

STAFF ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT

RENEWAL PETITION

Board of Education Report 403-25/26
May 12, 2026

School Name:	Today's Fresh Start Charter School-Los Angeles		BOARD IS REQUIRED TO TAKE ACTION BY: June 3, 2026
Type of Charter School:	Start-Up Independent Charter School		
Charter Operator	Today's Fresh Start		
Location Code:	Not applicable		
Type of Site(s):	Private		
Site Address(es):	4476 Crenshaw Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90043		
Board District(s):	1	Region(s):	South
Grade Levels Served:	TK-8	Current Enrollment:	374 (Per 2025 CA School Dashboard)
Grade Levels Authorized in Current Charter:	TK-8	Approved Enrollment in Current Charter:	715
CONSIDERATION:	Renewal		
CDE PERFORMANCE CATEGORY: (PER CDE'S 2026 CLASSIFICATION)	Middle Performing		
STAFF RECOMMENDATION:	Denial		
PROPOSED BENCHMARKS:	None		

STAFF ASSESSMENT

I. ACTION PROPOSED

Staff recommends denial of the renewal petition for Today's Fresh Start Charter School-Los Angeles ("TFSCS-LA" or "Charter School"), located in Board District 1 and Region South, for a term of five (5) years, beginning July 1, 2026, until June 30, 2031, to serve up to 342 students in grade TK-8 in each year of the charter term.

The Compton Unified School District ("CUSD") Board of Trustees is currently the chartering authorizer of Today's Fresh Start-Compton ("TFS-Compton"), currently operating and located at 4513 E. Compton Blvd., Compton, CA 90221 ("Compton Site") and 4476 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90043 ("Vernon Site").

Per statute, a charter school that established one site outside the boundaries of the school district, but within the county in which that school district is located before January 1, 2020, may continue to operate that site until the charter school submits a request for the renewal of its charter petition. To continue operating the site, the charter school shall do either of the following:

- (i) First, before submitting the request for the renewal of the charter petition, obtain approval in writing from the school district where the site is operating.

- (ii) Submit a request for the renewal of the charter petition pursuant to Section 47607 to the school district in which the charter school is located.

(Ed. Code, §47605(a)(5)(A))

In this case, Today’s Fresh Start [California nonprofit public benefit corporation that operates both TFSCS-LA and TFS-Compton] seeks authorization by the LAUSD Board via this renewal petition application to continue operating at the Vernon Site pursuant to Education Code section 47605(a)(5)(A). Please note that Today’s Fresh Start may be required to have one or more of its sites [Compton Site and Vernon Site] become a separately authorized charter school to comply with Education Code section 47605(a)(5)(A). (Ed. Code, § 47654.)

II. RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS

Upon submission, District staff comprehensively reviews each renewal petition application to determine whether the school has met the requirements for renewal set forth in Education Code sections 47605, 47607, 47607.2, and 47611.5.

Criteria for Charter School Renewal and Grounds for Nonrenewal

As part of staff’s holistic review of the renewal petition application, the charter school must be determined to be eligible for renewal of its charter under the specific renewal criteria outlined in the Charter Schools Act. The renewal criteria prescribed in Education Code sections 47607 and 47607.2 requires a three-pronged analysis:

- **Criterion 1:** Does the renewal petition include a sound educational program, a reasonably comprehensive description of the 15 elements required for petitions, an affirmation of each of the conditions described in Education Code section 47605(e), and are petitioners demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition? (Ed. Code, § 47607(b).) For reasons more fully set forth in the *Findings of Fact in Support of Denial of the Renewal Charter Petition for Today’s Fresh Start Charter School-Los Angeles*, these criteria have been determined to be bases for denial.
- **Criterion 2:** Is the charter school “high,” “middle,” or “low” performing? (see 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 student groups served by the charter school, and does the charter school have strong postsecondary outcomes, if applicable? **These criteria have been determined not to be bases for denial.**
- **Criterion 3:** Is the charter school serving all pupils who wish to attend, or does the charter school have substantial fiscal or governance issues? (Ed. Code, § 47607(e).) **These criteria have been determined not to be bases for denial.**

Charter Petition Requirement:

In accordance with Education Code section 47611.5, a charter school charter shall contain a declaration regarding whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public school employer of the employees at the charter school for the purposes of Section 3540.1 of the Government Code, and that declaration shall not be materially inconsistent with the charter.

- Does the petition contain a declaration of whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the employees of the charter school?
This requirement has been determined not to be a basis for denial.

III. GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

A. School History

	Today’s Fresh Start Charter School-Los Angeles
Initial Authorization:	On July 14, 2015, Today’s Fresh Start-Compton was authorized by the Compton Unified School District Board of Trustees to serve 715 students in grades K-8.
Most Recent Renewal	The charter was renewed by CUSD Board of Trustees on December 20, 2017 for a five-year term (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2023) to serve up to 715 students in grades TK-8. Pursuant to Education Code section 47607.4, all charter schools whose term expires on or between January 1, 2022, and June 30, 2025, inclusive, shall have their term extended by two years, and all charter schools whose term expires on or between January 1, 2024, and June 30, 2027, inclusive, shall have their term extended by one additional year. Thus, by operation of law, the charter term for Today’s Fresh Start-Compton expires June 30, 2026.
Approved Material Revisions of Current Charter:	Not applicable
Board Benchmarks in Current Charter Term:	Not applicable
Submission of Renewal Petition Application:	Today’s Fresh Start Charter School-Los Angeles submitted its renewal petition application on March 5, 2026. The 90-day statutory timeline for Board action on the petition runs through June 3, 2026.
Concurrent Request for Material Revision:	Not applicable
Master Plan for English Learners and Standard English Learners:	Today’s Fresh Start Charter School-Los Angeles proposes to implement the District’s Master Plan for English Learners and Standard English Learners.
Special Education SELPA	Today’s Fresh Start-Compton participates in El Dorado County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). Today’s Fresh Start Charter School-Los Angeles proposes to participate in El Dorado County SELPA.

B. Charter School Operator

Charter School is operated by Today’s Fresh Start, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation.

IV. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE

a. Summary

As a renewing school, Today’s Fresh Start-Compton (which includes both the Compton Site and the Vernon Site) has a record of performance and has been identified by the state as a Middle performing charter school. Staff considered the schoolwide performance and performance of numerically significant student groups and the state and local indicators reported on the California School Dashboard.

Overall, Today’s Fresh Start-Compton’s Dashboard performance was higher than the state in ELA, Math, and Science, but lower on the English Language Progress Indicator (ELPI).

Please see the Today’s Fresh Start-Compton data set.

b. Measurements of Academic Performance on the California School Dashboard

The California School Dashboard displays performance for eight state measures. The Performance Level, or color, is based on two factors. The current year data for the measure (Status) and the difference between current year and prior year data (Change). The point at which these two levels intersect on the five-by-five table determines the color. From highest to lowest, the Performance Levels are Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red. Below, the 2023, 2024, and 2025, Dashboard Performance Levels (colors) are provided.

Today’s Fresh Start- Compton Dashboard Indicators

School Year	ELA	Math	Science	English Learner Progress	College/Career	Chronic Absenteeism	Graduation Rate	Suspension Rate
2022-2023	Orange	Yellow	Not Applicable	Orange	Not Applicable	Yellow	Not Applicable	Red
2023-2024	Yellow	Yellow	No Performance Color	Orange	Not Applicable	Yellow	Not Applicable	Blue
2024-2025	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Not Applicable	Yellow	Not Applicable	Blue

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

c. English Language Arts Indicator

In 2023 and 2024 in English Language Arts (ELA), the charter school’s Distance from Standard (DFS) was lower than the state for All Students, and higher than the state for four of five numerically significant student groups. In 2025 in ELA, the charter school’s DFS was lower than the state for All Students, and higher than the state for all five numerically significant student groups.

Today's Fresh Start- Compton - English Language Arts Indicator - 2022-2023

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter ELA (DFS)	Charter Change	State Color	State ELA (DFS)	Charter to State Comparison (DFS)
All Students	Met	Orange	-36.0	2.4	Orange	-13.6	Lower
Black or African American	Met	Yellow	-49.3	5.5	Orange	-59.6	Higher
Latino	Met	Orange	-18.6	-3.4	Orange	-40.2	Higher
English Learner	Met	Yellow	-8.6	12.4	Orange	-67.7	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Orange	-36.4	0.8	Orange	-42.6	Higher
Students with Disabilities	Met	Orange	-99.8	6.4	Red	-96.3	Lower

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

Today's Fresh Start- Compton - English Language Arts Indicator - 2023-2024

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter ELA (DFS)	Charter Change	State Color	State ELA (DFS)	Charter to State Comparison (DFS)
All Students	Met	Yellow	-29.9	6.1	Orange	-13.2	Lower
Black or African American	Met	Yellow	-35.5	13.8	Orange	-58.9	Higher
Latino	Met	Orange	-24.0	-5.4	Orange	-39.3	Higher
English Learner	Met	Orange	-53.1	-44.5	Orange	-67.6	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Yellow	-30.5	5.9	Orange	-40.9	Higher
Students with Disabilities	Met	Red	-97.6	2.1	Red	-95.6	Lower

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

Today's Fresh Start- Compton - English Language Arts Indicator - 2024-2025

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter ELA (DFS)	Charter Change	State Color	State ELA (DFS)	Charter to State Comparison (DFS)
All Students	Met	Yellow	-23.1	6.8	Yellow	-8.1	Lower
Black or African American	Not Met	Yellow	-31.0	4.5	Yellow	-51.3	Higher
Latino	Met	Yellow	-19.2	4.8	Yellow	-33.7	Higher
English Learner	Met	Yellow	-42.7	10.4	Yellow	-59.9	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Yellow	-22.7	7.8	Yellow	-35.3	Higher
Students with Disabilities	Met	Yellow	-63.8	33.8	Orange	-89.4	Higher

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

d. Math Indicator

In 2023 and 2024 in Math, the charter school's DFS was lower than the state for All Students, and higher than the state for four of five numerically significant student groups. In 2025 in Math, the charter school's DFS was lower than the state for All Students, and higher than the state for all five numerically significant student groups.

Today's Fresh Start- Compton - Math Indicator - 2022-2023

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter Math (DFS)	Charter Change	State Color	State Math (DFS)	Charter to State Comparison (DFS)
All Students	Met	Yellow	-77.6	3.8	Orange	-49.1	Lower
Black or African American	Met	Yellow	-91.4	4.2	Red	-104.5	Higher
Latino	Met	Orange	-59.6	1.8	Orange	-80.8	Higher
English Learner	Met	Orange	-62.1	0.0	Orange	-93.4	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Orange	-77.8	2.6	Yellow	-80.8	Higher
Students with Disabilities	Met	Orange	-151.6	4.6	Orange	-127.3	Lower

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

Today's Fresh Start- Compton - Math Indicator - 2023-2024

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter Math (DFS)	Charter Change	State Color	State Math (DFS)	Charter to State Comparison (DFS)
All Students	Met	Yellow	-58.9	18.7	Orange	-47.6	Lower
Black or African American	Met	Yellow	-80.3	11.1	Red	-102.2	Higher
Latino	Met	Yellow	-34.3	25.3	Orange	-79.2	Higher
English Learner	Met	Yellow	-53.5	8.6	Orange	-93.4	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Yellow	-61.0	16.8	Orange	-78.2	Higher
Students with Disabilities	Met	Orange	-138.8	12.8	Red	-124.3	Lower

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

Today's Fresh Start- Compton - Math Indicator - 2024-2025

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter Math (DFS)	Charter Change	State Color	State Math (DFS)	Charter to State Comparison (DFS)
All Students	Met	Yellow	-49.3	9.6	Yellow	-42.4	Lower
Black or African American	Not Met	Yellow	-67.3	13.0	Orange	-95.8	Higher
Latino	Met	Orange	-33.2	1.2	Yellow	-73.6	Higher
English Learner	Met	Orange	-54.4	-0.9	Yellow	-86.1	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Yellow	-49.4	11.6	Yellow	-72.9	Higher
Students with Disabilities	Met	Orange	-104.1	34.7	Orange	-120.7	Higher

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

e. Science Indicator

In 2024 in Science, the charter school's Science Points (SPs) were lower than the state for All Students, and higher than the state for two of three numerically significant student groups. In 2025 in Science, the charter school's SPs were higher than the state for All Students, and higher than the state for all three numerically significant student groups.

Today's Fresh Start- Compton - Science Indicator - 2023-2024

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Color	Science Points	Charter Change	State Color	State Science Points	Charter to State Comparison
All Students	Met	No Performance Color	46.2	10.0	No Performance Color	51.2	Lower
Black or African American	Met	No Performance Color	43.1	13.2	No Performance Color	41.4	Higher
Latino	Met	No Performance Color	52.1	3.9	No Performance Color	45.4	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	No Performance Color	45.3	10.6	No Performance Color	45.6	Lower

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

Today's Fresh Start- Compton - Science Indicator - 2024-2025

Student Group	Charter Participation Rate	Charter Color	Science Points	Charter Change	State Color	State Science Points	Charter to State Comparison
All Students	Met	Blue	56.1	10.0	Yellow	52.6	Higher
Black or African American	Met	Blue	56.3	13.2	Orange	43.4	Higher
Latino	Met	Green	56.0	3.9	Yellow	47.1	Higher
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	Met	Blue	55.9	10.6	Yellow	47.1	Higher

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

f. English Learner Progress Indicator

In 2023 on the English Learner Progress Indicator (ELPI), the charter school's English Learner Progress Rate was lower than the state. In 2024 on the ELPI, the charter school's English Learner Progress Rates for the English Learner and Long-term English Learner student groups were lower than the state. In 2025 on the ELPI, the charter school's English Learner Progress Rate was higher than the state.

Today's Fresh Start- Compton - English Learner Progress Indicator - 2022-2023

Student Group	Charter ELPAC Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter EL Progress Rate	Charter Change	State Color	State EL Progress Rate	Charter to State Comparison
English Learner	Not Met	Orange	46.3%	-8.7%	Yellow	48.7%	Lower

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

Today's Fresh Start- Compton - English Learner Progress Indicator - 2023-2024

Student Group	Charter ELPAC Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter EL Progress Rate	Charter Change	State Color	State EL Progress Rate	Charter to State Comparison
English Learner	Met	Orange	41.0%	-5.3%	Orange	45.7%	Lower
Long-Term English Learner	Met	No Performance Color	36.4%	-10.3%	Orange	45.8%	Lower

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

Today's Fresh Start- Compton - English Learner Progress Indicator - 2024-2025

Student Group	Charter ELPAC Participation Rate	Charter Color	Charter EL Progress Rate	Charter Change	State Color	State EL Progress Rate	Charter to State Comparison
English Learner	Met	Blue	66.7%	25.6%	Yellow	46.4%	Higher

Data Sources: CA School Dashboard Research Files (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp?tabsection=3>)

g. College/Career Indicator

Not applicable

h. Chronic Absenteeism Indicator

In 2023, 2024, and 2025 on the Chronic Absenteeism Indicator, the charter school's rate of chronic absenteeism was higher than the state for All Students and for all six numerically significant student groups.

i. Graduation Indicator [HS only]

Not applicable

j. Suspension Rate Indicator

In 2023, the charter school's percentage of students suspended at least once was higher than the state for All Students, and for four of six numerically significant student groups. In 2024, and 2025, the charter school's percentage of students suspended at least once was lower than the state for All Students, and for all six numerically significant student groups.

k. Dashboard Local Indicators

Staff also considered the Local Indicators (e.g., Basic: Teachers, Instructional Materials, Facilities; Implementation of Academic Standards; Parent and Family Engagement; Local Climate Survey; Access to a Broad Course of Study) which have all been reported as "Met" in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

l. Additional Information

The charter for Today's Fresh Start-Compton was renewed by the Compton Unified School District Board of Trustees on March 10, 2026 to operate at the Compton Site, for a five-year term (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2031) to serve up to 220 students in grades TK-8.

V. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE-BASED OVERSIGHT RESULTS

In accordance with Education Code section 47604.32, the District's Charter Schools Division (CSD) conducts at least one school site visit each year where the CSD evaluates charter school performance in the following four categories: Governance; Student Achievement and Educational Performance; Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations; and Fiscal Operations. Charter schools are rated in each category based on information and evidence gathered at the time of the annual performance-based oversight visit following a four-point rubric: (4) *Accomplished*, (3) *Proficient*, (2) *Developing*, and (1) *Unsatisfactory*.

Today's Fresh Start-Compton has been overseen by the Compton Unified School District, as its chartering authorizer since the inception of Today's Fresh Start-Compton in 2015. LAUSD requested Charter School's records from CUSD. As of the writing of this report, the District has

not received the sought records, therefore, LAUSD was unable to review any documents related to CUSD’s oversight of the charter school for the current charter term.

VI. FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

a. Fiscal Condition

Today’s Fresh Start-Compton’s net assets were reported as positive in its 2023-2024 independent audit report, the most current and only audit report that LAUSD was able to locate. This audit was included in CUSD’s board meeting agenda dated February 10, 2026. The auditor noted, “The statements presented are for [Today’s Fresh Start-Compton] only, which serves an operating unit of Today’s Fresh Start and are not intended to be a complete presentation of [Today’s Fresh Start-Compton] financial position or results of operations.” It is unclear whether consolidated financial statements were issued.

Staff requested that CUSD (current chartering authorizer) provide Today’s Fresh Start-Compton’s full oversight file including its financial records (covering the past nine (9) years), all audited financial statements, enrollment data broken down by grade level, IRS Forms 990, the 2025-2026 Budget First Interim, and Second Interim financial reports. To date, the District has not obtained the sought oversight file.

The Financial Highlights table below summarizes Today’s Fresh Start-Compton’s financial data based on the above-mentioned 2023-2024 independent audit report.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS	
	2023-2024 (Audited Actuals)
Ending Net Assets	\$10,521,779
Net Income / (Loss)	(\$2,311,586)
Transfers In / Out	\$0
Prior Year Adjustment(s)	\$0
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$11,463,783
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$10,521,799
FINANCIAL RATIO ANALYSIS	
Fund Reserve (Reserve for Economic Uncertainty) (Unrestricted Net Assets/Total Expenditures) <i>3% - 5% and greater is recommended (depending on the school’s ADA)</i>	94.68%
Cash Reserve Level (Cash Balance/Total Expenditures) <i>5% and greater is recommended</i>	103.15%
Current Ratio (Working Capital Ratio) (Current Assets/Current Liabilities) <i>At least 1.2 or 120% is recommended</i>	269.77%
Debt Ratio (Total Liabilities/Total Assets) <i>Lower than 1.0 or 100% is recommended</i>	39.36%

b. 2023-2024 Independent Audit Report

Audit Opinion: Unmodified/Unqualified
Material Weaknesses: None Reported
Deficiencies/Findings: None Reported
Lack of a Going Concern: None Reported

As noted above, 2023-2024 Independent Audit Report was the most current and only audit report that LAUSD was able to locate and review.

c. Other Significant Fiscal Information

The five (5)-year budget and cash flow projections submitted with the renewal petition application to LAUSD reflect positive ending net assets and net income each year. However, as detailed in *Findings of Fact in Support of Denial of the Renewal Charter Petition for Today's Fresh Start Charter School-Los Angeles*, Charter School presented an unreasonable and unrealistic financial plan in support of its renewal petition application.