

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
August 16, 2019

Upcoming Events – Matthew Duffy

August 19: First Day of School, Minimum Day
August 20: Agenda Setting for Joint CBOC Mtg.
August 21: Board of Education, DeJean, 6:30 PM
August 28: Board Study Session Data Night, DeJean, 6:30 PM
August 29: Governance Committee, Alvarado, 6:00 PM
September 2: Labor Day Holiday
September 4: Board of Education, DeJean, 6:30 PM

Upcoming Agenda Items August 21 - Matt Duffy

Positive School Climate Update
2019-20 Roadmap
AASAT Resolution

Annual Charter Performance Report-Academic Year 2017/2018 - Gracie Guerrero

This report provides information on District and County-sponsored charter schools located in West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD). Enrollment, locations, comparative ethnic and special population data are reviewed. The report covers English Language Learner and SBAC data for Elementary, Middle and High Schools and a brief review of the charter oversight landscape concludes the report. See attached report.

Media Stories of Interest - Marcus Walton

The following media stories may be of interest. Copies of the articles are attached.

East Bay Express: Champion of Richmond Education Mike Peritz -

<https://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/champion-of-richmond-education/BestOf?oid=27301855>

EdSource: New push in California for later middle, high school start times -

<https://edsources.org/2019/revised-bill-proposes-later-school-start-times-for-california-middle-high-school-students/616181>

KTVU: \$200M Pinole Valley High School construction project complete -

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/ktvu-local-news/-200m-pinole-valley-high-school-construction-project-complete>

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

American School & University: Long wait for new high school is over in California district -
<https://www.asumag.com/new-construction/long-wait-new-high-school-over-california-district>

KRON4: Pinole Valley High School Gets A New Campus (video only) -
<https://www.kronon.tv/videos/pinole-valley-high-school-gets-a-new-campus-3848841>

\$200M Pinole Valley High School construction project complete

By [Rob Roth, KTVU](#) Posted Aug 12 2019 08:45PM PDT
Video Posted Aug 12 2019 06:57PM PDT

PINOLE, Calif. (KTVU) - It took four years and more than \$200 million to get the job done, but the new Pinole Valley High School construction project is complete.

The high school is now ready to welcome some 1,200 students who will be returning for the start of the new school year next week.

Long-time sign language teacher Michele-Laimons Raiford said she loves her new classroom and that her students will also.

"If I have a 6'5" football player, he won't have a problem getting into a desk," she said.



While the school was under construction, classes were held in a small cluster of portable bungalows, an experience the students and teachers will no longer have to relive.

"No more raccoons and possums chasing us in the morning. It's wonderful," Raiford said.

"The basketball team hasn't had a home game in years," Principal Kibby Kleiman said. "The homecoming dance was at a middle school. The SATs were at the library, across the street."

The new school has plenty of open space with two gymnasiums to handle more programs and a state-of-the art, 600 seat theater that can also hold community events when the students aren't using it. Administrators said the building is technologically advanced.

"It really has everything our modern-day students need," Superintendent Matthew Duffy said. "From places to express themselves in the arts and performing arts, and the variety of different kinds of classrooms.

Students we talked to said they are looking forward to being the first to ever attend school here.

"It is unreal to think about. We have such a small city and have this big school," said student Camille Rhodes.

The bell rings next Monday morning August 19th.



West Contra Costa District/Twitter

Pinole Valley High School in Pinole, Calif.

PLANNING & DESIGN > NEW CONSTRUCTION

Long wait for new high school is over in California district

Pinole Valley High in the West Contra County (Calif.) district will welcome students next week

Mike Kennedy | Aug 13, 2019

After five years and more than \$200 million, construction of a new **Pinole Valley High School in Pinole, Calif.**, is complete .

KTVU-TV reports that the **West Contra Costa** district held an open house so that the community could take a look at the 267,000-square-foot facility.

Related: West Contra Costa, Calif., school district faces bond woes

Classes for the 1,200 students enrolled at Pinole Valley will begin next week.

While the school has been under construction, classes have been held since fall 2014 in a cluster of portable classrooms, an experience the students and teachers will no longer have to relive.

"No more raccoons and possums chasing us in the morning. It's wonderful," says teacher Michelle Laimons Raiford.

The lack of space was a hardship for students.

"The basketball team hasn't had a home game in years," Principal Kibby Kleiman says. "The homecoming dance was at a middle school. The SATs were at the library, across the street."

The new school has plenty of open space with two gymnasiums to handle more programs and a modern, 600-seat theater.

Administrators say the building is technologically advanced.

"It really has everything our modern-day students need," Superintendent Matthew Duffy says. "From places to express themselves in the arts and performing arts, and the variety of different kinds of classrooms."

Source URL: <https://www.asumag.com/new-construction/long-wait-new-high-school-over-california-district>

New push in California for later middle, high school start times

Legislature committee will consider whether state should set school start times

AUGUST 13, 2019 | THERESA HARRINGTON

After former Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed a bill last year that proposed starting middle and high school times later to give teens more time to sleep, the bill's author started working to bring it back again this year.

Although the bill originally banned both middle and high schools from starting before 8:30 a.m., Sen. Anthony Portantino, D-San Fernando Valley, agreed to amendments in May that would allow middle schools to start at 8 a.m. while keeping high school start times at 8:30 a.m., to give districts more flexibility in scheduling buses. The bill exempts rural districts because of bus scheduling challenges. Start times would exclude “zero periods,” which are optional courses offered by some schools before the regular school day begins. The implementation period has also been stretched to three years to give districts time to prepare for the changes.

With these amendments, [SB 328](#), known as the later school start bill, passed the state Senate on May 21 and [passed](#) the Assembly Education Committee on July 10. It is [slated](#) to be heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on [Wednesday](#).

Portantino said he is optimistic it will pass out of that committee, then pass in the Assembly and be signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom. He said the bill has received more bipartisan support this year than it had previously and more research has come out since then bolstering findings that when teens sleep longer they're healthier, perform better in school and are less prone to depression or suicidal thoughts.

“I am optimistic that science will win out over politics,” he said.

It would go into effect in July 2022, for the 2022-23 school year.

Research is mixed, however, on whether imposing later school start times will result in students getting more sleep, according to a [Legislative staff analysis](#). Although some studies have shown that later school start times do result in students sleeping longer, another showed that sleep time was longer the first year

after implementation, but that students stayed up later the following year, adjusting to their later morning wake-up times.

Currently, about one-fifth of California's schools already start later than 8 a.m. for middle school and 8:30 a.m. for high school, as proposed in the bill, according to the Legislative staff analysis. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), which recommends a later start time for adolescents and teenagers, [found](#) in 2011-12 that the average start time for middle and high schools in California was 8:07 a.m., with 31.2 percent starting before 8 a.m., 47.6 percent starting between 8 and 8:30 a.m. and 21.2 percent starting after 8:30 a.m.

In his veto, Brown said that school start times were best decided by individual school boards, citing his strong support for local control. Portantino said he hasn't discussed the bill yet with Newsom.

Carol Kocivar, legislative advocate for the [California PTA](#), which strongly [supports](#) the bill, noted that Newsom has young children and "is very sensitive to the needs of children." She said she expects he will consider what is best for children.

The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) also [supports](#) the bill, along with four school districts and several other child advocacy and medical groups. But the bill has drawn strong opposition from the [California Teachers Association](#), [California School Boards Association](#), transportation agencies and several school districts, which argue the proposed state mandate could negatively affect before- and after-school programs, sports, union contracts, working parents and bus schedules.

Oakland Unified is among the districts opposing the bill. "Oakland USD is supportive of the bill's overall goal to improve learning conditions for students," wrote Aimee Eng, board president of Oakland Unified, in a [letter](#) opposing the bill. "However, ultimately it is the governing boards in local communities and governance teams in local educational agencies who are best-suited to make these decisions, with the input of students, families, teachers, staff and community stakeholders."

Kocivar said the overriding reason parents are pushing so hard to pass this is because research shows later school times are better for teens' health and safety, as well as for their school attendance and performance. This is because their biological clocks change when they enter adolescence, making it more difficult for them to go to sleep early in the evening and harder to get up early in the morning.

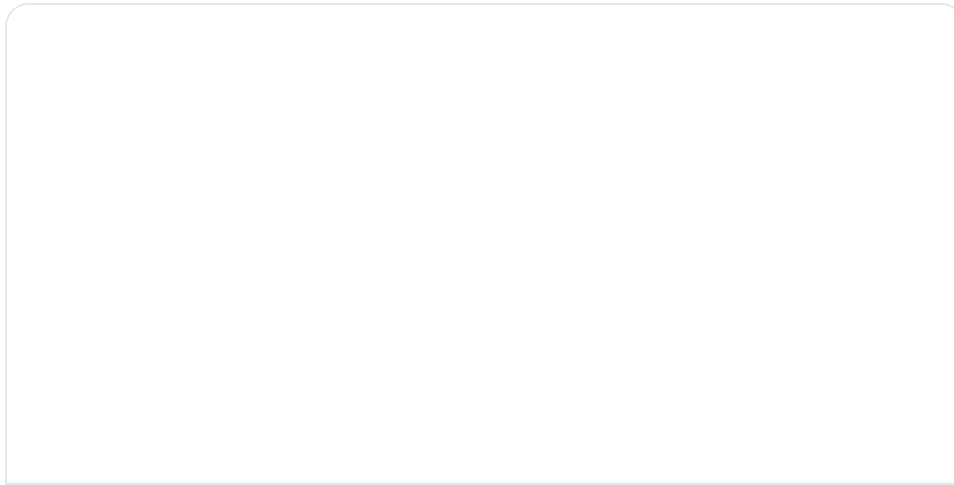
"We took a really close look at this and asked the most important question: 'What is best for our kids?'" Kocivar said. "The answer is absolutely clear. This affects every teenager in California, regardless of what zip code they live in."



Carol Kocivar

@CKocivar

Great news for California's teens! Thank you for supporting [#SB328](#) for healthier school start times. [@CaliforniaPTA](#) is proud to -co-sponsor this bill. sd25.senate.ca.gov/news/2019-07-1... via [@AddThis](#)



More Sleep for Teens Gets One Step Closer to Ringing the Bel...

Sacramento, California – Today, SB 328, authored by Senator Anthony J. Portantino (D – La Cañada Flintridge) passed the State sd25.senate.ca.gov

9 3:33 AM - Jul 11, 2019 · Republic of Croatia

[See Carol Kocivar's other Tweets](#)

Although some school districts have already taken a position on the bill, others — including West Contra Costa Unified in the Bay Area — are just starting to discuss it. Currently, none of the district's middle schools start before 8 a.m., but most of its high schools do.

At a meeting last Wednesday, West Contra Costa school board members Mister Phillips and Stephanie Hernandez-Jarvis said they support the bill based on the scientific research showing it would benefit students. Phillips said arguments against the bill appear to be motivated by convenience for parents, bus schedulers or school administrators rather than students' well-being. Hernandez-Jarvis, who is a former transitional kindergarten teacher, said students need to sleep longer.

“I see that as a teacher,” she said. “The first hour, they're sleepy.”

The bill does not set a minimum start time for elementary schools. Some opponents argue that starting school later for middle and high school students could force districts to start elementary schools even earlier to accommodate staggered bus schedules. Claudia Burgos, director of legislative affairs for the [Alameda Contra Costa Transit District](#), told the West Contra Costa school board that the organization's

board of directors opposes the bill because it would have to add more buses to cover the routes which would increase costs from \$2 million to \$3 million.

“We work really closely with all school districts to stagger school bell times and do coordinating,” she said. “On any given morning, one bus and operator will pick up kids and drop them off at school number one, then school number two, then turn around and pick up commuters and take them to San Francisco.” Changing school start times would likely disrupt this schedule, requiring more than the 73 buses the agency currently uses to provide service, she said.

West Contra Costa board member Consuelo Lara said she accompanied some students and a district PTA representative to Sacramento when they spoke to legislators advocating for passage of the bill. She said the students argued effectively about how it would affect their daily lives and she understands the research regarding its health benefits. However, Lara also said she was considering arguments against it by school administrators throughout the state who say it could force extracurricular activities to start later and extend into the evening.

“For me, I’m really torn,” she said. “I want to give it some more evaluation and do some more study and come up with something that seems logical to me.”

Portantino said districts will have ample time to iron out details related to busing and after-school activities. Now that the bill has made it this far, he said “I think they’re starting to realize it might happen.”

Comments

Comments Policy

We welcome your comments. All comments are moderated for civility, relevance and other considerations.

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Sayitok

3 days ago



We don't need another state mandate. This is a local decision...Period.

▶ SD Parent

3 days ago



The idea of "local control" over what is best for students in any given school district presumes that students and their families actually get a say in the matter. For San Diego Unified, "local control" generally means district

staff and the leaders of collective bargaining units. In fact, when parents at individual schools tried to change start times (for whatever reason), they were often stopped by teachers, whose representatives outnumbered all others ... [Read More](#)

▶ **el**

3 days ago



I would advocate for a middle ground here, maybe an annual public hearing on start times for districts that prefer an earlier start, and allow districts to still have local control after hearing the arguments and needs in their community. Phillips says he has not heard any arguments related to student well-being, but one important one would be access to air conditioning. There are still schools in California that don't have it, and an earlier start ... [Read More](#)

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SPECIAL SECTIONS 2019

Champion of Richmond Education

Mike Peritz

By *Camryn Sanchez*

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- Volunteer Police Watchdog
- Freshest New Poet in the Town
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- Master of Volleyball

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Retired teacher Mike Peritz has been a local educator for more than 50 years, teaching a range of subjects with credentials for English Language Arts, Social Sciences, special education, and food service/hospitality training. Since retiring in 2001, Peritz has continued to work as a volunteer. He was called back as a Teacher on Special Assignment and works tirelessly along with his wife Ruth Peritz to serve the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Peritz focuses his work on the students and community of the Kennedy family schools, the most underserved and underperforming in the West Contra Costa County School District. He was one of the founders of the Eagle Foundation, which until it was disbanded last year provided support to John F. Kennedy High school, feeder schools, and the larger community by giving scholarships to students as well as grants to teachers.

In 2013, Peritz partnered with Dolores Dalton and formed the Music at Kennedy Committee to reinstate the music program at Kennedy High School. Kennedy was the first high school in the district to restore the music program. Peritz and Dalton assembled a group and petitioned the school board, bringing music back to Kennedy, where it thrives today.

Kennedy High also had discontinued welding when it could not find a teacher for the position, a program that had existed in the district since World War II. Peritz wrote an email to the community calling for the program to be reinstated. He explained that the district needed to try harder to allow students to follow the career pathways they had elected and offered to give tours of the welding space for people with interest in taking on the job.

Peritz began working in the district back in 1966, running vocational food service programs that went out of favor in the 1990s. He remains a champion of vocational programs, many of which have been discontinued. "I want people to

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know that we still must create interesting, meaningful job simulations that motivate young people to acquire interpersonal skills that will help them succeed in our 21st century work world," he said.

Now Peritz is helping to run a Freedom School, which this summer opened a location in Richmond for the very first time. The aim of Freedom School is to engage incoming third graders over the summer to help improve literacy and prevent summer learning loss. Peritz hopes to continue the Freedom school next summer or to have a suitable alternative program for Richmond students, believing that education, and especially literacy, are of vital importance to Richmond, where many of the schools have low test scores.

He also tries to keep the community informed about the impacts of charter-school expansion. He notes that

Charter schools add to the district's cost of running its schools and the district ends up for less money to fund its public schools as a result.

Finally, Peritz volunteers to combat homelessness in the East Bay with the Greater Richmond Interfaith Group, feeding and sheltering hundreds of people every day. Later this month, with Youth Spirit Artworks, Peritz will work to build a tiny house village for homeless youth as well.

Peritz commits his life to helping students achieve their goals in every way he can, taking on countless projects and staying active in community politics. "I am not alone, but surrounded by amazing talent and energy working every day to heal our world and allay suffering for those who are less fortunate," he said. "I have been retired for 19 years but awake each day knowing there is meaningful work to be done. I am fortunate to have a spouse and family who support and join me in my efforts, fortunate to have the health and resources to be able to contribute." □

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(Sorry, no information is currently available for other years in this same award category.)

CHARTER REPORT

Academic Year 2017/18

CHARTER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (CMO)

SCHOOL NAME

GRADE SPAN

ASPIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Richmond Technology Academy
Richmond Cal Prep

TK- 5th
6th– 12th

SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SummitK2
Summit Tamalpais

7th – 11th
7th – 9th

VOICES COLLEGE-BOUND LANGUAGE ACADEMIES

TK– 5th

LEADERSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS (LPS)

9th – 12th

AMETHOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS (AMPS)

Benito Juarez Elementary (BJE)
Richmond Charter Prep (RCP)
John Henry High School (JHHS)

TK – 5th
6th – 8th
9th – 12th

Manzanita middle school

6th – 8th

Richmond College Prep

TK– 8th

CALIBER

Caliber Beta Academy

TK – 8th

MAKING WAVES FOUNDATION

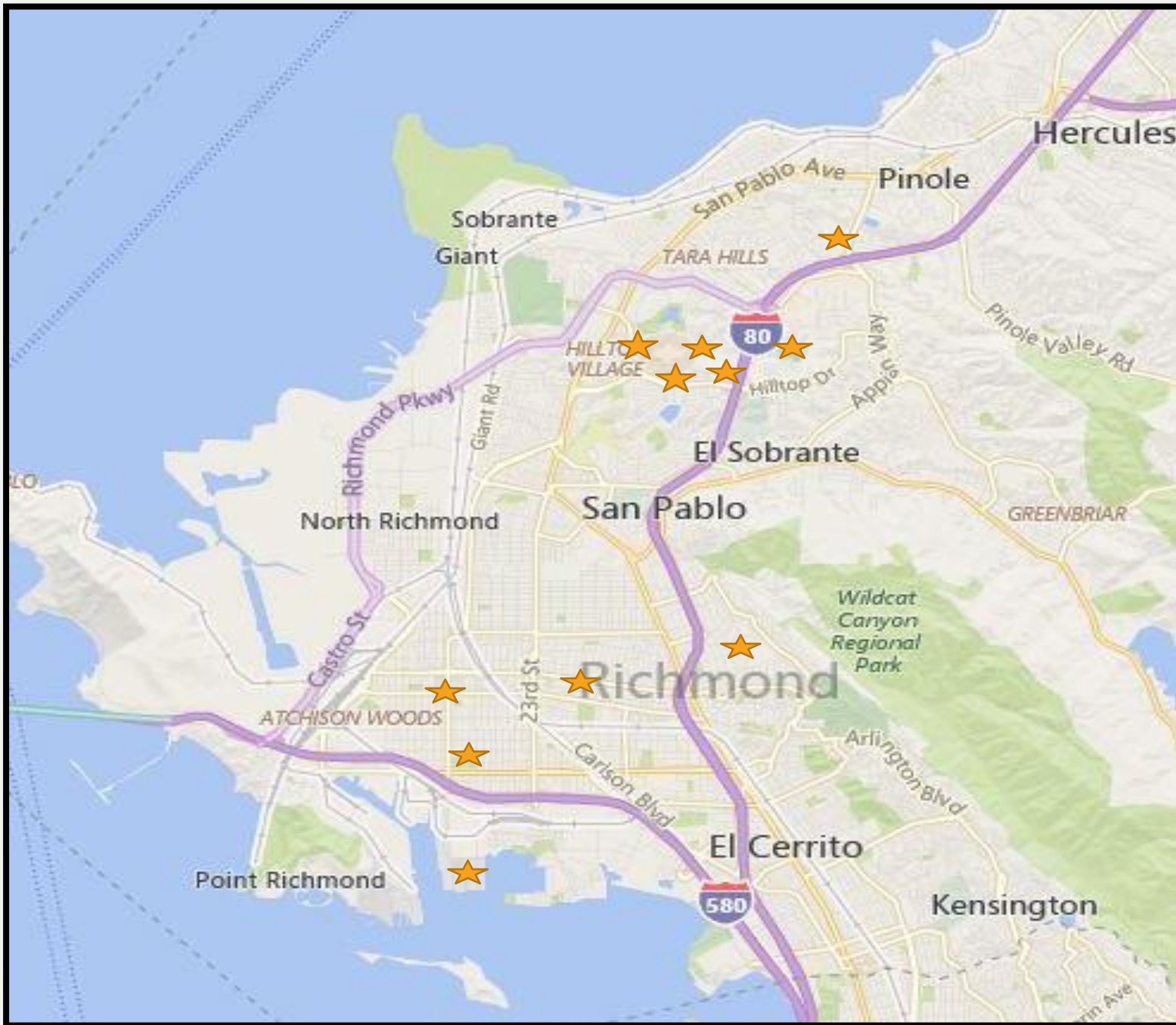
Making waves academy

5th – 12th

Invictus Academy

7th – 12th

2018-19	TK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	School Enrollment
AMPS: BJE	15	75	76	75	58	70	53								422
Aspire: RTA	15	51	55	55	56	56	56								344
RCP		88	70	70	70	70	72	65	65						570
Voices		56	56	25											137
CBA	8	93	93	91	93	90	89	77	84	84					802
Making Waves							168	168	135	130	125	125	125	125	1101
Manzanita								27	45	45					117
AMPS: RCA								90	87	92					269
Invictus								50	50						100
SummitTam									115	115	117				347
SummitK2									120	115	120	110			465
Aspire: RCCPA								78	78	78	78	78	78	78	546
AMPS: JHHS											77	79	78	78	312
LPS											151	151	130	138	570
Grade Level T:	38	363	350	316	277	286	438	555	779	659	668	543	411	419	6102



Pinole: Voices

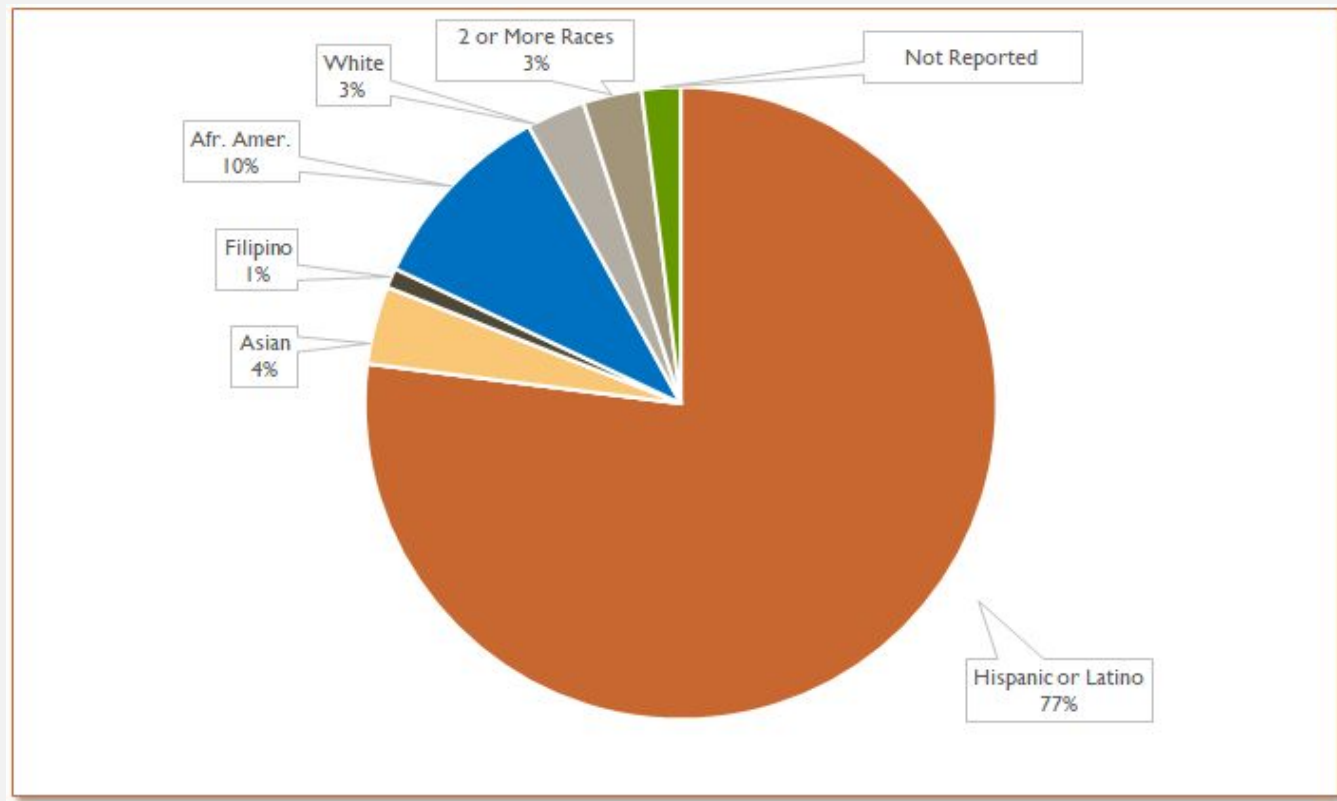
El Sobrante: Invictus

Hilltop: Aspire(s)
MWA
SummitTam

Richmond: Manzanita
LPS
RCP
BJE
RCA
JHHS
Caliber

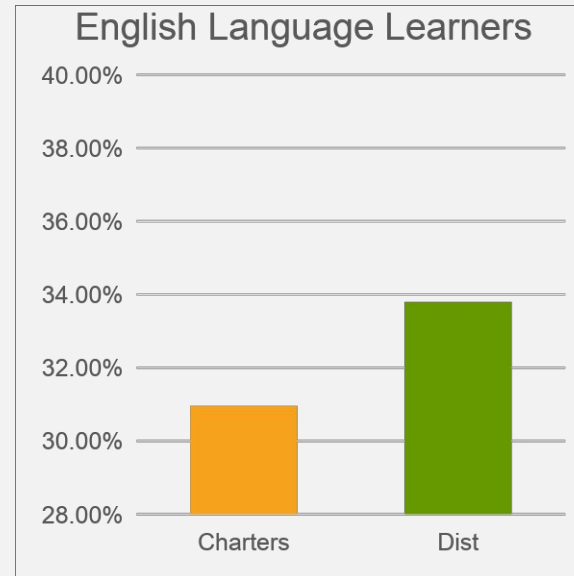
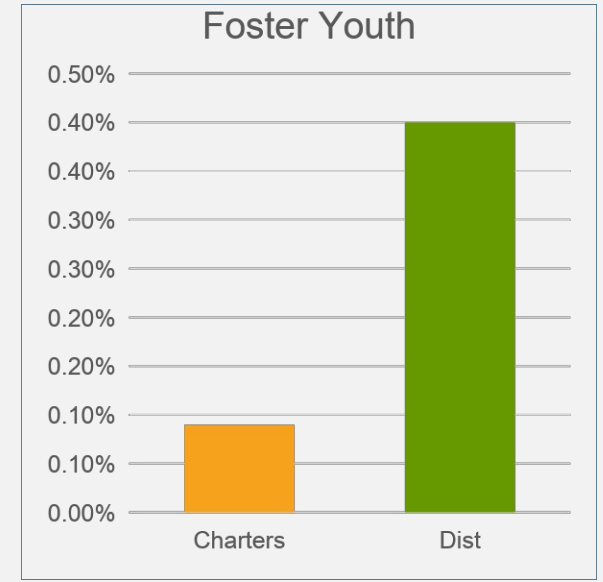
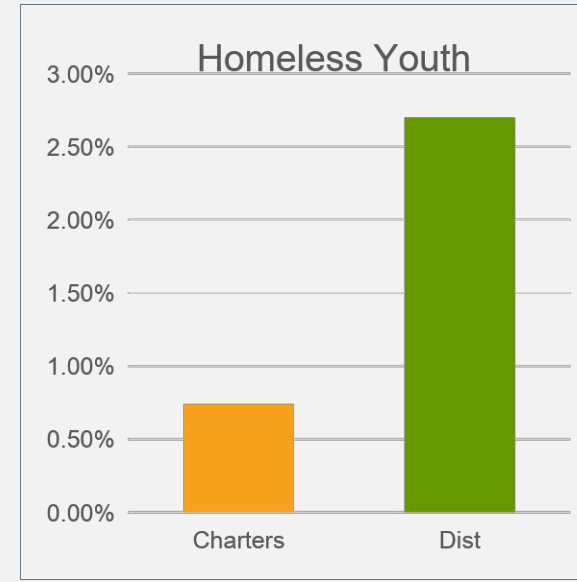
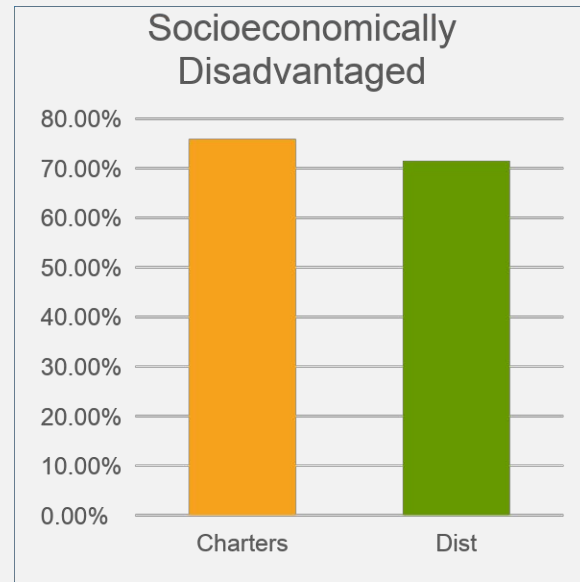
El Cerrito: SummitK2

Combined district and county charter ethnicities enrolled, 2017-18



School	Hispanic or Latino	Amer. Ind./Nat Alask	Asian	Pacific Islander	Filipino	African American	White	Two or More Races	None Reported
Caliber: Beta Academy	75.7	0	2.8	1.3	1	13.6	2	0.6	3
Making Waves Academy	89.2	0.1	1.1	0.1	0.1	7.3	0.5	0.1	1.4
SummiK2	36.6	0.2	8.2	0	3.8	20.7	13.6	11.7	5.2
Aspire College Prep Acad	67.5	0.4	6.3	0	2.5	15.4	3.8	1.2	2.9
Aspire RTA	70.2	0.3	3.5	0	2.6	7.3	0.9	1.5	13.7
AMPS.John Henry High (JHHS)	94.9	0	1.2	0	0	2.3	1.2	0.4	0
Leadership Public Schools	92.2	0	1.9	0	0.3	3.6	0.2	0.2	1.6
Manzanita Middle	83.5	0	1.7	0	0	6.6	4.1	4.1	0
AMPS. Richmond Charter Aca. (RCA)	95	0	3.2	0	0.5	0.9	0.5	0	0
AMPS.Benito Juarez	95.4	0	1.7	0.5	0	1.7	0.7	0	0
Richmond College Prep (RCP)	70.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	27	0	1.6	0
SummitTamalpais	51.1	0.4	10.5	0	3.4	15.2	5.9	12.2	1.3
Average Percentage	77	0	4	0	1	10	3	3	2

Special Populations/ Subgroups



	Charters	Dist
ELL	30.96%	33.80%
Foster	0.09%	0.40%
Homeless	0.74%	2.70%
SPED	7.33%	12.10%
Socioec.Dis	75.93%	71.50%

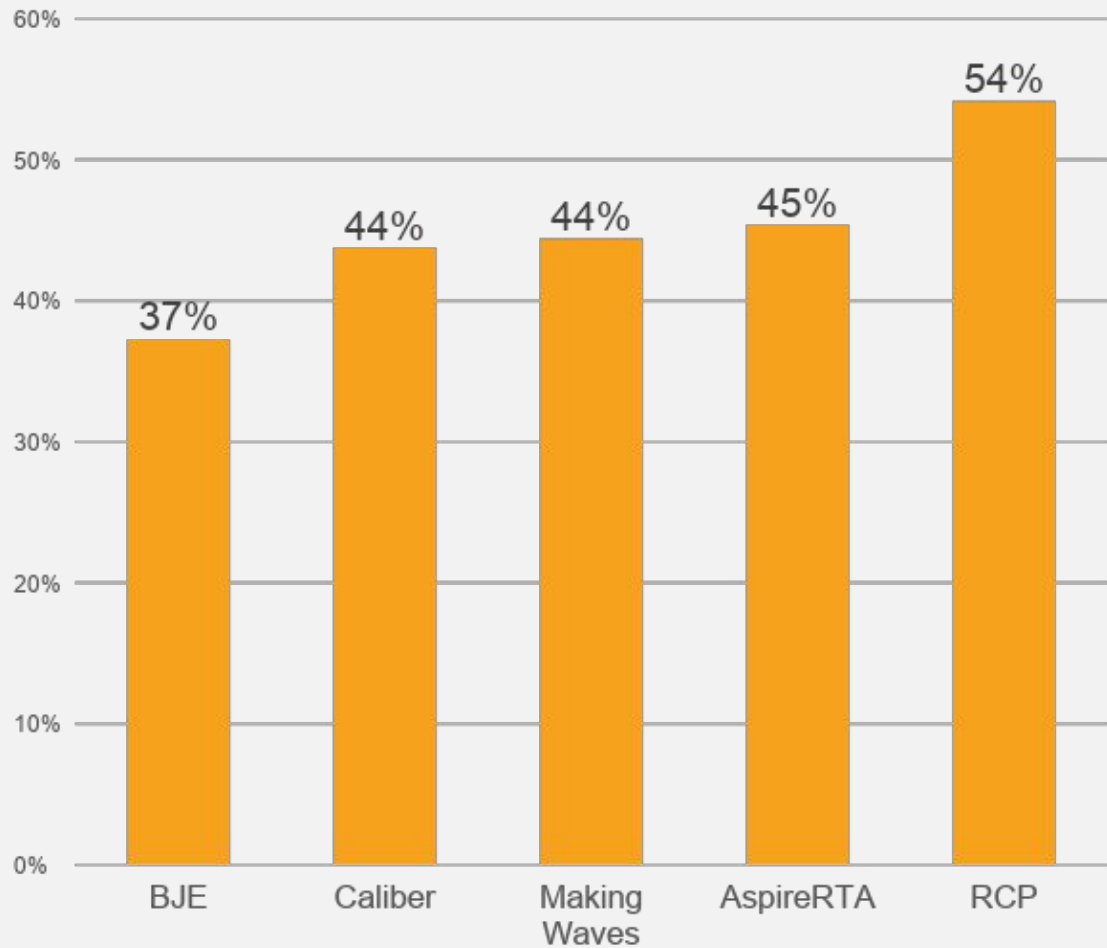
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER BACKGROUND

The CELDT assessment sorts students into one of five levels: Beginning, Early Intermediate, Intermediate, Early Advanced and Advanced.

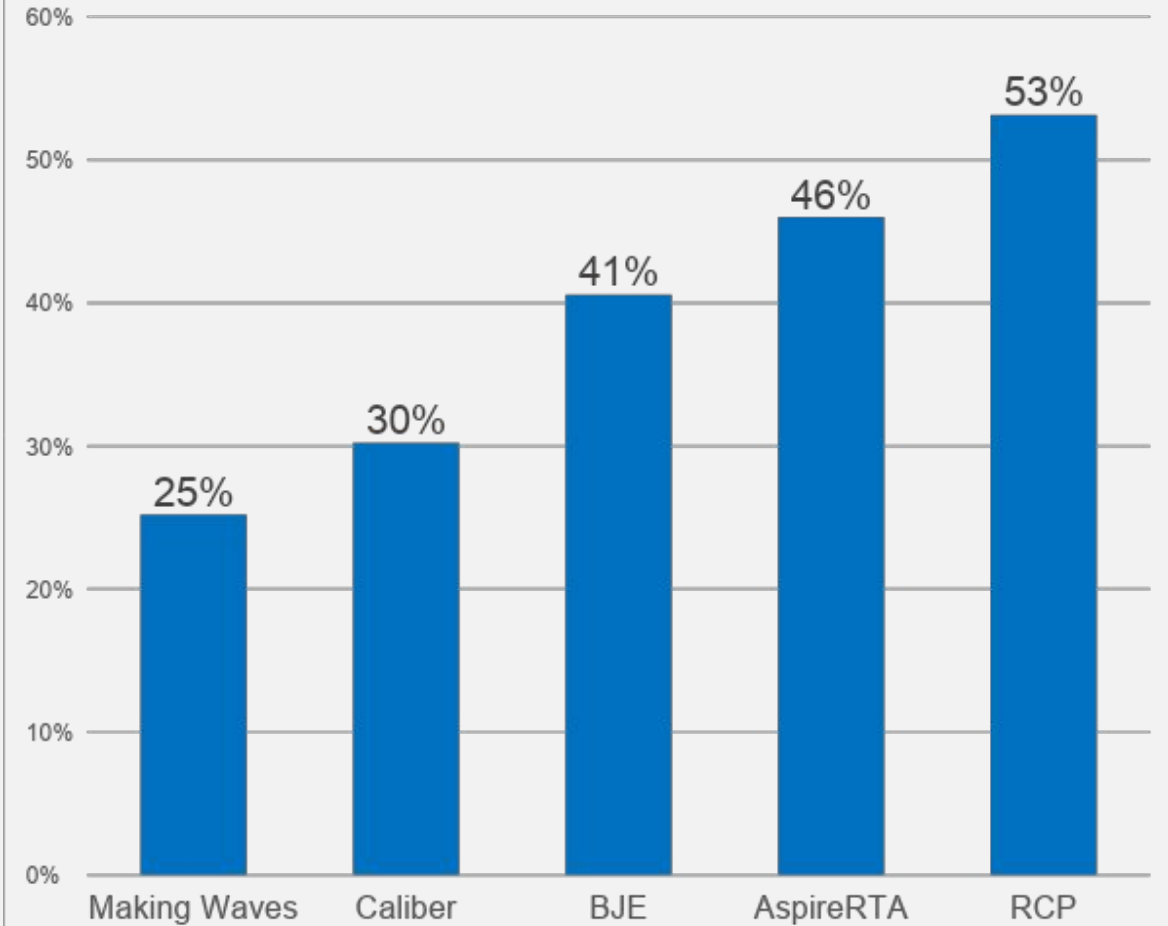
- The District began the 17-18 year by providing CELDT Initial tests to 1,744 ELL students, AND enrolled newcomer students throughout the year.
- Between August 2017 and June 2018, **485** Elementary, **129** Middle School, and **201** High School Students enrolled in the District for a total of **815** newcomer students.
- Summit Tamalpais performed Initial CELDT tests on **one** ELL student, JHHS tested **two**, LPS tested **four**.
- WCCUSD tested 1,744 students, and 72% of EL students were classified as Beginning or Early Intermediate.

CHARTER ELEMENTARY SBAC SCORES, 2017-18

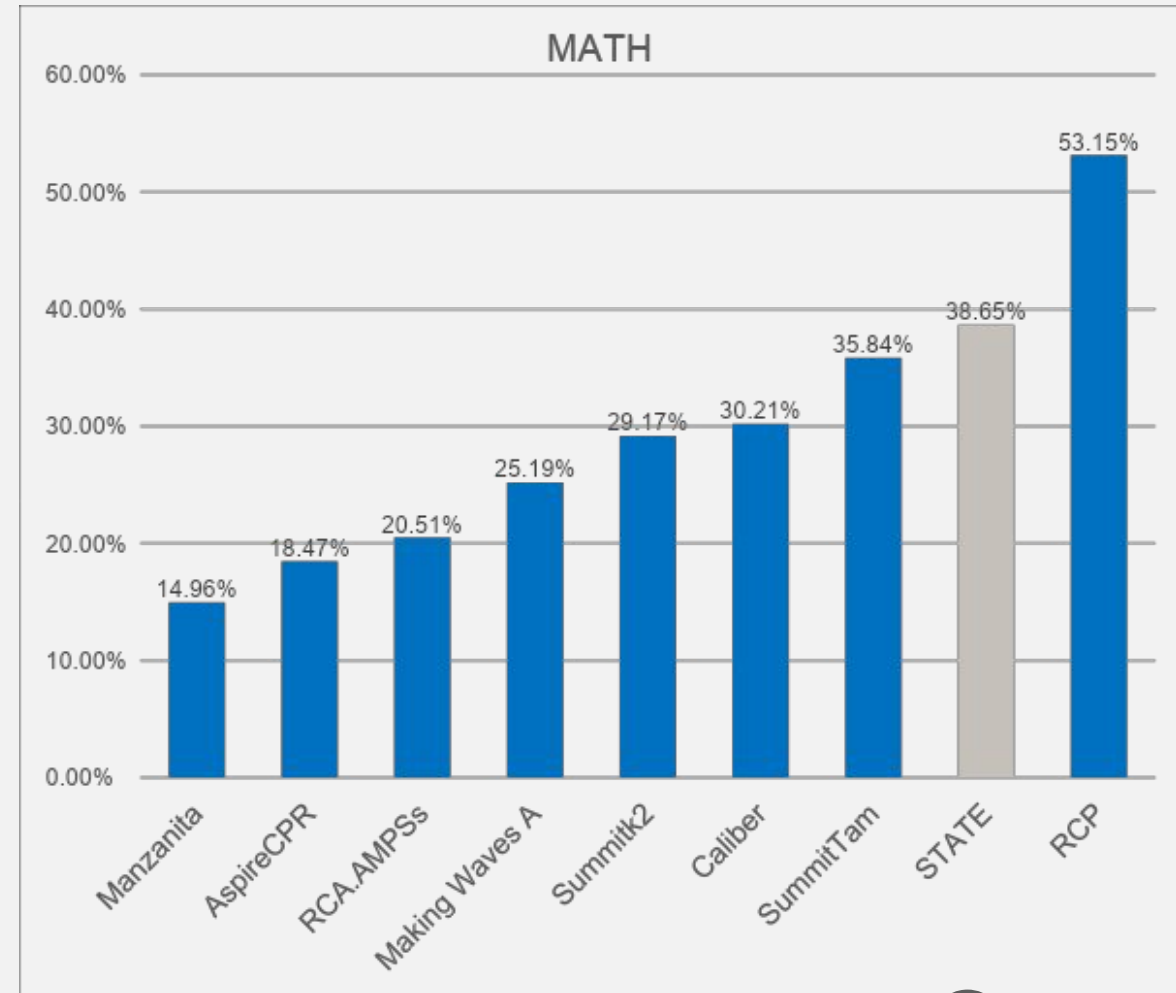
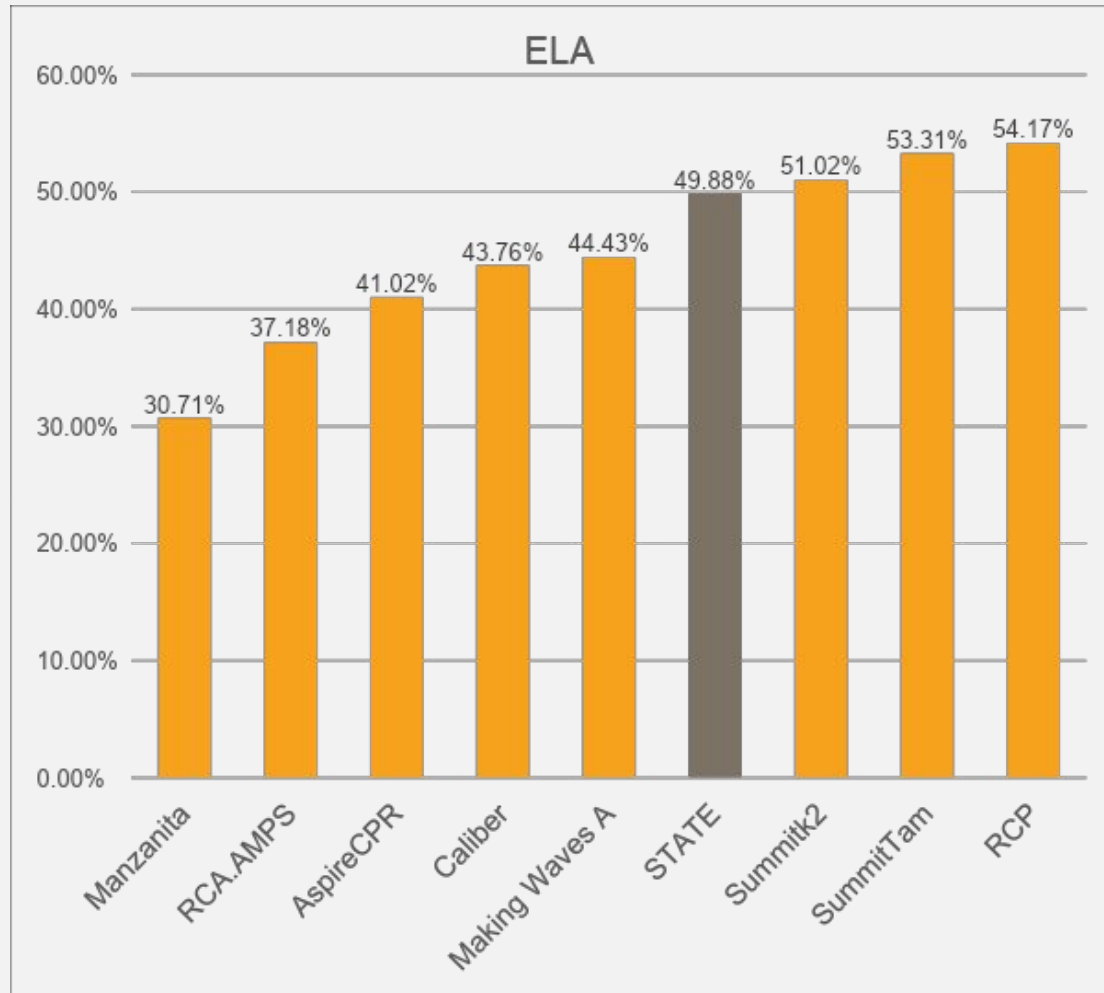
SBAC ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, 2017-18



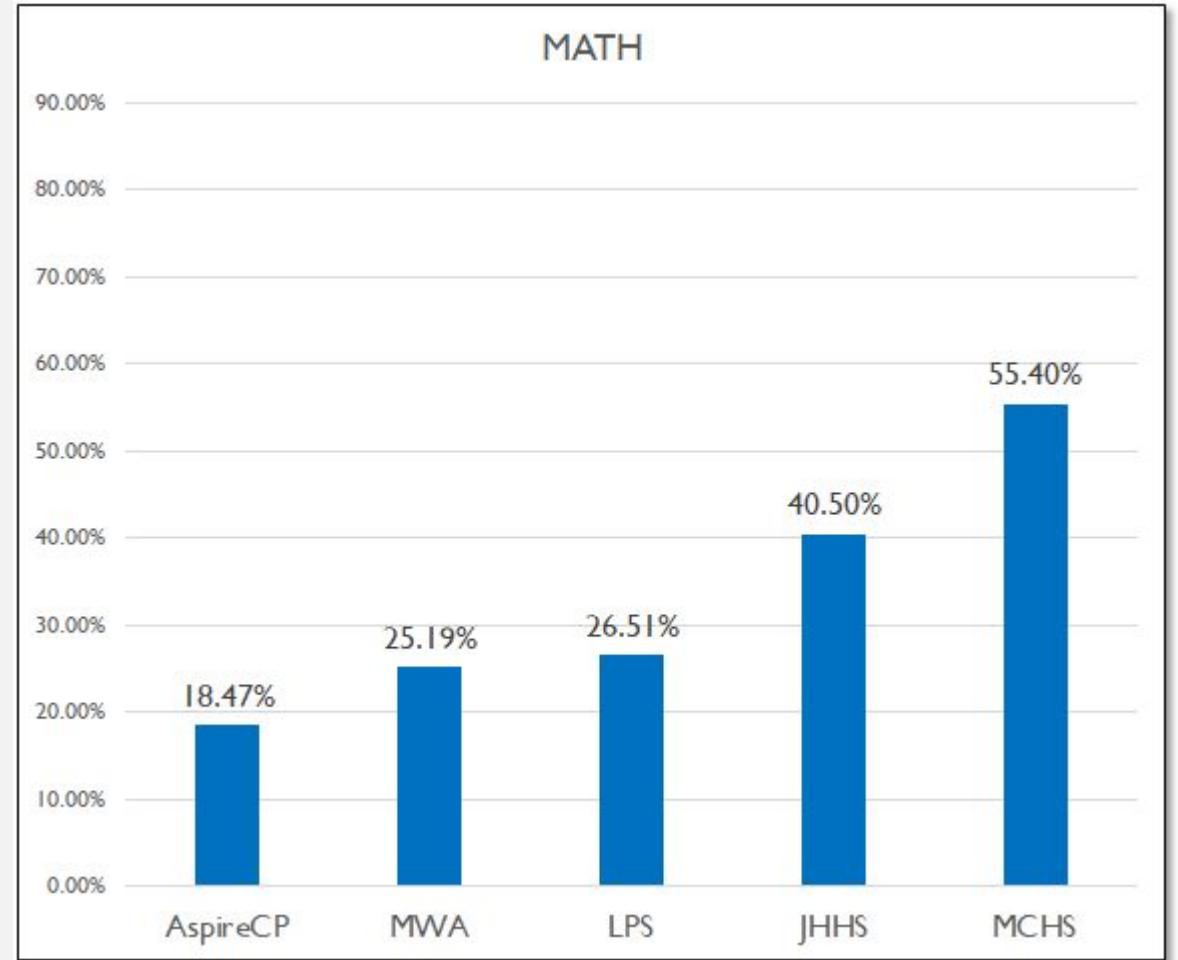
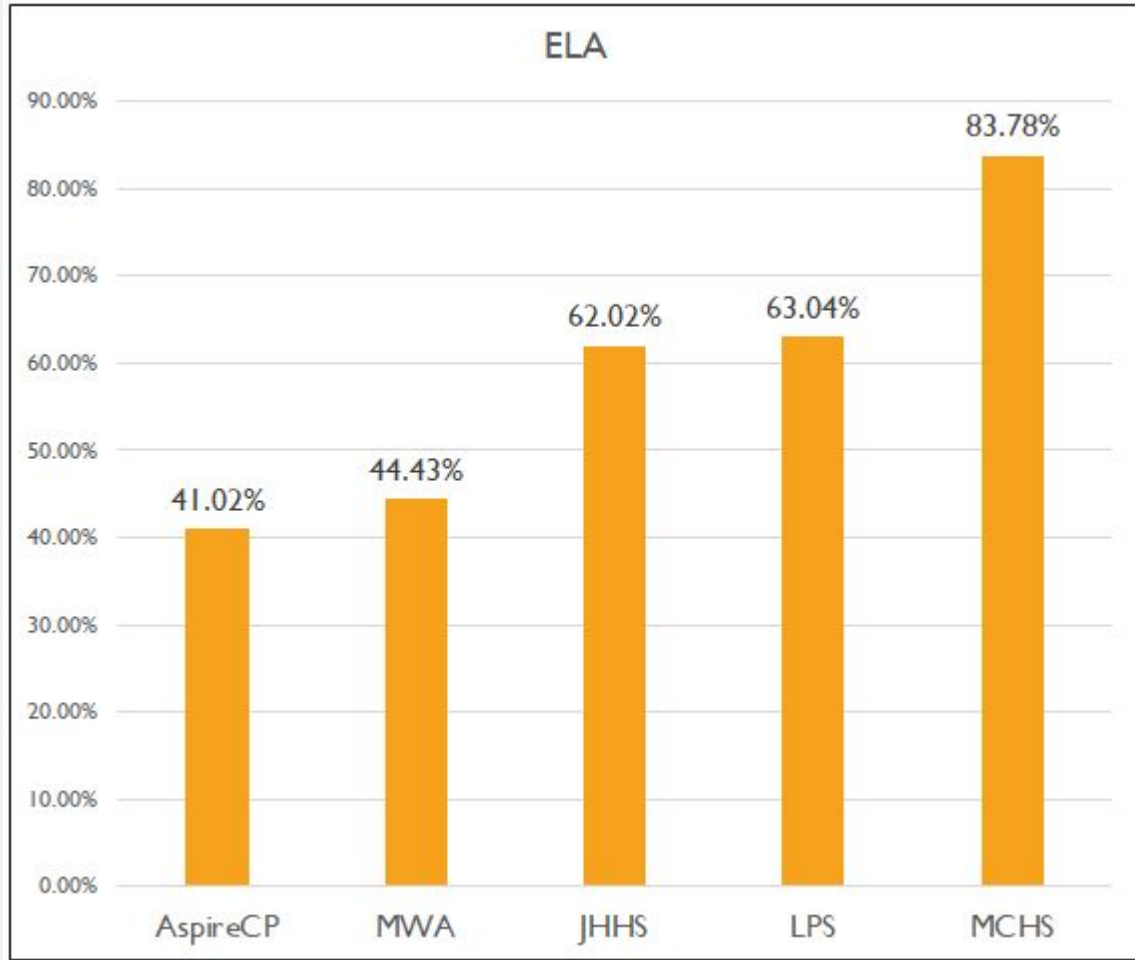
SBAC MATH, 2017-18



CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOLS, SBAC SCORES 2017-18



HIGH SCHOOLS



API SCORES

School	Enrollment 10-12th	Enrollment 12th	Number Tested	AP Score=3	AP Score=4	AP Score=5	% Passing (3,4,&5)	Total Passing
El Cerrito High	1,083	370	411	200	86	57	83%	343
LPS. Richmond	426	125	247	93	71	19	74%	183
Pinole Valley High	858	277	218	69	39	20	59%	128
De Anza High	1,042	336	345	90	48	18	45%	156
Hercules High	710	240	335	90	41	13	43%	144
Making Waves Academy	238	71	103	23	4	8	34%	35
Richmond High	1,163	356	282	49	26	4	28%	79
John F. Kennedy High	682	232	144	17	12	1	21%	30
John Henry High	165	26	22	3	0	0	14%	3

NOTE: SummitK2 failed to file correct paperwork for AP courses to count, Aspire tested fewer than 15 students, and MCHS students do not take AP as they are engaged in college-level courses.

UPCOMING CONSIDERATIONS, AND Q & A

- Aspire Cal prep, LPS, both Summit schools, Voices, MWA and Invictus all plan to grow. Expected change: approximately 600 students.
- In the upcoming year, five schools will be submitting charter renewals. This will mean 10 board meetings.
- With support from Governor Newsome and State Superintendent Thurman, a number of bills are under consideration, including changes in Brown Act requirements, increasing timelines, and methods to temper the growth of charter schools.

QUESTIONS?