

ATTACHMENT A
STAFF ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT
RENEWAL PETITION

Board of Education Report 136-25/26
November 17, 2025

School Name:	Matrix for Success Academy		BOARD IS REQUIRED TO TAKE ACTION BY: November 19, 2025
Type of Charter School:	Start-Up Independent Charter School		
Charter Operator	Pazlo Education Foundation		
Location Code:	2458		
Type of Site(s):	(1) Private (2) Private		
Site Address(es):	(1) 1010 E. 34th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90011 (2) 700 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90017		
Board District(s):	(1) 5 (2) 2	Region(s):	(1) East (2) East
Grade Levels Served:	9-12	Current Enrollment:	274
Grade Levels Authorized in Current Charter:	9-12	Approved Enrollment in Current Charter:	600 (see proposed change in "Action Proposed" below)
CONSIDERATION:	Renewal		
CDE PERFORMANCE CATEGORY: (PER CDE'S 2025 CLASSIFICATION)	Not applicable (DASS charter school)		
STAFF RECOMMENDATION:	Denial		
PROPOSED BENCHMARKS:	None		

STAFF ASSESSMENT

I. ACTION PROPOSED

Staff recommends denial of the renewal petition for Matrix for Success Academy ("Matrix" or "Charter School"), located in Board Districts 2 and 5 and Region East, for a term of five (5) years, beginning July 1, 2026, until June 30, 2031, to serve up to 500 students in grades 9-12 in each year of the charter term. The school is requesting to decrease its current enrollment capacity from 600 students to 500 students.

Matrix for Success Academy was first designated by the State as a Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) school in July of 2019.

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).)

These criteria have been determined not 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?

Paragraph (2) and subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 47607.2 [the “middle” and “low” performing criteria for renewal and grounds for nonrenewal] do not apply to charter schools that are eligible for alternate methods for calculating the state and local indicators pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 52064.5. (Ed. Code, § 47607(c)(7).) These charter schools are designated as Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS).¹ In determining whether to grant a charter renewal for such a charter school, the chartering authority shall consider, in addition to the charter school's performance on the state and local indicators included in the evaluation rubrics adopted pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 52064.5, the charter school's performance on alternative metrics applicable to the charter school based on the pupil population served.² The chartering authority may deny a charter renewal pursuant to Section 47607(c)(7) only upon making written findings, setting forth specific facts to support the findings, that the closure of the charter school is in the best interest of pupils. (*Id.*)

For reasons more fully set forth in the *Findings of Fact in Support of Denial of the Renewal Charter Petition for Matrix for Success Academy*, these criteria have been determined 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.

¹ The California Department of Education (CDE) provides a status label on the California School Dashboard for all schools with DASS. Schools qualify for status based on their school type or through an application process with the CDE. Beginning with the 2022 California School Dashboard, the CDE treats DASS schools the same as all other schools on the California School Dashboard. [Dashboard Alternative School Status \(DASS\) - Accountability \(CA Dept of Education\)](#)

² Charter schools designated as DASS are expected to work with the District to establish renewal targets locally. (Ed. Code, § 47607(c)(7).)

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**

	Matrix for Success Academy
Initial Authorization:	On June 13, 2017, Matrix for Success Academy was authorized by the LAUSD Board of Education to serve 600 students in grades 9-12.
Most Recent Renewal:	This is the charter school's first consideration for renewal. 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 Matrix for Success Academy 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:	Matrix submitted its renewal petition application on August 21, 2025. The 90-day statutory timeline for Board action on the petition runs through November 19, 2025
Concurrent Request for Material Revision:	Not applicable
Master Plan for English Learners and Standard English Learners:	Matrix for Success Academy implements its own Master Plan for English Learners and Standard English Learners.
Special Education SELPA	Matrix for Success Academy participates in LAUSD Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Option 3.

B. Charter School Operator

Matrix for Success Academy is operated by Pazlo Education Foundation, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation.

IV. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE

a. Summary

Matrix for Success Academy has been designated by the state as a Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) charter school, and was required to work with District staff to establish renewal targets locally. DASS charter schools are required to meet the renewal criteria set forth in Education Code section 47607(c)(7). The DASS criteria require a chartering authorizer to consider a DASS charter school's performance on the California School Dashboard (all performance indicators and local indicators) as well as on alternative metrics based on the student population served.

Overall, Charter School's Dashboard performance was lower than the state in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and on the English Language Performance (ELPI) and College/Career (CCI) Indicators.

The alternative metrics identified for renewal consideration include the following:

1. Charter School's California School Dashboard data for the ELA Academic Indicator will be compared to the California DASS High Schools Medians (schoolwide and numerically significant student groups).
2. Charter School's California School Dashboard data for the Math Academic Indicator will be compared to the California DASS High Schools Medians (schoolwide and numerically significant student groups).
3. Charter School's California School Dashboard data for the ELPI Academic Indicator will be compared to the California DASS High Schools Median.
4. Charter School's California School Dashboard data for the College/Career Academic Indicator will be compared to the California DASS High Schools Median.
5. Charter School's California School Dashboard data for the Suspension Rate Conditions & Climate Indicator will be compared to the California DASS High Schools Median.
6. Charter School's California School Dashboard Additional Reports data for the One Year Graduation Rate Academic Engagement Indicator will be compared to the California DASS High Schools Median.

Charter School's performance on the alternative metrics demonstrated that when compared to other DASS high schools statewide, Matrix for Success Academy reflects lower outcomes for the established alternative metrics except for Suspension Rate and, in 2024, CCI. However, further analysis demonstrated mixed outcomes for the charter school when compared to LAUSD DASS High Schools.

Please see the *Findings of Fact in Support of Denial of the Charter Petition for Matrix for Success Academy* for more details.

b. Measurements of Academic Performance on the California School Dashboard

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 Dashboard only displayed one year of data (also known as Status). Status Levels are reported based on the 2021-2022 school year data using one of five Status Levels (ranging from Very High, High, Medium, Low, and Very Low) for state measures. Please note that the Status Levels associated with the Chronic Absenteeism and Suspension Rate Indicators are reversed (ranging from Very Low, Low, Medium, High, and Very High). Below, the 2023 and 2024 Dashboard Performance Levels (colors) based on two years' data are provided.

Matrix for Success Academy Dashboard Indicators

School Year	ELA	Math	English Learner Progress	College/Career	Chronic Absenteeism	Graduation Rate	Suspension Rate
2021-2022	No Performance Level	No Performance Level	No Performance Level	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Very Low	Very Low
2022-2023	No Performance Color	No Performance Color	Yellow	Very Low	Not Applicable	Red	Blue
2023-2024	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Orange	Not Applicable	Red	Blue

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

c. 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 and 2024.

d. Additional Information

As noted above, DASS charter schools must have an unduplicated count of at least 70 percent high-risk students within the school's cumulative enrollment (upon first entry to the school) to be eligible for DASS. Per the California Department of Education (CDE), high-risk student groups include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Pregnant and/or Parenting Youth
- Recovered Dropouts
- Students who are credit deficient (i.e., students who are one semester or more behind in the credits required to graduate on-time, per grade level, from the enrolling school's credit requirements)
- Students with a gap in enrollment (i.e., students who have not been in any school during the 45 days prior to enrollment in the current school, where the 45 days does not include non-instructional days such as summer break, holiday break, off-track, and other days when a school is closed)
- Students with high level transiency (i.e., students who have been enrolled in more than two schools during the past academic year or have changed secondary schools more than two times since entering high school)

- Homeless Youth

Matrix for Success Academy submitted documentation establishing they qualified for continuing designation as a DASS charter school in 2025 (for DASS status through the 2027-2028 school year). Additionally, per the California School Dashboard, the charter school's 2024 student population consisted of 30% English Learner students, 22% Homeless Youth students, 95% Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students, and 21% Students with Disabilities.

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*. Please see below for Matrix for Success Academy outcomes on its annual oversight evaluation reports for the last two years.

a. Governance

Oversight Ratings/Concerns	
2023-2024	<i>Proficient</i>
2024-2025	<i>Proficient</i>
Concerns	No unresolved issues pending

b. Student Achievement and Educational Performance

Oversight Ratings/Concerns	
2023-2024	<i>No Rating</i>
2024-2025	<i>No Rating</i>
Concerns	Charter School received "No Rating" due to its status as a DASS charter school.

c. Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations

Oversight Ratings/Concerns	
2023-2024	<i>Proficient</i>
2024-2025	<i>Proficient</i>
Concerns	No unresolved issues pending

d. Fiscal Operations

Oversight Ratings/Concerns	
2023-2024	<i>Accomplished</i>
2024-2025	<i>Accomplished</i>
Concerns	No unresolved issues pending

VI. FURTHER ANALYSIS

Following the review of the foregoing performance data for this charter school placing a greater weight on academic performance on the established alternative metrics in comparison to the California DASS High Schools Median, staff determined that the school's performance requires further review. The October 24, 2024, *Notice to Charter School of Alternative Metrics to Be Used for Renewal Dashboard Alternative School Status* communication states, "In the event that the District engages in an analysis of whether to deny the charter school's renewal petition, LAUSD will consider the full oversight record of the charter school, providing greater weight to performance on the measurements of academic performance. This consideration will include, but not be limited to, a comparison to LAUSD DASS schools' performance on the measurements of academic performance." Staff conducted a further analysis of Matrix's performance on measures of academic performance in comparison to the LAUSD DASS High Schools Median (LADSM).³

Please see the *Findings of Fact in Support of Denial of the Charter Petition for Matrix for Success Academy* for more details.

VII. FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

a. Fiscal Condition

Matrix for Success Academy's fiscal condition is positive and has been upward trending since the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

	2020-2021 (Audited Actuals)	2021-2022 (Audited Actuals)	2022-2023 (Audited Actuals)	2023-2024 (Audited Actuals)	2024-2025 (Unaudited Actuals)
Net Assets	\$164,486	\$419,345	\$495,662	\$2,131,365 ¹	\$2,599,165
Net Income/Loss	\$446,431	\$254,859	\$76,317	\$1,635,703 ¹	\$467,800
Transfers In/Out	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Prior Year Adjustment(s)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Norm Enrollment ^A	192	169	181	254	246

¹ According to Pazlo Education Foundation, Charter School's net assets increased from \$495,662 to \$2,131,365 in Fiscal Year 2023-2024, primarily due to the transfer of the remaining assets APEX Academy, another school operated by the charter operator prior to its closure, to Matrix for Success Academy. APEX Academy self-closed effective June 30, 2023.

^A Matrix reported 274 Norm Enrollment for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Matrix proposes to decrease its enrollment capacity to 500 for its renewal charter term. See Section **I. ACTION PROPOSED**

³ On October 24, 2024, staff sent a letter to Matrix titled *Notice To Charter School Of Alternative Metrics To Be Used For Renewal Dashboard Alternative School Status* that states, "In the event that the District engages in an analysis of whether to deny the charter school's renewal petition, LAUSD will consider the full oversight record of the charter school, providing greater weight to performance on the measurements of academic performance. This consideration will include, but not be limited to, a comparison to LAUSD DASS schools' performance on the measurements of academic performance."

above. The CSD will continue to monitor Charter School's student enrollment and financial condition as part of its oversight process.

- 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

- c. Other Significant Fiscal Information

The financial condition of the charter operator is summarized in the table below.

Pazlo Education Foundation					
Source: Independent Audit Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2024					
# of Charter Schools		<u>Including</u> related parties and charter schools		<u>Excluding</u> related parties and charter schools	
Operated	Authorized by LAUSD	Net Assets	Net Income / (Loss)	Net Assets	Net Income / (Loss)
1	1	\$2,131,365	\$1,635,703	\$0	\$0