



RENEWAL: YOUR TURN TO DECIDE

The charter renewal decision is one of the most significant high stakes decisions in public education. It determines the continuing existence or termination of a school.

It has the potential to be a celebration of **accomplishments and success** of a school – and its students – that was built from the ground up a few years earlier. On the other hand, it may be the **public declaration** that a school **did not live up to its promises** to the public or to the parents and students that chose to attend.

Based on the very, very limited information on the following pages, answer the questions that follow the **La Luna Charter School** application. You will be asked to:



1. Identify key points of information that are relevant to this high-stakes decision making process;
2. Assess overall school outcomes against performance expectations;
3. Determine if the school has substantially met its academic goals; and,
4. Make a preliminary recommendation for renewal or non-renewal.



LA LUNA CHARTER SCHOOL

- La Luna Charter School opened in 2012.
- La Luna is an independent operator, with no EMO/CMO or partner organization.
- Since reaching scale, the school serves 4-8th grades and has approximately 300 students.
- In its first charter term, the school met about half of its performance goals and earned a full-term renewal of five years.
- Its renewal was featured in the local newspaper, with local families describing La Luna as a “gem” within its urban school district.
- In 2017, the school earned a short-term renewal with conditions due to declining academic outcomes.
- The founding school leader resigned in 2017 to take a lucrative position at a leading charter network in a neighboring state.
- In 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19, student achievement scores have consistently decreased in most grades and content areas.
- Over the last school year (2018-19), 18% of 6th and 7th grade students have withdrawn to attend other charter schools, although they require a lengthy commute via public transportation.
- 2 of 5 founding board members have left, with the remaining three trustees expected to leave when their terms expire (within the year).
- The school is often out of compliance with authorizer and state reporting deadlines- submitting materials either late or incomplete.
- The public schools in the district of location are historically under-resourced, under-performing, and experience frequent violent incidents.
- Although student attrition has decreased the schools per pupil revenue, there have been no financial concerns over the course of the charter term.

THE SCHOOL HAS RECENTLY SUBMITTED ITS APPLICATION FOR A RENEWAL, AND ALSO REQUESTED EXPANSION TO SERVE HIGH SCHOOL GRADES IN THE FIRST YEAR OF ITS NEXT CHARTER TERM.



**LA LUNA CHARTER SCHOOL
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OVER TIME**

SY2012 to SY2016 and SY2013 to SY2017

| Group | Cohort Year | ELA | | Math | |
|---|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | % adv/prof 4th grade | % adv/prof 8th grade | % adv/prof 4th grade | % adv/prof 8th grade |
| La Luna¹ | SY2012 Cohort (n=14 out of 40) | 7.1 | 55.4 | 0.0 | 7.1 |
| | SY2013 Cohort (n=7 out of 30) | 28.6 | 49.4 | 42.9 | 49.7 |
| Other Area Charters | SY2012 Cohort (n=54 out of 93) ² | 75.9 | 98.1 | 48.1 | 92.2 |
| | SY2013 Cohort (n=53 out of 112) ³ | 67.9 | 100.0 | 67.9 | 94.7 |
| ABC Public Schools^{4,5} | SY2012 Cohort (n=469) | 24.9 | 65.9 | 20.5 | 31.6 |
| | SY2013 Cohort (n=510) | 21.4 | 63.1 | 21.4 | 30.2 |

SY2014 to SY2018 and SY2015 to SY2019

| Group | Cohort Year | ELA | | Math | |
|---|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | % adv/prof 4th grade | % adv/prof 8th grade | % adv/prof 4th grade | % adv/prof 8th grade |
| La Luna¹ | SY2014 Cohort (n=14 out of 40) | 6.5 | 39.9 | 12.0 | 15.1 |
| | SY2015 Cohort (n=7 out of 30) | 21.6 | 53.2 | 19.7 | 27.7 |
| Other Area Charters | SY2014 Cohort (n=54 out of 93) ² | 75.9 | 98.1 | 48.1 | 92.2 |
| | SY2015 Cohort (n=53 out of 112) ³ | 67.9 | 100.0 | 67.9 | 94.7 |
| ABC Public Schools^{4,5} | SY2014 Cohort (n=469) | 24.9 | 65.9 | 20.5 | 31.6 |
| | SY2015 Cohort (n=510) | 21.4 | 63.1 | 21.4 | 30.2 |

Student Achievement Performance Goals as per the authorizer’s Performance Framework and included in the Charter Contract:

1. 75% of students enrolled for two consecutive years or more will achieve advanced or grade level proficiency on the state ELA exam by the 8th grade.
2. 75% of students enrolled for two consecutive years or more will achieve advanced or grade level proficiency on the state mathematics exam by the 8th grade.

Please note that the figures displayed represent the students who attended both grade 4 and grade 8 at the same school. La Luna Charter School’s initial entry is in grade 4.

¹The initial cohort size in SY2012 was 40 students. The initial cohort size in SY2013 was 30 students.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER CHARTER TERM

As La Luna developed from a set of ideas on paper to a vibrant community of students, teachers, staff and parents, the School has much to celebrate. The School's primary accomplishments are detailed in this Renewal Application. Below is a small selection of these accomplishments:



- Hiring top-quality and effective School Leadership who are committed to meeting La Luna's mission.
- Hiring top-quality and talented teachers who play a leadership role in the School and who are committed to meeting La Luna's mission.
- Developing and implementing an academic program that resulted in significant student.
- Growth on the state ELA and mathematics exams, as measured by the Student Growth Percentile.
- Developing and implementing curriculum and instruction that brings to life the primary tenets of the School's charter.
- Developing and implementing a school-wide culture that holds students to high expectations and provides individualized support systems to help students meet these expectations.
- Developing and implementing extracurricular activities and clubs for students to participate in on a regular basis.
- Developing and implementing a high-quality counseling program that assesses and meets students' social-emotional needs.
- Purchasing of a facility—in a convenient area of ABC City for families— that is able to accommodate grades 4-12.
- Securing a loan in the amount of \$1.65 million to fund major renovations for the La Luna facility.
- The ongoing recruitment of 3 new Board members as well as intention to vote-in 2 more Board members in May of 2020.



LA LUNA CHARTER SCHOOL QUESTIONS

a) Identify the key points of information that are relevant to making your renewal decision.

| SUCSESSES | RED FLAGS |
|-----------|-----------|
| | |

b) What additional information would you like to have to make an informed decision?

c) Make your preliminary recommendation for renewal or non-renewal:

- Grant an expansion.
- Provide additional monitoring
- Revoke.
- Grant a renewal.
- Non-renew.

d) Based on your choice above, what would you communicate with La Luna's Board?