

### AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- I. Public Education Commission Meeting Date: May 13, 2016
- II. Item Title: Vote on Charter School Amendment –Walatowa Charter High School to Change Charter Goals
- III. Executive Summary and Proposed Motions:

#### Request and Rationale

The Walatowa Charter High School is requesting to amend its “Student Performance Expectations” found in Part C- Page 18 of its current charter (the 2011 renewal application). The school seeks to amend goals based on the SBA to a goal based on the state letter grade.

Specifically, the school seeks to retain the goal for the years for which it was relevant and for the remaining years to change the goal to:

Walatowa High Charter School will achieve a Final Grade of "C" or above on the NMPED School Grade Report Card for the remaining two years of its current charter school application.

The school states the rationale for the request is:

The NMSBA reading and NMSBA math have been discontinued by NMPED and is therefore no longer available for use by WHCS.

WHCS previously met the math and reading goals for the category "Highest Performing Students", but fell short for the category "Lowest Performing Students" in SY2012-2013 and SY2013-2014. NMSBA was discontinued in SY2014-2015.

WHCS staff is implementing additional instructional, tutoring and mentoring strategies that focus on the "Lowest Performance Student."

#### School History

The Walatowa Charter High School is currently in its thirteenth year as a New Mexico charter school. The charter school was approved in 2002 after an appeal of the initial decision by the Jemez Valley Public School Board. In 2011 the New Mexico Public Education Commission

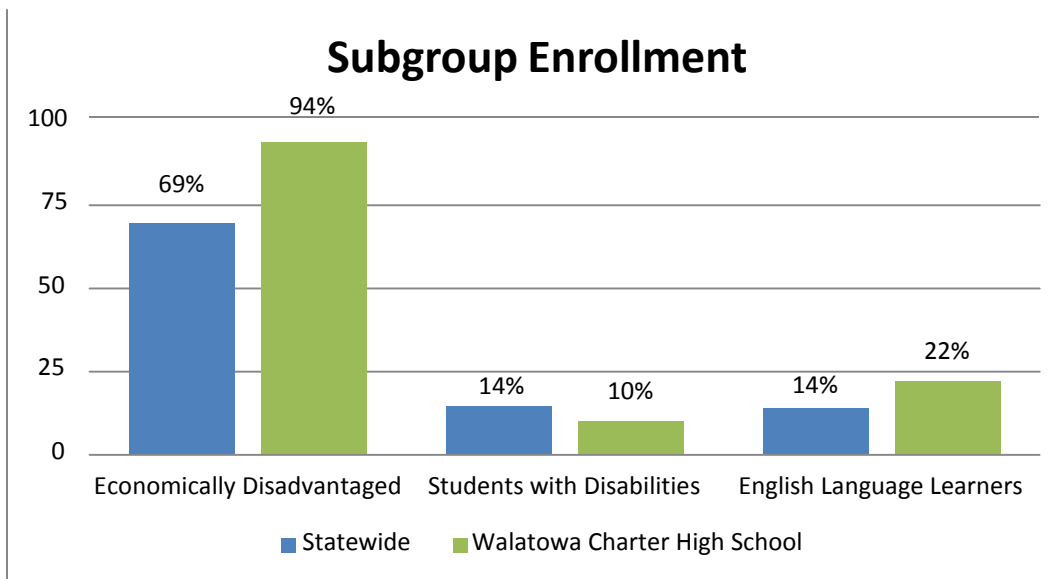
(PEC) approved Walatowa Charter High School’s renewal as a state authorized charter school for 5 years.

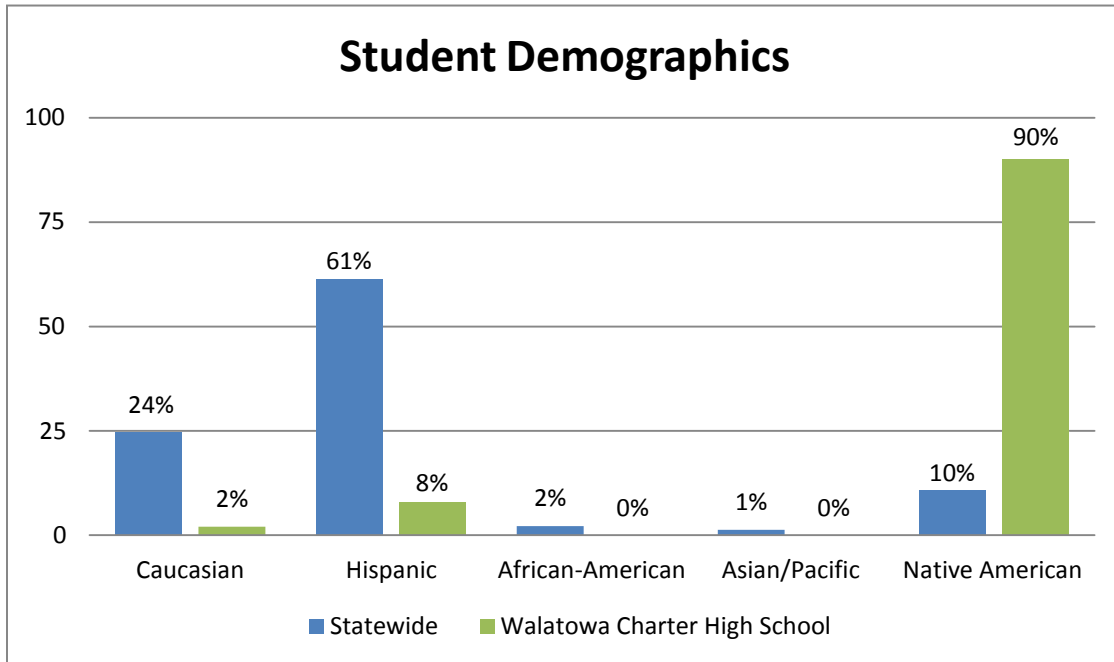
### School Enrollment and Demographics Data

The 120<sup>th</sup> day enrollment count at Walatowa Charter High School was 55 students for the 2015-2016 school year and 58 students for the 2014-2015 school year. This demonstrates a *decrease* in total enrollment by 3 students.

An evaluation of the students enrolled at the end of FY 2015 as compared to enrollment count at the end of the first full week of the 2015- 2016 school year shows a re-enrollment rate of approximately 88%, with 5 eligible students not reenrolling.

Student demographics and subgroup enrollment for Walatowa Charter High School for the 120<sup>th</sup> day reporting, as compared to statewide data is provided below. The STARS data indicates the school has a larger percentage of Economically Disadvantaged students and English Language Learners enrolled than the percentage of such students enrolled in schools across New Mexico. The percentage of Students with Disabilities is slightly lower than the percentage enrolled in schools across New Mexico.





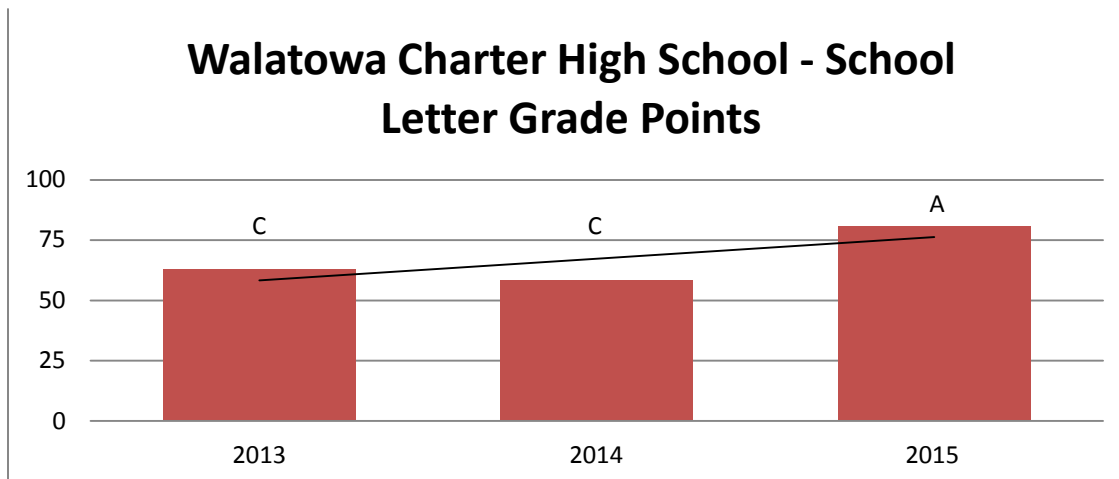
### School Performance

The Walatowa Charter High School has received the following school grades:

- In 2012-13 the school grade was a C
- In 2013-14 the school grade was a C
- In 2014-15 the school grade was an A

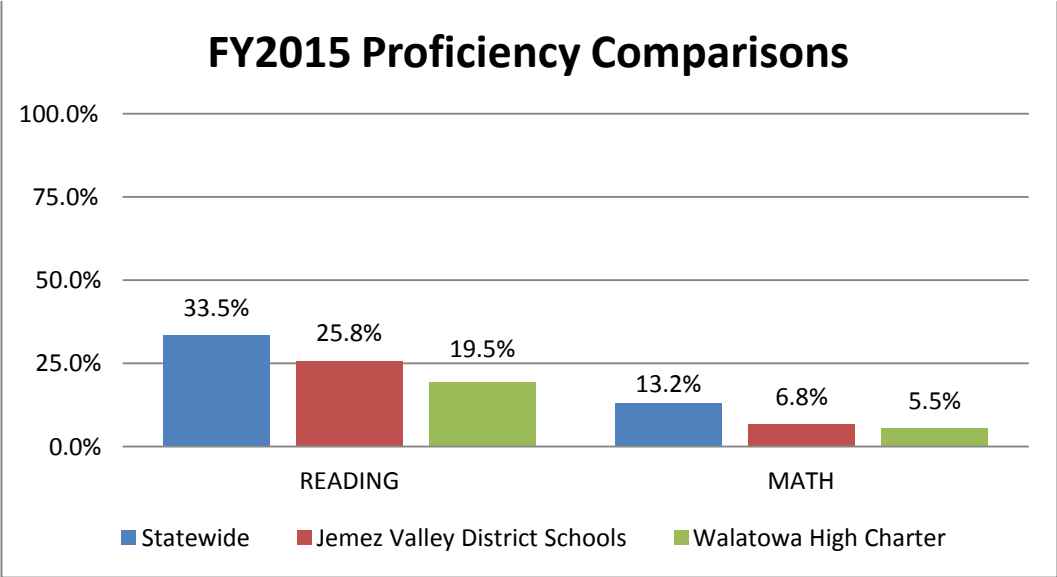
The school currently maintains a three year average of a B.

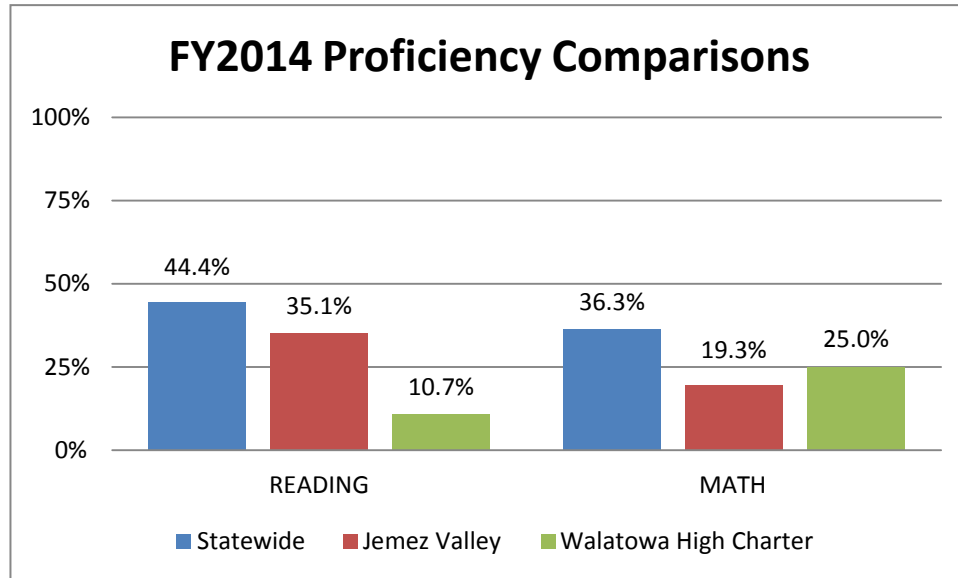
Walatowa Charter High School has shown improving performance on the state report card.



The 2015 state assessment letter grade and performance data demonstrate an increase in current standing from an F to a B, an increase in school growth from a D to a B, and an increase in Graduation from a C to an A. The school's opportunity to learn score did drop from a B to an A, and the school's student growth for lowest performing students is unchanged from an F.

The table below shows a comparison of the school's state assessment proficiency data to the statewide data for the same grade levels and the Jemez Valley Public Schools district data for the same grade levels. This comparison for 2014 and for 2015 indicates that the school saw comparatively no changes in reading proficiency and a decline in math proficiency in 2015. In both years, the Walatowa Charter High School has had slightly lower proficiency rates than the state and Jemez Valley Public Schools, with the exception of math. In FY 14 the math proficiency rates were above Jemez Valley Public Schools, but in FY15 they were slightly below the district's.





#### Analysis of New Goal

The proposed goal aligns with the PEC’s current performance framework template, which requires schools to achieve a C or better letter grade<sup>1</sup>. CSD believes this is a rigorous goal, which will incorporate the proficiency rates and growth for both the highest performing students and the lowest performing students.

#### Recommendation

CSD recommends the approval of this amendment request.

#### Proposed Motions

- Move to approve the amendment requests presented by Walatowa Charter High School requesting to amend its “Student Performance Expectations” found in Part C- Page 18 of its current charter (the 2011 renewal application) to require “Walatowa High Charter School will achieve a Final Grade of "C" or above on the NMPED School Grade Report Card for the remaining two years of its current charter school application.” because the proposed goal is rigorous, the school has a current year letter grade of A, a three year average letter grade of B, and has shown improvement on its school letter grade report card.
- Move to deny the amendment requests presented by Walatowa Charter High School requesting to amend its “Student Performance

<sup>1</sup> Schools with a C are required to complete an improvement plan.

Expectations” found in Part C- Page 18 of its current charter (the 2011 renewal application) to require “Walatowa High Charter School will achieve a Final Grade of "C" or above on the NMPED School Grade Report Card for the remaining two years of its current charter school application.” because [PEC to provide reasons that the request should not be approved].

## STATE CHARTER SCHOOL CHANGE/AMENDMENT REQUEST FORM

This Request Form **MUST** include a copy of the governing body minutes from the meeting at which the amendment was approved.

Please complete and submit this form to: Attorney for the Public Education Commission, New Mexico Attorney General's Office, P.O. Box 1508, Santa Fe, NM 87504

*And*

**Amendment Request**, Public Education Department, Charter Schools Division, Room 301, 300 Don Gaspar, Santa Fe, NM 87501, [charter.schools@state.nm.us](mailto:charter.schools@state.nm.us)

Name of State-Chartered School: Walatowa High Charter School

Date submitted: 5/4/2016 Contact Name: Arrow Wilkinson E-mail [arrowwilkinson@gmail.com](mailto:arrowwilkinson@gmail.com)

Current Charter Application or Contract Section and Page	Current Charter Statement(s)	Proposed Revision/Amendment Statement(s)	Rationale for Revision/Amendment	Date of Governing Body Approval
<p>Part C. Student Performance Expectations</p> <p>Page C-18</p>	<p>1. For SY 2012 through 2017, WHCS students in 11th grade will achieve a proficiency target of 33% or greater in reading as measured by the NMSBA and grow 7% or more, in following years.</p> <p>2. For SY 2012 through 2017, WHCS students in 11th grade will achieve a proficiency target of 30% or greater in math as measured by the NMSBA and grow 7% or more, in following years.</p>	<p>Walatowa High Charter School will achieve a Final Grade of "C" or above on the NMPED School Grade Report Card for the remaining two years of its current charter school application.</p>	<p>The NMSBA reading and NMSBA math have been discontinued by NMPED and is therefore no longer available for use by WHCS.</p> <p>WHCS previously met the math and reading goals for the category "Highest Performing Students", but fell short for the category "Lowest Performing Students" in SY2012-2013 and SY2013-2014. NMSBA was discontinued in SY2014-2015.</p> <p>WHCS staff is implementing additional instructional, tutoring and mentoring strategies that focus on the "Lowest Performance Student."</p>	<p>5/4/2016</p>

## STATE CHARTER SCHOOL CHANGE/AMENDMENT REQUEST FORM

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Original Signature of Governing Council President or Designee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Governing Council President or Designee: Kenneth Sando, Governing Council President

### Public Education Commission use only

Public Education Commission Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED

DENIED