Red River Valley Charter School
Renewal Executive Summary

1. Summary

A. Red River Valley Charter School (RRVCS) opened in 2001 and is applying for its third renewal term. RRVCS is one of the early conversion charter schools and occupies the previous site of the Red River Elementary School in the Town of Red River. Questa Independent School District authorized the conversion of its school to charter school status. The site is still owned by the district. In 2011, RRVCS was approved for state-authorization by the Public Education Commission.

The school does not meet academic performance standards. The school's three year trend for the letter grade shows a very slight drop in points earned though has remained a C. The current standing shows a very slight downward trend. The student growth measure for the lowest performing students shows a significant downward trend, but the student growth measure for Q3 shows an upward trend.

The school does not meet operational performance standards. The 2013 audit identified two non-compliance findings, one of which is a repeat finding. This is an improvement over the 2012 audit, which included a material weakness finding and a significant deficiency finding along with three non-compliance findings.

The school's financial performance does not raise concerns. The charter projected its cash carryover to be $77,328; however, on the final cash report, the charter ended the school year with $105,743.03. An increase of $28,415.03. The FY16 budget does not reflect phase in grades or growth units.

2. Performance Analysis

Area	Meets	Cannot be Determined	Does Not Meet
Academic Framework	☐	☐	☒
Financial Framework	☐	☒	☐
Operational Framework	☐	☐	☒

Analysis of Academic, Financial and Operational Frameworks could not be conducted because the school is not currently under a performance contract.

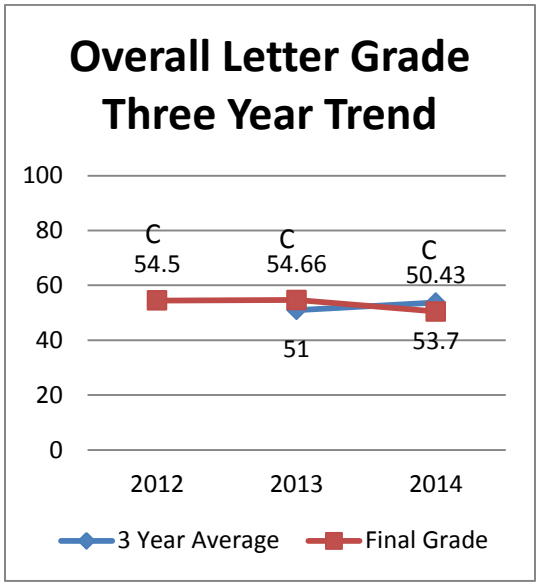
RRVCS has had adequate performance on the state report card for the past 3 years earning a C average in 2014. Three year trend data for overall letter grade, current standing, and student growth components is provided below.

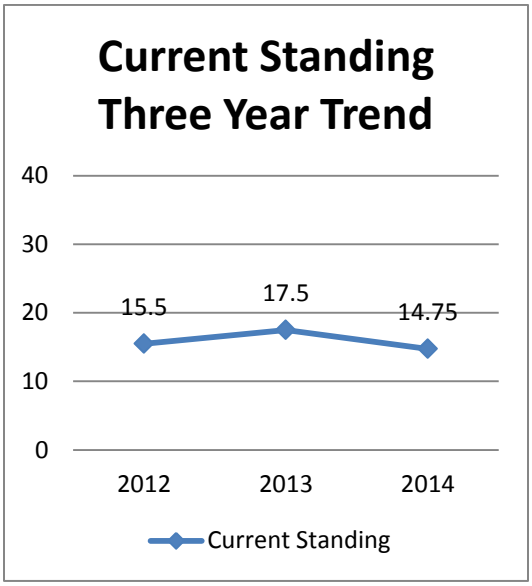
The school is out of compliance academically as a result of failure to meet 3 of 4 charter goals.

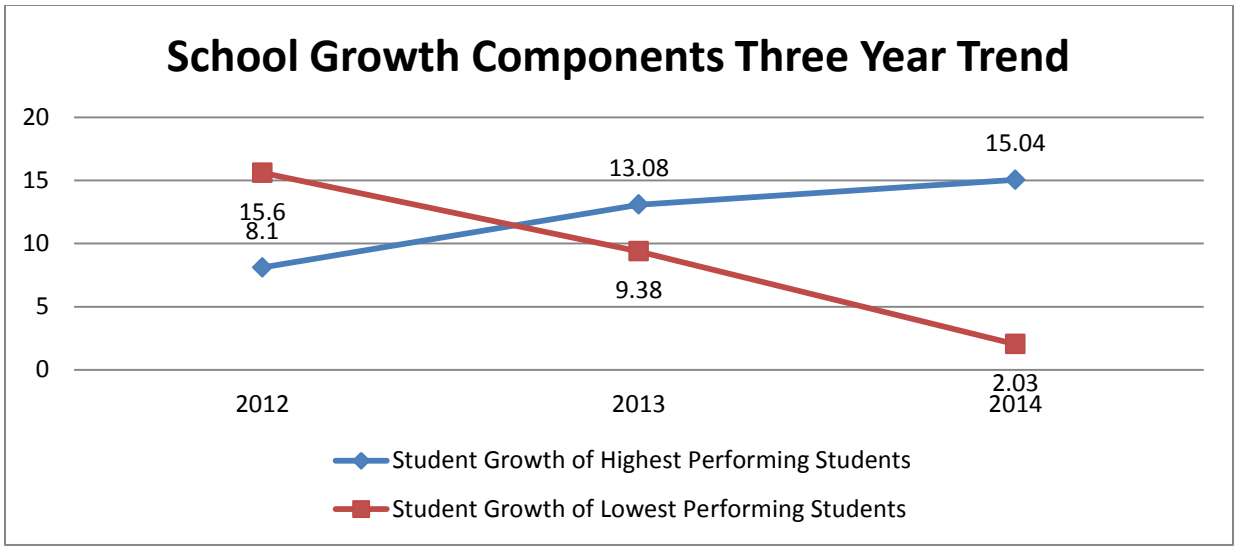
Limited information is available about the school's financial performance. The charter projected its cash carryover to be $77,328; however, on the final cash report, the charter ended the school year with $105,743.03. An increase of $28,415.03. The FY16 budget does not reflect phase in grades or growth units.

The school has demonstrated concerning organizational performance in the 2012, and 2013 audits. The 2013 audit identified two non-compliance findings, one of which is a repeat finding. The 2012 audit included a material weakness finding and a significant deficiency finding along with three non-compliance findings.

Additionally, CSD determined the school to be out of compliance operationally as a result of failure to meet the material terms of the contract with regard ELL Services during the 2014/15 SY.





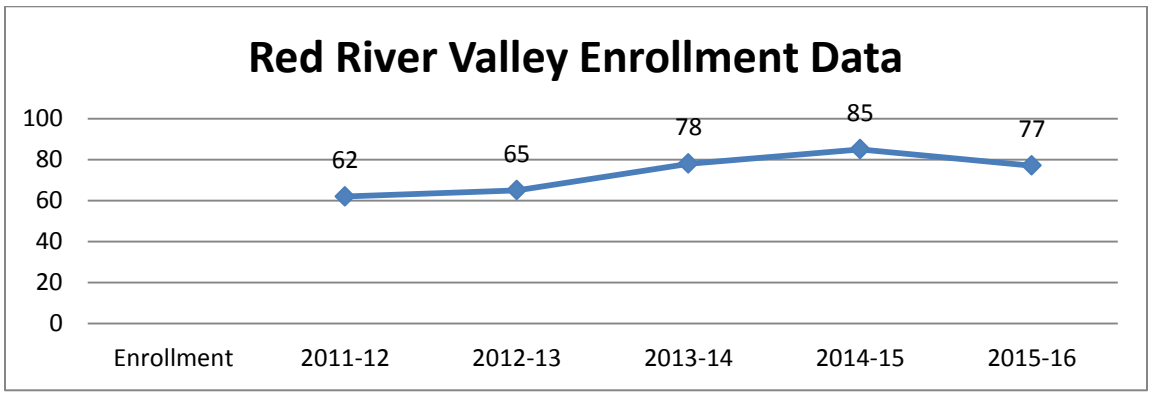


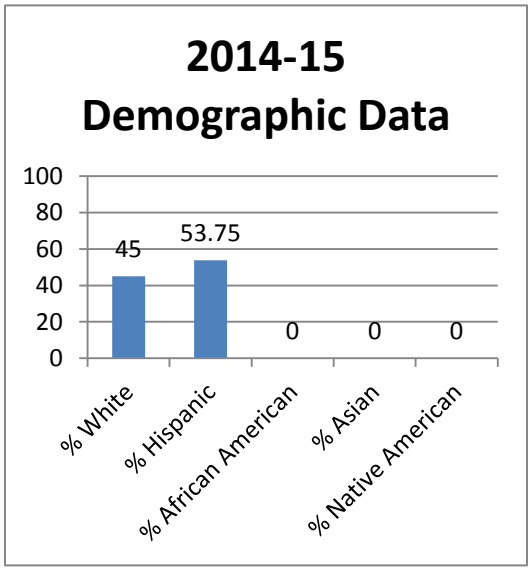
PARCC Data

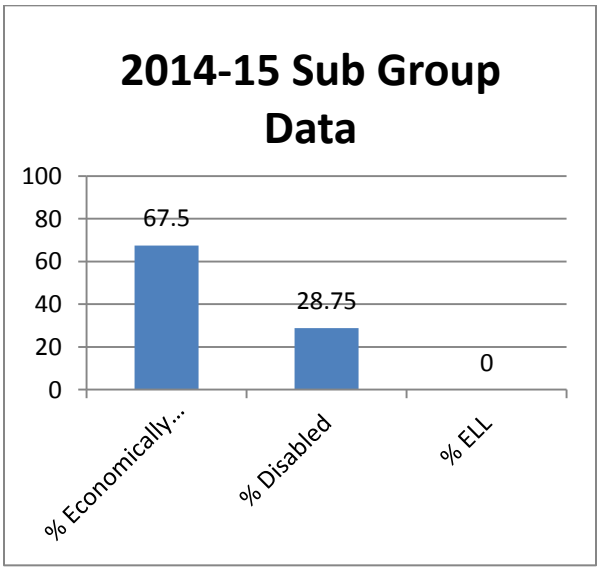
Because the school has such a small population, PARCC data was not publicly available for analysis.

3. Profile

Red River Valley Charter has been open since 2001. The school has seen steady enrollment since 2011 as reflected in the graph below. The school serves a population including 68% economically disadvantaged and 45% white and 54% Hispanic. Approximately 29% of the population has IEPs.
The school's mission: To provide every student the opportunity to develop academically, socially, and physically through quality learning experiences utilizing the Core Knowledge Curriculum.







4. Additional School Choices

School	Distance from School	Economically Disadvantaged ± 5%	Special Education ± 5%	ELL ± 5%	2014 Final Letter Grade
Alta Vista Elementary	12 Miles	Yes	No	No	F
Arroyo Del Norte Elementary	29.6 Miles	Yes	No	Yes	D
Cimarron Elementary	40.9 Miles	Yes	No	Yes	C

5. Statements of Progress

Red River Valley Charter School was required to provide statements of progress for any specific area of the state report card that did not meet a C level for any of the past 3 years and any performance indicator/goal that was not met. The school provided statements of progress which are analyzed following the rubric provided to schools during the final renewal training given by CSD. Red River Valley was required to submit statements of progress for Current Standing and Q1 Performance.

For a school to obtain a "meets" rating in any area of the evaluation the school must sufficiently meet all aspects of the rubric created by CSD and shared with the school. CSD used the evaluation rubric and information obtained from the application and the renewal site visit to compile the following evaluations. Specific comments regarding the aspects of the rubric can be found in the Final Analysis document in this application packet.

Evaluation Summary			
Area: State Report Card	**CSD Evaluation**		
	Meets	**Does Not Meet**	**Falls Far Below**
Current Standing	☐	☒	☐
Q1	☐	☒	☐
Area: Charter Goals	**CSD Evaluation**		
	Meets	**Does Not Meet**	**Falls Far Below**
Goal #2	☐	☒	☐
Goal #4	☐	☒	☐
Goal #5	☐	☒	☐

6. Proposed Motion Language

Motion to Renew without Conditions

Move that the Public Education Commission approve the renewal application Red River Valley Charter School for a term of 5 years. The Commission finds that the applicant has submitted a renewal application that demonstrates:

1. the school has not committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards or procedures set forth in the charter contract, because **[PEC TO PROVIDE REASONS];**

2. the school [**met** OR **made substantial progress toward achievement of the department's standards of excellence or student performance standards identified in the charter contract]**, because **[PEC TO PROVIDE REASONS];**

3. the school met generally accepted standards of fiscal management because **[PEC TO PROVIDE REASONS]**; and

4. the school has not violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not specifically exempted because **[PEC TO PROVIDE REASONS].**

Motion to Renew with Conditions

Move that the Public Education Commission approve the renewal application for Red River Valley Charter School for a term of **[PEC TO PROVIDE]** years with the following conditions:

- **[PEC TO PROVIDE]**

As described in the renewal application and analysis, Red River Valley Charter School has not met the student performance standards identified in the charter contract. Additionally, the school failed to demonstrate it is making substantial progress toward achievement of these academic standards. Further, the school has failed to meet the generally accepted standards of fiscal management and has violated provisions of the law from which the charter school is not exempted.

For these reasons, the Commission has a statutory justification to determine that the charter could be not renewed.

However, because the school has demonstrated some progress, the Public Education Commission is granting a limited term renewal with conditions to allow the charter school a reasonable opportunity to improve the academic, organizational, and financial performance of the school.

Motion for Non-Renewal

Move that the Public Education Commission deny the renewal application for Red River Valley Charter School.

As described in the renewal application and analysis, Red River Valley Charter School has not met the student performance standards identified in the charter contract. Additionally, the school failed to demonstrate it is making substantial progress toward achievement of these academic standards. Further, the school has failed to meet the generally accepted standards of fiscal management and has violated provisions of the law from which the charter school is not exempted. The school's governing body has been aware of the unsatisfactory performance and has had a reasonable opportunity to remedy the problems.

For these reasons, the Commission has a statutory justification to determine that the charter could be not renewed.