



iLEAD Lancaster Charter School  
Staff Report on Renewal Charter Petition  
December 1, 2020

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## iLEAD Lancaster Charter Staff Report

Staff Findings on the Renewal Petition for iLEAD Lancaster Charter School, Grades K-8  
Pursuant to Education Code Sections 47607 and 47605

The iLead Lancaster Charter School (iLEAD) renewal petition was presented to the Lancaster School District Board of Trustees (Board) pursuant to Education Code (EC) sections 47607 and 47605 on September 29, 2020. The renewal process requires the authorizer to evaluate both the past performance of the charter school and whether the renewal petition meets the criteria for approval to include an analysis of the following three (3) criteria:

**Criteria 1:** Does the renewal criteria petition include a sound educational program, a reasonably comprehensive description of the 15 elements required for petitions, and affirmation of each of the conditions described in Ed Code 47605(e), and are petitioners likely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition? (Ed Code, 47607(b).

**Criteria 2:** Is the charter school “high,” “middle,” or “low” performing? (Ed Code, 47607(c), 47607.2(a), and 47607.2(b).) Has the charter school attained measurable increases in academic achievement schoolwide and for numerically significant subgroups served by the charter school?

**Criteria 3:** Are the charter school’s enrollment or dismissal practices discriminatory, or does the charter school have substantial fiscal or governance factors? (Ed. Code 47607(e).)

iLEAD Lancaster Charter is currently authorized by the Lancaster School District Board of Trustees through June 30, 2020.

Charter renewal is governed by EC 47607, 47605 and the California Code of Regulations, Title 5 (5 CCR), sections 11966.4 and 11966.5. Critical components of these governing laws are as follows:

### **Criterion 1: Petition**

Renewals are governed by the standards and criteria described in Ed Code 47605 applicable to initial petitions. The first criterion considered in reviewing a renewal petition requires an analysis of the following:

- Whether the petition includes a sound educational program
- Whether the petition contains a reasonably comprehensive description of the 15 elements

required for petitions

- Whether the petition contains an affirmation of each of the conditions described in Ed Code 47605(e); and
- Whether the charter school is likely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition. Ed Code 47607(b) provides that renewals are governed by the standards and criteria described in 47605 applicable to initial petitions.

As part of the analysis, the Lancaster School District’s Board of Trustees has assessed the extent to which iLEAD Lancaster Charter School’s governing board members and staff have successfully implemented the terms of their charter, addressed deficiencies, and demonstrated capacity to continue to do so in the future based on evidence of past performance.

## **Criterion 2: Charter School Performance**

Ed Code 47607 and 47607.2 prescribe three tiers of performance classification in which a charter school falls, within one of the following categories: “High,” “Middle,” or “Low”. The state will publish an annual list of charter schools and their performance classification.

### **High Performing School**

A charter school may qualify for renewal under the high performing renewal criteria if either of the following apply for the two consecutive years immediately preceding renewal. Based on SB 98, if two consecutive years immediately preceding the renewal decision include the 19-20 school year, the chartering authority shall not deny renewal for a charter school if either of the following apply for 2 of the 3 years immediately preceding renewal

1. The charter school has received the two highest performance levels (blue or green) schoolwide on all the state indicators included in the evaluation rubrics for which it receives performance levels.
2. For all measurements of academic performance, the charter school has received performance levels schoolwide that are the same or higher than the state average and, 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

Charter schools who satisfy the “High” performing renewal criteria may be renewed for a term of 5-7 years (Ed. Code 47607(c)(2)(E).)

### **Low Performing School**

A low performing school shall not be renewed. (Ed Code 47607.2(a)(1).) A charter school is considered a low performing school if it is found to meet either of the following criteria for the two consecutive years immediately preceding renewal. SB 98 specifies that if two consecutive years immediately preceding the renewal include the 19-20 school year, the chartering authority shall not renew the charter if either of the following apply:

1. The charter school has received the two lowest performance levels (orange or red) schoolwide on all the state indicators included in the evaluation rubrics for which it receives performance levels
2. For all measurements of academic performance, the charter school has received performance levels schoolwide that are the same or lower than the state average in each respective year

The Lancaster School District's Board of Trustees may renew a low performing charter school for two years, if it makes both of the following written factual findings:

1. The charter school is taking meaningful steps to address the underlying cause(s) of its low performance, and those steps are reflected, or will be reflected, in a written plan adopted by the governing body for the charter school; AND
2. Until June 30, 2025, the Board shall consider whether there is clear and convincing data, demonstrated by verified data, showing the following:
  - a. The charter school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year's progress for each year in school

A low performing charter school meeting the above stated criteria may only be renewed for a two-year term, and a charter school that is renewed for a two (2) year term shall submit its renewal application AFTER obtaining two (2) years' additional performance data provided by the state.

### **Middle Performing School**

The Lancaster School District's Board of Trustees may deny a renewal petition satisfying the middle performing criteria pursuant to section 47607.2(b) upon making each of the following written factual findings:

1. The charter school has failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to pupils of the school.

2. The closing of the charter school is in the best interest of the pupils; and,
3. The decision provided greater weight to the performance on the measurement of academic performance. (i.e., reclassification rates, Long Term English Learner Rates, and percentage of students Met or Exceeded Standards as measured on the CAASPP, as compared to STATE averages, CA dashboard data).

The Lancaster School District's Board of Trustees shall consider the following:

1. The schoolwide performance and performance of all subgroups of pupils served by the charter school on both the state and local indicators on the CA Dashboard
2. Greater weight will be given to academic performance
3. Consider clear and convincing evidence showing:
  - a. The charter school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year's progress for each year in school.

Charter schools satisfying the middle performance criteria may be renewed for a five year term (Ed. Code 47607.2(b)(7).) However the Board may also deny the renewal petition of a middle performing school.

### **Technical Assistance**

Charter schools qualifying for technical assistance are not eligible for renewal under the high performing renewal criteria. Charter schools qualifying for technical assistance are only eligible for renewal under the middle or low performing criteria (Ed. Code 47607 (c) (2)(C)).

### **Criterion 3: Enrollment and Dismissal Practices**

**Pursuant to Ed. Code 47607(e) states that the Board will consider whether the charter school's enrollment or dismissal practices are discriminatory as grounds for nonrenewal.**

The Board will consider substantial fiscal or governance factors as grounds for nonrenewal.

The Lancaster School District's Board of Trustees will review the charter petition, and upon finding any of the following:

1. The charter school is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the renewal petition due to:
  - a. Substantial fiscal factors, or

- b. Substantial governance factors.
2. The charter school is not serving pupils who wish to attend.

may deny renewal of the charter petition regardless of whether the charter school satisfies the high, middle, or low performing criteria.

**EC 47607(a)(3)(A)** states that the authority that granted the charter shall consider increases in pupil academic achievement for all groups of pupils served by the charter school as the most important factor in determining whether to grant a charter renewal.

**EC 47607(a)(2)** states that renewals of charters are governed by the standards and criteria in 47605, and shall include, but not be limited to, a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed.

**EC 47605(b)** requires a school district governing board to be guided by the intent of the legislature that charter schools should become an integral part of the education system and that a charter be granted if the governing board is satisfied that granting the charter is consistent with sound educational practice.

**EC 47605(b)** further states that a governing board may only deny a petition if it provides written factual findings specific to the petition that supports one or more of the following findings:

- (1) The charter school presents an unsound educational program.
- (2) The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program.
- (3) The petition does not contain the required number of signatures. (Not applicable to a renewal petition)
- (4) The petition does not contain an affirmation of specified assurances.
- (5) The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of 15 required elements of a charter.

The Lancaster School District Board shall evaluate the petition according to the criteria and procedures established in law and may only deny the renewal petition if it provides written findings addressing the reasons for the denial.

A summary of key findings is presented through the table on the following page. The complete report on the written findings of fact is attached.

iLEAD Lancaster Charter Staff Report

iLead Lancaster Charter School		Meets Requirements	
EC: 47607(b): Failure to meet academic performance criteria for renewal is grounds for denial.			
Finding 1	Charter School Performance Level: Low	No*	
Finding 2	Sound Educational Practice	Yes	
Finding 3	Ability to successfully implement the intended program	Yes	
Finding 4	Affirmations of specified conditions	Yes	
Finding 5: The charter petition contains a reasonably comprehensive description of all required elements	1	Description of Educational Program	Yes
	2	Measureable pupil outcomes	Yes
	3	Method for measuring pupil progress	Yes
	4	Governance structure	Yes
	5	Employee qualifications	Yes
	6	Health and safety procedures	Yes
	7	Racial and ethnic balance	Yes
	8	Admission requirements	Yes
	9	Annual independent financial audit	Yes
	10	Suspension and expulsion procedures	Yes
	11	Retirement coverage	Yes
	12	Public school attendance alternatives	Yes
	13	Post employment rights of employees	Yes
	14	Dispute resolution procedures	Yes
	15	Closure procedures	Yes
<p>* A low performing charter school may only be renewed for a two-year term (Ed Code 47607.2(a)(1)) if the charter school is taking meaningful steps to address the underlying cause(s) of its low performance, and those steps are reflected, or will be reflected, in a written plan adopted by the governing body for the charter school; and Until June 30, 2025, the board shall consider whether there is clear and convincing data, demonstrated by verified data, showing the following: The charter school achieved measurable increases in academic</p>			

achievement, as defined by at least one year's progress for each year in school.



Department of Special Programs

Date: December 15, 2020

Staff Findings on the Renewal Petition for iLEAD Lancaster Charter School, Grades K-8  
Petition to Renew a Charter Authorized by the Lancaster School District Board of Trustees

**Background Information**

The petition for iLEAD Lancaster Charter School (iLead) is to renew the charter for a grades TK-8 school.

iLEAD was first authorized by the Lancaster School District Board of Trustees to begin educating students on September 4, 2012, and has been operating under the authorization of Lancaster School District since its inception.

The charter term commenced July 1, 2012, and ended June 30, 2016. iLead was renewed by the Lancaster School District Board of Trustees on: May 3, 2016, for a term of five (5) years that commenced on July 1, 2016, and will end on June 30, 2021.

iLEAD Lancaster Charter is located at 254 E. Avenue K-4, Lancaster, CA, 93535. As of the time of this report the district had visited the physical location of the building in which the school is located and found it to be in good condition.

Mission: “The mission of iLEAD Lancaster is to provide a rigorous, relevant, inquiry-based, self-directed and collaborative learning environment for students in grades TK-8, inspiring them to become lifelong learners with the skills to lead in the 21st century.”

Vision: “The vision of iLEAD Lancaster is that all learners would become creative problem solvers, critical thinkers, compassionate leaders, conscientious collaborators, and responsible citizens who develop a lifelong love of learning. These are the qualities that develop our learners into leaders, today and in the future. Our learners achieve this through the iLEAD educational model.”

Students Served by the School: iLEAD currently serves 819 students in grades TK-8. The school. The school’s demographic composition is presented in the chart below (Chart is provided based on 2019-20 school year data):

Enrollment Trends Over the Last Five Years					
School Year	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Number of Learners	<b>613</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>734</b>
English Learners	7%	6%	6%	7%	6%
Foster Youth	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Students with Disabilities	14%	14%	14%	12%	13%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	39%	56%	61%	69%	72%
African American	10%	19%	22%	26%	26%
White	39%	31%	27%	22%	20%
Hispanic or Latino	34%	33%	36%	38%	44%

### Requirements for Charter Renewal

Charter renewal is governed by Education Code (EC) sections 47605 et seq., the Charter Schools Act. The Lancaster Charter School Review Team (Review Team) considered the petition according to the requirements of the EC and other pertinent laws and regulations, and guidance established in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Board Policy (BP) and Superintendent’s Administrative Regulations (AR). The following section provides the legal criteria for renewal consideration and an analysis of whether iLEAD meets those standards.

*EC 47607(a)(2): Renewals...of charters are governed by the standards and criteria in section 47605, and shall include, but not be limited to, a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed.*

The Review Team determined whether each required element in the renewal petition complies with current legal requirements and whether the petitioners were familiar with current legal requirements. If the petition did not comply, the Director of Special Programs followed up with iLead and would note the deficiency.

*EC 47607(a)(3)(A): The authority that granted the charter shall consider increases in pupil academic achievement for all groups of pupils served by the charter school as the most important factor in determining whether to grant a charter renewal.*

Schoolwide California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Data:

Special Note: Numbers within the cells represent the distance from met (if a number has a negative sign in front of it, it denotes that that particular student group is that many points away from meeting standard on average, ie -91 means 91 point away from meeting standard). for all student groups. Colors are consistent with the California State Dashboard: Blue = Very high performance; Green = High performance, Yellow = Medium performance, Orange = Low performance, and Red = Very Low performance

English Language Arts (ELA): An analysis of the schoolwide CAASPP ELA data over three (3) years (2017 to 2019) showed progress in ELA for all seven (7) student groups. Five (5) student groups increased significantly, one (1) student group increased, and one (1) student group maintained. iLEAD increased significantly in terms of their “All Student Group.”

**English Language Arts**

Student Group	2017	2018	2019 ELA	Improvement (+/-)
American Ind				
African Ame	-100.2	-91	-87.1	Increase
SWD	-120.1	-125.5	-108.5	Increase Significantly
Foster Youth				
Homeless				
Asian				
ELL	120.2	-124.7	-108	Increase Significantly
Hispanic	-77	-85.9	-62	Increase Significantly
SED	-91	-97.4	-73.8	Increase Significantly
Two or More	-68.9	-93.8	-75.8	Increase Significantly
White	-44	-53.7	-52.1	Maintained
Filipino				
Pacific Islander				
iLEAD (ALL)	-70.2	-78.9	-63.9	Increase Significantly

Mathematics: An analysis of the schoolwide CAASPP math data over three (3) years (2017-2019) showed an increase in math on the California School Dashboard. Based on the CA dashboard four (4) student groups increased significantly, one (1) group maintained, one (1) group decreased, and one (1) group decreased significantly. The “All” student group increased in mathematics.

**Math**

Student Group	2017	2018	2019	Movement (+/-)
American Ind				
African Ame	-159	-145.3	-126.6	Increase Significantly
SWD	-165	-168.6	-142.8	Increase Significantly
Foster Youth				
Homeless				
Asian				
ELL	-145.9	-137.1	-154.1	Decrease Significantly
Hispanic	-121.7	-114.7	-114.9	Maintained
SED	-137.6	-136.5	-119.5	Increase Significantly
Two or More	-137.3	-131.8	-112.2	Increase Significantly
White	-81.9	-88	-95	Decrease
Filipino				
Pacific Islander				
iLEAD (ALL)	-117.3	-115.6	-110.7	Increase

All student groups showed increases in ELA proficiency; however, not all student groups increased proficiency in math.

**iLEAD Lancaster Academic Criteria for Renewal Consideration:**

The following analysis reviews the academic performance of iLead across three (3) years (2017 - 2019) as compared to its resident and comparable district schools in California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) English Language Arts (ELA) and math performance. Based on new charter legislation (AB 1505 and 1507) charter schools are to be compared to the state in terms of achievement in both ELA and math on the CAASPP assessment.

**English Language Arts**

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Student Group	iLead 2017	CA 2017	iLead 2018	CA 2018	iLead 2019	CA 2019
African Ame	-100.2	No Data	-91	-51.8	-87.1	-47.6
SWD	-120.1	No Data	-125.5	-95.5	-108.5	-88.1
ELL	120.2	No Data	-124.7	-47.1	-108	-45.1
Hispanic	-77	No Data	-85.9	-31.3	-62	-26.6
SED	-91	No Data	-97.4	-34.7	-73.8	-30.1
Two or More	-68.9	No Data	-93.8	28.6	-75.8	30.3
White	-44	No Data	-53.7	27.7	-52.1	30.7
iLEAD (ALL)	-70.2	No Data	-78.9	-6	-63.9	3.5

In English language arts, iLEAD scored below the state across all student groups.

### Math

Student Group	iLead 2017	CA 2017	iLead 2018	CA 2018	iLead 2019	CA 2019
African Ame	-159	No Data	-145.3	-91.5	-126.6	-87.9
SWD	-165	No Data	-168.6	-125.3	-142.8	-119.4
ELL	-145.9	No Data	-137.1	-69.9	-154.1	-68.6
Hispanic	-121.7	No Data	-114.7	-65.8	-114.9	-62.2
SED	-137.6	No Data	-136.5	-67.4	-119.5	-63.7
Two or More	-137.3	No Data	-131.8	1.9	-112.2	2.5
White	-81.9	No Data	-88	-1	-95	1.4
iLEAD (ALL)	-117.3	No Data	-115.6	-36.4	-110.7	-33.5

In math, iLEAD scored below the state across all student groups.

It was observed that iLEAD Lancaster Charter was considered Low Performing under criterion 2, based on the statewide dashboard.

### Charter School Performance Category Data File

California Department of Education, July 1, 2020  
 CDS: County District School, N/A: Not Applicable.

CDS	Scode	School	District	Performance_Level	Criteria
19646670125559	0125559	iLEAD Lancaster Charter	Lancaster Elementary	Low Performing	Criterion 2

## Findings of Fact

### Criterion 1 Analysis:

Renewals are governed by the standards and criteria described in Ed Code 47605 applicable to initial petitions. The first criterion considered in reviewing a renewal petition requires an analysis of the following:

- Whether the petition includes a sound educational program

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- Whether the petition contains a reasonably comprehensive description of the 15 elements required for petitions
- Whether the petition contains an affirmation of each of the conditions described in Ed Code 47605
- Whether the charter school is likely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition. Ed Code 47607(b) provides that renewals are governed by the standards and criteria

**Finding 1:** Ed Code 47607 and 47607.2 prescribe three tiers of performance classification in which a charter school falls, within one of the following categories: “High,” “Middle,” or “Low”. The state will publish an annual list of charter schools and their performance classification. Based on an analysis of dashboard data provided by the state of California it was determined that pertaining to Criterion 2, iLEAD Lancaster Charter School was found to be in the Low Performing category.

**Finding 2:** It was determined that the petition includes a description of a sound educational program for students enrolled in the school.

**Finding 3:** The petitioners are demonstrably likely to successfully implement the proposed educational program.

### **Academics**

Pupil Achievement: Dashboard data indicates that all student groups either maintained or increased in their CAASPP ELA, and that iLEAD increased in their all student group in mathematics, with two (2) student groups decreasing, and five (5) either maintaining or increasing.

Whereas information for the current year’s dashboard is not available, an analysis of the iLEADs NWEA Map assessments shows consistent gains as students progress through the iLEAD system in reading.

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MAP NWEA Change Over Time - Reading								
Grade	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Cohort Increase Spring 2018 to Spring 2019	Cohort Increase Spring 2015 to Spring 2019
Kinder	148.3	n/a	n/a	142.8	150.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
1st	166.2	166.7	162.5	169.8	167.3	n/a	n/a	17.16%
2nd	176.1	178.6	176.8	181	180.3	n/a	n/a	6.18%
3rd	180.2	187.5	184.3	184.2	188.20	198.20	3.98%	16.73%
4th	192.9	193.8	193.5	190.8	194.9	197.6	5.81%	21.60%
5th	n/a	195.6	198.5	200.5	200.1	204.9	5.13%	38.17%
6th	208	209.3	200.4	204.5	210.1	208.9	4.40%	25.69%
7th	207.1	212.6	209.6	206.4	210.9	212.1	0.95%	20.44%
8th	n/a	215.4	214	213.9	213.3	215.9	2.37%	19.81%

Whereas information for the current year’s dashboard is not available, an analysis of the iLEADS NWEA Map assessments shows consistent gains as students progress through the iLEAD system in math.

MAP NWEA Change Over Time - Math								
Grade	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Cohort Increase Spring 2019 to Spring 2020	Cohort Increase Spring 2015 to Spring 2020
Kinder	149.9	n/a	n/a	145.8	156.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
1st	169.9	169.2	167.9	173.3	171.1	n/a	n/a	17.35%
2nd	182	185.1	181.6	189.3	190.7	n/a	n/a	10.04%
3rd	185.8	188.6	189.7	187.1	191.9	202.6	6.24%	16.91%
4th	196.1	193.1	196.7	196.3	203.7	203.9	6.25%	21.44%
5th	207	198.4	199.3	201.7	205.6	207.5	1.87%	38.43%
6th	210.3	209.6	201.8	205.4	210.1	211.7	2.97%	24.60%
7th	213.5	212.4	209.6	202.3	210.9	213.6	1.67%	13.26%
8th	n/a	220.2	214.7	212	210.3	217.3	3.03%	16.95%

Measurable Pupil Outcomes: Progress towards meeting measurable pupil outcomes listed in iLEAD’s Local Control and Accountability plan showed growth in all areas. Those measurable

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pupil outcomes were observed to be: (1) demonstration of mastery of key grade level California content standards in ELA, Math, History/Social Studies, and Science; (2) demonstration of social and emotional skills, critical thinking skills, and creativity; and (3) demonstration of qualities of competent, self-motivated, “life-long learners.” Items (2) and (3) were observed in the student surveys from Gallup.

Special Education: iLEAD is a member of the El Dorado Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). They have demonstrated the capacity to function as an LEA for special education services.

### Finance and Operations

**Prior Year Audit Report:** The petition included audit reports for Fiscal Years (FY)2018-19 through 2019-20. The audits indicate that iLEAD ended 2019-20 with a positive fund balance of \$1,241,430. The Auditor’s opinion expressed in the Independent Auditors’ Reports for this period for iLEAD financial statements result in “Presently Fair” opinion, with no findings for year ending June 30, 2019.

After review of the independent audit, it was found that the required 3% (172,000) reserve that would be needed in order for iLEAD to remain solvent is exceeded by the \$1.2 million ending fund balance noted in the chart below. It was also observed through a review of the financial statements that even given the questionable nature of the coming school years, that they have enough in reserve to remain solvent for at least a three (3) year period.

It should be noted that the iLEAD did have an \$857,132 adjustment in ending funding balances after the independent audit.

Table 1 (iLEAD Lancaster Charter Annual Audit Report)				
Fiscal Year	Auditing Firm	Opinion	Findings	Ending Fund Balance per Audit - June 30
Ending June 30, 2019	CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	Present Fairly	None	\$1,241,430

### Enrollment

Below is the confirmed enrollment of iLEAD Lancaster Charter since the previous renewal for iLEAD. It was noted that there is a significant increase in the socioeconomically disadvantaged (SED) student group. Lancaster School District currently has an SED student population of about



83%.

Enrollment Trends Over the Last Five Years					
School Year	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Number of Learners	<b>613</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>734</b>
English Learners	7%	6%	6%	7%	6%
Foster Youth	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Students with Disabilities	14%	14%	14%	12%	13%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	39%	56%	61%	69%	72%
African American	10%	19%	22%	26%	26%
White	39%	31%	27%	22%	20%
Hispanic or Latino	34%	33%	36%	38%	44%

In the chart below, it was observed that enrollment is projected to increase after 2023-24, with a 95% ADA assumption.

### Enrollment and Average Daily Attendance (ADA) Assumptions

	Enrollment By Grade Level				
	<u>2021-22</u>	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>	<u>2025-26</u>
Kindergarten	80	82	100	100	100
Grade 1	84	90	85	100	100
Grade 2	86	90	90	85	85
Grade 3	89	86	90	90	90
Grade 4	88	89	86	90	90
Grade 5	96	88	90	86	86
Grade 6	88	96	90	90	90
Grade 7	106	88	96	90	90
Grade 8	98	106	88	96	96
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>827</b>

  

Attendance Rate					
<b>Target ADA Rate (%)</b>	95.00%	95.00%	95.00%	95.00%	95.00%

### Governance

The iLEAD Lancaster Charter School Board of Directors currently has three (3) members not

including the Director of the school. The board meets regularly at the school site and several members live and work within the community. The Board of Directors of iLEAD Lancaster conducts its business in compliance with the Brown Act. They have adopted a conflict of interest policy which complies with Corporations Code and Internal Revenue Service conflicts of interest rules.

**Finding 4:** The petition contains an affirmation of all specified assurances.

**Finding 5:** The petition was found to contain a reasonably comprehensive description of the fifteen (15) elements required for charter petitions.

### Overview of Improvement Planning

Based on the iLEADs Charter School Performance Category profile, published by CDE on July 1, 2020, it was determined that iLEAD Lancaster Charter is in the “Low” Performance category. Under Education Code 47607.2 (a)(4), the district shall consider the following criteria in its decision whether to renew the iLEADCharter.

#### Charter School Performance Category Data File

California Department of Education, July 1, 2020  
 CDS: County District School, N/A: Not Applicable.

CDS	Scode	School	District	Performance_Level	Criteria
19646670125559	0125559	iLEAD Lancaster Charter	Lancaster Elementary	Low Performing	Criterion 2

- The charter school is taking meaningful steps to address the underlying cause or causes of low performance, and those steps are reflected, or will be reflected, in a written plan adopted by the governing body of the charter school.**

  - iLEAD Lancaster leadership began collaborating with the District’s Director of Special Programs in April 2020 to identify support for the Charter School, including professional Learning (PL) in the area of co-teaching for facilitators and student support personnel.
  - iLEAD Lancaster adopted and implemented Bridges and Edmentum intervention curriculum for math, Mosa Mack as a science support program for grades 5-8, and Zoo Phonics, Read Theory, Out of this World Literacy and Edmentum curriculum for Literacy and ELA.
  - Each grade level team and the School Director conduct monthly meetings to disaggregate subgroup data and analyze formative, interim, summative, and social/emotional assessment data to identify learner strengths and needs.

- Staff annually participate in a week of Professional Learning (PL) at Camp Make in August before each school year begins with the focus on increased levels of rigor in math and English language development (ELD), three PL days in October focused on curriculum development in math and ELD, and Spring training focused on ELD.
  - Staff regularly participate in PL with support for English language development (ELD), Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) aligned performance task design, effective Project Based Learning (PBL) instruction, and the guided completion of Project Design Guides that include comprehensive student support implementation.
  - Staff participate in weekly Professional Learning (PL) opportunities that focus on effective instructional strategies, curriculum implementation, and intervention strategies.
  - iLEAD Lancaster developed a School Attendance Support Team and a chronic absenteeism intervention plan to address chronic absenteeism in targeted learners as well as specifically in our socioeconomically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, African American, and two or more races student subgroups.
- 2. There is clear and convincing evidence showing either of the following: (a) the school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year's progress for each year in school; or (b) strong postsecondary outcomes, as defined by college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers.**

### **Academics: English Language Arts**

iLEAD Lancaster improved their Distance from Standard on the dashboard in English language arts (ELA) from 2018-2019 in ELA. However in a three year analysis it was observed that four student groups (Students with Disabilities (SWD); Hispanic; Socio-economically Disadvantaged (SED); and White) had decreased achievement from 2017 to the 2018 dashboard. School wide, there has not been a consistent improvement over a three year period.

### **Academics: Mathematics**

iLEAD Lancaster did improve its Distance from Standard in Mathematics schoolwide, however witnessed a decrease in student achievement for three student groups (ELL, Hispanic, and White) between the 2018 and 2019 dashboard. In a three year analysis it was observed that SWD and White student groups observed a decrease in student achievement from 2017 to 2018, and

that both ELL and White student groups saw a decrease from their 2017 scores to their 2019 scores.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Based on the analyzed dashboard data, iLEAD Lancaster's Low Performing status on the California Dashboard system, and iLEAD Lancaster's current renewal charter petition, Lancaster School District staff recommends that the Lancaster Board of Trustees take action to renew the iLEAD Lancaster Charter for a period not to exceed two (2) years, beginning July 1, 2021 and ending on June 30, 2023 with the following stipulations.

- iLEAD Lancaster will be required to improve their charter school status to a minimum of the Middle Performance classification identified by the California Department of Education, and confirmed by the Lancaster School District, in order to secure reauthorization in the years following this renewal.
- iLEAD will be required to submit an improvement plan to the Lancaster School District Department of Special Programs, that has been approved by the iLEAD Lancaster Charter Board of Directors, by February 15, 2021.
- The Renewal period will commence on July 1, 2021, and will end on June 30, 2023.

iLEAD Lancaster Charter will therefore be required to provide the Lancaster School District Board of Trustees with a renewal petition after December of 2022, to ensure that Lancaster School District has the relevant information in terms of CA Dashboard data to reevaluate the standing of the iLEAD Lancaster Charter School.

