

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- I. Public Education Commission Meeting Date: July 19, 2017
- II. Item Title: Vote on Charter School Amendment

Estancia Valley Classical Academy

i. Enrollment Cap Increase

- III. Executive Summary and Proposed Motions

Request and Rationale

Estancia Valley Classical Academy is requesting the approval of one amendment.

The school is asking to increase the enrollment cap to 780. The school notes the rationale for the amendment request is: *“EVCA has experienced growth each year of operation, beginning with 293 students in grades K-10 and current enrollment is 455 in grades K-12. Our current charter enrollment cap is 575. We are anticipating moving to a new facility as early as August 2017 depending on availability of funding and expect enrollment to surpass 575 before the next charter renewal.”*

This amendment request was tabled by the Commission at its April meeting.

Carmie Toulouse made the following motion:

I move to table the enrollment cap request until such time as you have your plans in place and approved.

Trish Ruiz seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

The school has submitted plans to the PSFA and received communication, which is attached, from the PSFA regarding the acceptance and approval of these plans.

School History

Estancia Valley Classical Academy began operating under its current charter on July 1, 2012. The charter was granted for a period of 5 years with various standardized conditions relating to preparedness to commence operations and acknowledging the requirement that the

charter school to demonstrate improved student academic achievement, and that the PEC use increases in student academic achievement for all groups of students as the most important factor when determining to renew or revoke the school's charter.

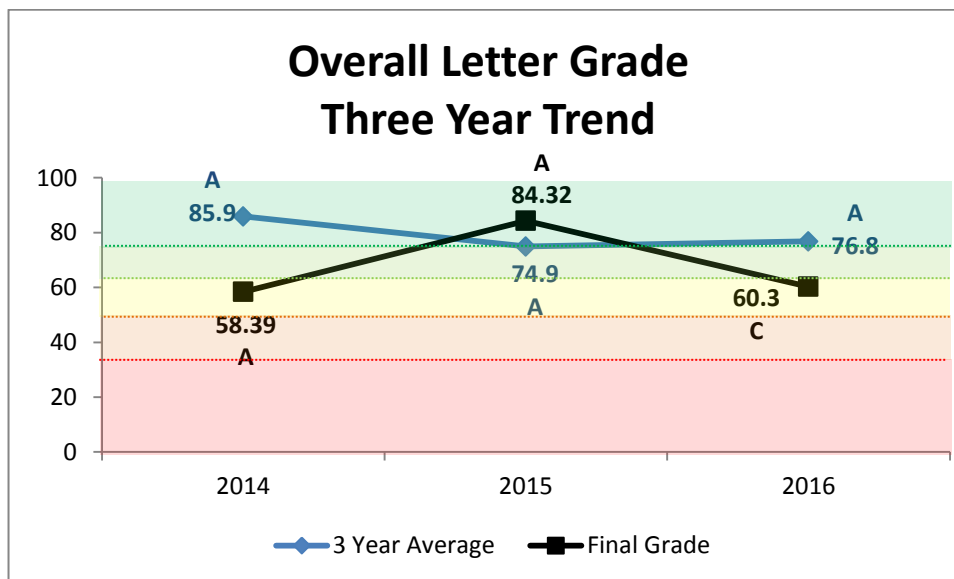
The Public Education Commission granted the school a three year conditional renewal in March 2017. The school is authorized to serve grades K-12 and its enrollment cap is 575.

According to the 2016-2017 120th Day STARS report, the school had 449 students enrolled in March 2017.

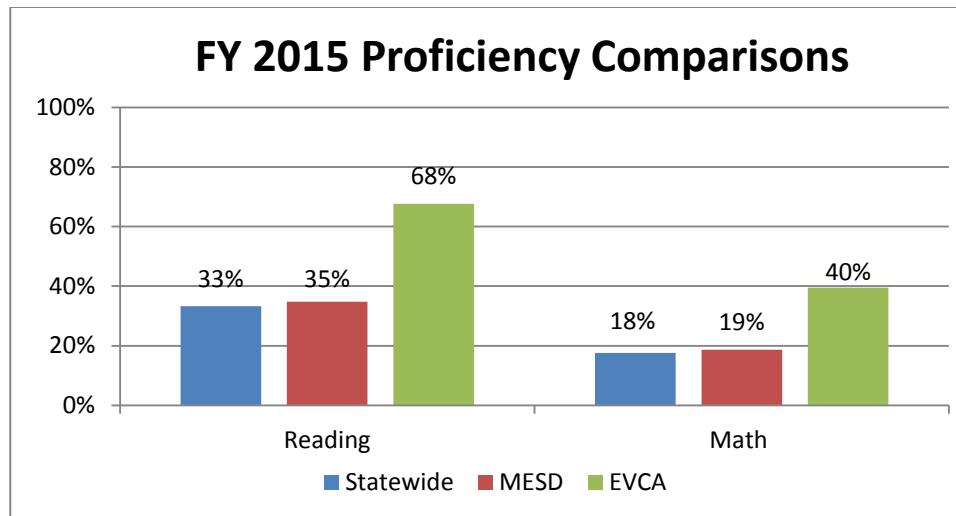
School Performance

Estancia Valley Classical Academy Charter School has received the following school grades:

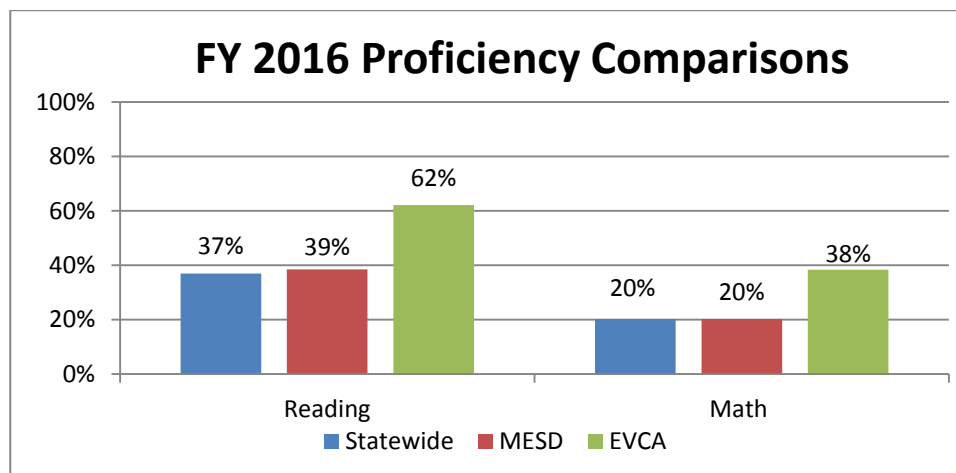
In 2013-14 the school grade was an A. In 2014-2015 the school grade was an A. In 2015-16 the school grade was a C.



The tables below show a comparison of the school's state assessment proficiency data to the statewide data for the same grade levels and the Moriarity Edgewood School District data. This comparison for 2015 indicates that the school scored a higher proficiency in both math and reading than the statewide and Moriarity Edgewood School District's proficiency rates.



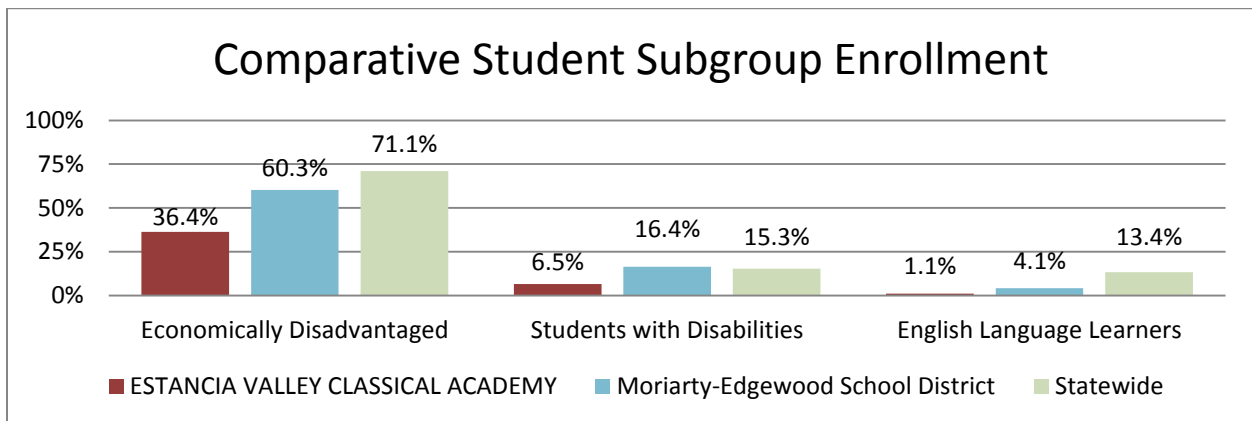
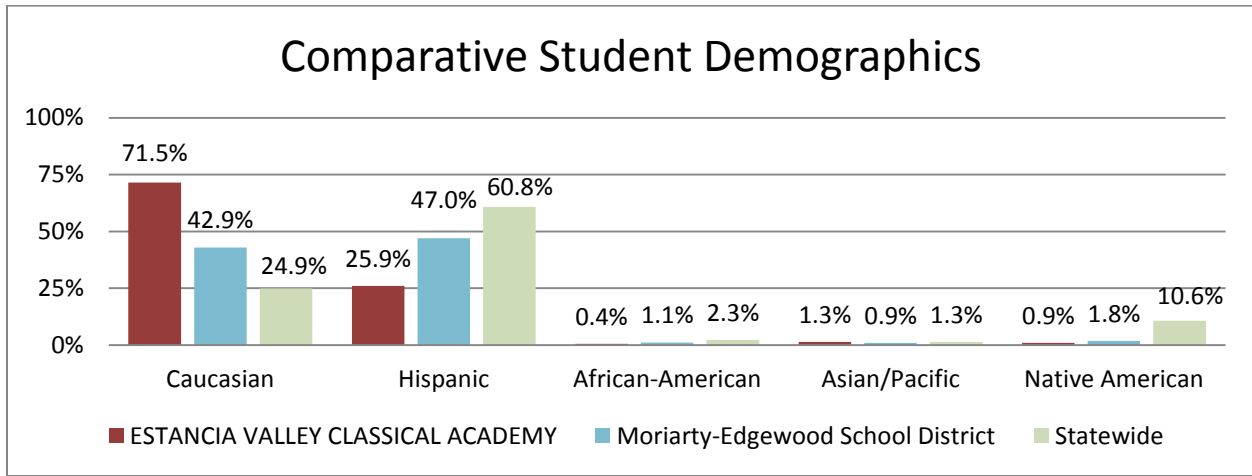
The 2016 state assessment performance data demonstrate a slight decline in both math and reading from the prior year. The tables below show a comparison of the school's state assessment proficiency data to the statewide data for the same grade levels and the Moriarity Edgewood School District data. This comparison for 2016 indicates that the school scored a higher proficiency in both math and reading than the statewide and Moriarity Edgewood School District's proficiency rates.



School Enrollment and Demographics Data

The 120 day enrollment count at Estancia Valley Classical Academy Charter School was 449 students for the 2016-2017 school year and 404 students for the 2015-2016 school year. This demonstrates an increase in total enrollment by 45 students.

Student demographics and subgroup enrollment for Estancia Valley Classical Academy Charter School for the 2016-17 school year as compared to Moriarity Edgewood School District’s data is provided below.



Recommendation

Because the school has demonstrated an acceptable level of academic performance through letter grade performance, PED recommends the approval of the amendment request to increase the school’s enrollment cap from 575 to 780. Because the request appears to be necessary for the school to obtain the approval of financing for a new facility, the Commission may consider granting a conditional approval as it did in other recent amendment requests. This approval could be conditioned on maintaining academic performance, correcting organizational performance concerns, and obtaining a compliant facility that can accommodate 780 students.

Proposed Motions – Enrollment Cap

- Move to approve the amendment request presented by Estancia Valley

Classical Academy to increase its enrollment to 780 with the following conditions [PEC to identify conditions] because the school has demonstrated an acceptable level of academic performance through letter grade performance, with no grade lower than a C in the last 3 years.

- Move to deny the amendment request presented by Estancia Valley Classical Academy to increase its enrollment cap to 780, because [PEC to provide reasons that the request should be approved]