strategy needed to reach one's full potential.

The Research shows that Intelligence is Malleable

The growth mindset has received scientific confirmation from cognitive psychology and from neuroscience. For example, neuroscientists tracked students during their teenage years. For many students, they found substantial changes in performance on verbal and non-verbal IQ tests. Using neuroimaging, they found corresponding changes in the density of neurons in the relevant brain areas for these students. In other words, an increase in neuronal connections in the brain accompanied an increase in IQ-test performance, while a decrease in neuronal connections in the brain accompanied a decrease in IQ-test performance. This is what Brainology lessons teach. (Ramsden, S., Richardson, F.M., Josse, G., Thomas, M., Ellis, C., Shakeshaft, C., Seguiet, M., & Price, C. (2011). Verbal and non-verbal intelligence changes in the teenage brain. *Nature* 479, 113–116.

WCCUSD Pilot Classrooms for Action Research

The goal for Pilot Classroom educators:

- To facilitate a **Growth Mindset** and help students understand that they have great, untapped potential and that the development of their mental ability can be significantly improved, is within their own control, and will help them to become active partners in their own learning.

Teachers will use Brainology lessons in pilot classrooms within the Focus Schools in WCCUSD to help students develop by teaching them how the brain functions, learns, and remembers, and how it changes physically when we exercise it through study and learning. The SIR is coaching and supporting teachers as they use Brainology lessons, activities and children's literature (i.e., *The Little Engine that Could*, *The Fantastic Elastic Brain*, etc.) to build students' knowledge of the growth mindset as they introduce, apply, and practice skills and concepts in the following areas:

1. Knowledge about the brain, its health and function, and how to strengthen neuropathways through working hard, persistence at challenging tasks, and practice;
2. Knowledge about mindsets and how a growth mindset facilitates learning and how a fixed mindset hinders growth and development; and
3. Knowledge about the power of using effective effort to control learning outcomes.

WCCUSD Growth Mindset Pilot Classrooms				
School	Scholar In Residence Growth Mindset PD	Principal/ILT Growth Mindset PD	Number of Teachers	Grades
Chavez	✓	✓	6	2 nd - 6 th and NSH
Downer	✓	✓	5	2 nd - 4 th and NSH
Grant	✓		6	1 st - 5 th and NSH
M. L. King	✓		2	6 th
Lake	✓		2	+ After School Staff
Nystrom		✓	1	4 th
Stege	✓		5	3 rd - 6 th
De Jean MS	✓	✓	1	7 th - 8 th
School Wide Practices Integrated				
Bayview	✓	✓	School wide	
Dover	✓	✓	School wide	
Principal Integrates Growth Mindset Concepts				
Mira Vista		✓	School wide	
Verde		✓	School wide	

WCCUSD Focus School Principals' On-going Support and Professional Development

The SIR provides research, coaching and professional development to administrators, teachers, and parents, and the WCCUSD community on Mindsets, and self-efficacy to build beliefs and actions towards a student growth model that supports the transition to the new Common Core State Standards. Other activities include a principal book study on *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* by Carol S. Dweck, presentations to district administrators and staff, participation on the Parent Engagement Planning Committee targeting underrepresented parent groups and community, and one-on-one support to WCCUSD administrators to create a growth mindset school culture.

Help to Develop A Growth Mindset School Culture

Developing a Growth Mindset school culture supports best practice in school leadership. As with students, it is important for administrators and educators to have a growth mindset. Everyone benefits from understanding that intelligence can be developed. When all stakeholders focus on improvement, instead of worrying about how smart they are, they are less stressed and will work hard to continue their growth and development, actually becoming and getting smarter at achieving tasks once thought too difficult.

By focusing on WCCUSD leaders' mindset, we create greater opportunity to align vision and practice to create systems and processes to make sure staff and students are positioned to achieve the CCSS. The Wallace Foundation research identified five essential principal practices associated with increasing student achievement:

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

- Shaping a vision of academic success for all students, one based in high standards;
- Creating a climate hospitable to education in order that safety, a cooperative spirit, and other foundations for fruitful interaction prevail;
- Cultivating leadership in others so that teachers and other adults assume their part in realizing the school vision;
- Improving instruction to enable teachers to teach at their best and students to learn at their utmost, and
- Managing people, data, and processes to foster school improvement (2012).

Charter School Enrollment Comparison Charts – Bruce Harter

Attached are two charts that we provided in the presentation to the El Cerrito Democratic Club on March 24 that show the growth in charters schools, the projected growth for 2015-16 and a comparison of charter enrollment to the overall enrollment in WCCUSD.

Public Records Log – Marcus Walton

Included in this week's memo is the log of public records requests received by the district. If you have any questions, please contact me.

WCCUSD April 2015 Professional Development

West Contra Costa USD provides abundant professional development opportunities for staff. We think it is important for board members to know about the variety of offerings. This Friday memo contains the April Professional Development Calendar.

4/1/2015 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM Job Alike

Location: Pupil Services Center

SH, NSH & RSP teachers will have an opportunity to meet with like groups. Teachers will be time carded.

4/2/2015 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Full Day Kindergarten Support Meeting

Location: Vista, Room 106

For the following schools that will be implementing a full-day kindergarten program at their site.

- Chavez, Dover, Downer, Ford, Grant, King, Lake, Lincoln, Nystrom, Stege, Verde

Bring the TE from the current Treasure unit

4/2/2015 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Math Pizza and Planning #3 of 3 for Grades 3-6

Location: Alvarado Adult School

Mathematics content and planning support for Grades 3-6 teachers

Please bring teacher materials for planning.

Teachers will be paid the district hourly rate on a time card.

District Objective: Participants will learn about, review, and/or plan using CCSS, SBAC, and benchmark content, pedagogy, and assessment.

Location:

Alvarado Adult School

5625 Sutter Avenue

Richmond, CA

4/3/2015 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Elementary Grad Tutors - Group 2

Location: Vista, Room 112

Group 2: Collins, Coronado, Ellerhorst, Ford, Hanna Ranch, Harding, Highland, Kensington, Lupine Hills, Madera, Montalvin, Murphy, Ohlone, Olinda, Peres, Riverside, Shannon, Sheldon, Stewart, Tara Hills, Valley View, Washington, Wilson

4/13/2015 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Upper Grade Prep Teacher Meeting - Invitation Only

Location: Vista Hills

This meeting is for designated prep teachers supporting schools with full-day kindergarten.

4/14/2015 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Elementary Extended Learning (Summer School) Coach

Location: Vista Hills

4/14/2015 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM Elementary ELD Meeting

Location: Pupil Services Center, Room 2

4/14/2015 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Secondary ELD Training for Extended Learning (Summer School)

Location: Pupil Services Center (PSC), Room 7

Professional Development for ALL 6-12th Grade Extended Learning (Summer School) ELD Teachers.

This is a REQUIRED training for all 6-12th grade Extended Learning (Summer School) ELD Teachers.

4/16/2015 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM Read 180/System 44 Cadre Day

Location: TBD

For Read 180 Teachers ONLY

4/16/2015 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Accelerated Reader: Next Steps Beginners

Location: Vista, Room 112

Teachers in grades K-8 will be trained on the implementation and program components for Accelerated Reader.

4/16/2015 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Accelerated Reader: Next Steps Intermediate

Location: Vista Hills, Room 112

Teachers in grades K-8 will be trained on the implementation and program components for Accelerated Reader.

4/16/2015 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM Follow Up Session: Implementing Instructional Routines in ELD using Treasures ELD (Part 3)

Location: Pupil Services Center, MPR

By invite only. This is for Elementary teachers who have been through 6 hours of preliminary implementing instructional routines training in 2013-14 or 2014-15.

4/21/2015 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM TBE/DLI Meeting

Location: Pupil Services Center, Room 2

4/21/2015 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Secondary ELD Training for Extended Learning (Summer School)

Location: Pupil Services Center (PSC), Room 7

Professional Development for ALL 6-12th Grade Extended Learning (Summer School) ELD Teachers.

This is a REQUIRED training session for all 6-12th grade Extended Learning (Summer School) ELD Teachers.

4/21/2015 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Secondary Extended Learning (Summer School)

Location: Serra Adult School MPR

Teachers of Grade 6-8 English and CTE, Grade 9-12 English (including CAHSEE Prep), History/Social Studies, Math (including CAHSEE Prep), Science, and Spanish

- Tablet/tech training & Best practices for blended learning

4/23/2015 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Accelerated Reader: Next Steps Beginners

Location: Vista, Room 112

Teachers in grades K-8 will be trained on the implementation and program components for Accelerated Reader.

4/23/2015 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Accelerated Reader: Next Steps Intermediate

Location: Vista Hills, Room 112

Teachers in grades K-8 will be trained on the implementation and program components for Accelerated Reader.

4/23/2015 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Linked Learning Pathway Leads Meeting

Location: Serra Adult School

4/23/2015 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Math Pizza and Planning #3 of 3 for Grades 7-12

Location: Alvarado Adult School

Mathematics content and planning support for Grades 7-12 teachers

Please bring teacher materials for planning.

Teachers will be paid the district hourly rate on a time card.

District Objective: Participants will learn about, review, and/or plan using CCSS, SBAC, and benchmark content, pedagogy, and assessment.

Location:

Alvarado Adult School

5625 Sutter Avenue

Richmond, CA

4/23/2015 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Secondary ELD Department Meeting

Location: Pupil Services Center, Room 2

4/27/2015 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM WCC Teacher Induction - OPTIONAL Binder Prep Meeting

Location: Kennedy High School, Library

Optional Binder Prep Meeting - Open to all

4/28/2015 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM Elementary Extended Learning (Summer School) - Reading Triumphs

Location: Vista Hills

For Grades 1-5 Teachers. Training is required for all general educational elementary ELA/ELD Teachers

4/28/2015 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM SDAIE/Sheltered Meeting

Location: Pupil Services Center, Room 2
For content teachers, grades 4-12

4/30/2015 9:00 AM WCC Teacher Induction - SP Logs and Timecards due

Location: WCC Teacher Induction Office, Kennedy HS, Portable 909
SP logs and timecards due. Please send via district mail. DO NOT FAX.

4/30/2015 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM Elementary Extended Learning (Summer School) - Math Triumphs

Location: Vista Hills
For Grades 1-5 Teachers. Training is required for all general educational elementary ELA/ELD Teachers

4/30/2015 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Science Professional Development for Middle and High School #2 of 3

Location: DeAnza High School, Room 5-105
Science content for middle and high school teachers

Teachers will be paid the district hourly rate on a time card. Refreshments will be served.

District Objective: Participants will learn about, review, and/or plan using NGSS, CCSS, SBAC, and benchmark content, pedagogy, and assessment.

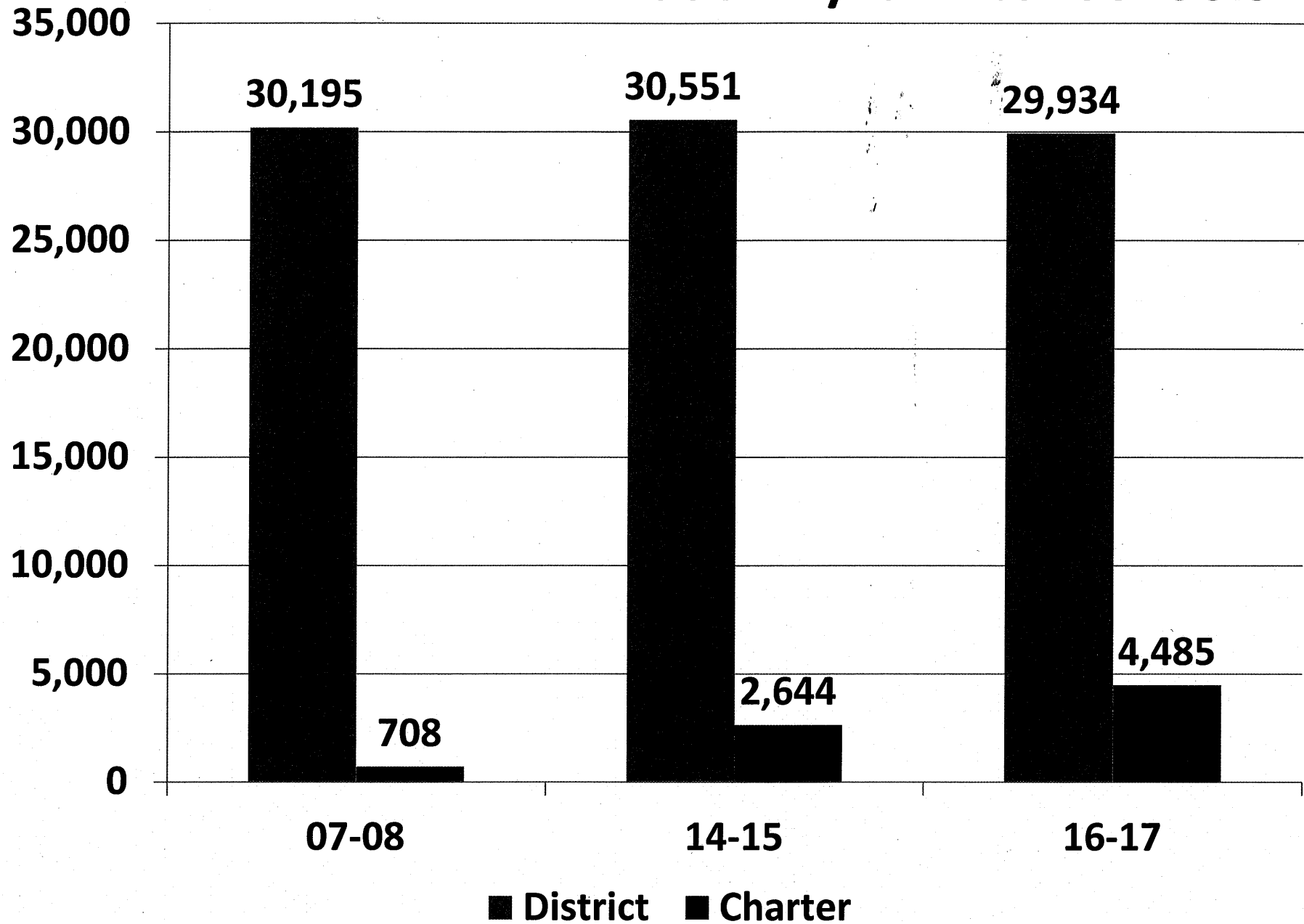
Location:
DeAnza High School, Room 5-105
5000 Valley View Road
Richmond, CA 94803

Contact John Iwawaki at jiwawaki@wccusd.net for more information.

Charter Schools in WCCUSD - Enrollment

School	07-08	School	14-15	School	16-17
Manzanita	150	Manzanita	153	Manzanita	154
Leadership	311	Leadership	488	Leadership	538
Rich. College P	84	Rich. College Prep	447	Rich. College Prep	450
Making Waves	100	Making Waves	747	Making Waves	800
W. County	63	Benito Juarez	160	Benito Juarez	290
Total	708	Rich. Charter Acad	225	Rich. Charter Acad	240
		Caliber	306	Caliber	800
		Summit	118	Summit	348
		Total	2644	Aspire Tech	260
				Aspire College Prep	405
				John Henry HS	200
					4485

Enrollment – WCCUSD / Charter Schools



Public Records Request Log 2014-2015
Week Ending April 2, 2015

	Date of Receipt	Requestor	Requested Records/Information	Current Status
21	8/14/14	Theresa Harrington	All email or correspondence regarding bond refinancing between Jan. 1, 2009 and present	14 Day Extension Email sent – 8/21/2014 On Hold / Pending Legal Review
87	11/18/14	Fatima Alleyne	Washington School Budget / SSC SY 2009 -to- 2013	In Progress Data being collected
89	11/18/14	Anton Jungherr	Access to review all CBOC files from 2001 to 10/31/2014	Need clarification of request M. Walton
142	1/15/15	Alison Schoenbeck CA Charter Schools Assoc.	Prop 39 / Charter School Information	In Progress 14 Day Extension Invoked Gathering/Reviewing Documents
143	1/15/15	Ron Beller Caliber Schools	Caliber Schools-Beta Academy Information	3/13/2015-Letter sent requesting fees Information received 14 Day Extension Invoked Reviewing remaining Documents
153	2/9/15	Alissa Mack	District's check registry and Credit Card statements for 2013-14 / All Contracts with Pacific Ed. Group	3/3/2015-Letter sent requesting fees Information received
170	2/26/15	Mike Razavi	Pinole Valley High School- Construction Documents from January, 1965 through December, 1970	3/31/2015-Email sent requesting fees Information received
175	3/16/15	Jessica Scott CC Electrical Compliance	Kennedy High / Health Clinic Project Streamline – Fringe Benefit Statements Electrician Certification Statements	In Progress Acknowledgement letter sent
176	3/23/15	Michael Strub Jr. Irell & Manella LLP	CA Healthy Kids Survey / CA School Climate Survey / CA Student Survey / LCAP / Student Information / Suspensions / Expulsions / Employment Information	In Progress Acknowledgement letter sent 14 Day Extension Invoked
177	3/25/15	Wan Yan Ling Attorneys for Northern CA Plasterers Trust	Gompers High School & Richmond LPS Proj. SMP Plastering / Certified Payroll Records and Payment Bond	4/2/15 Documents mailed COMPLETED
178	4/2/15	Anton Jungherr	Ramsey & Ehrlich LLP / March, 2015 Invoice	Acknowledgement letter sent
179	4/2/15	Anton Jungherr	Ramsey & Ehrlich LLP / Detailed Invoices for September & October, 2014	Acknowledgement letter sent
180	4/2/15	Anton Jungherr	Ramsey & Ehrlich LLP / September, 2014 Statement / Missing pages 1 & 2	Acknowledgement letter sent