Roots and Wings Community School
Renewal Executive Summary

1. Summary

A. Roots and Wings Charter School opened in 2001 as a district authorized charter school with the Questa School District. The school began and remains focused on Expeditionary Learning though at this point they are inspired by Outward Bound rather than full members of the official program. The school has maintained an above average state report card grade over the past years despite high turnover and a rural location. The school has decided to seek its current renewal with the PEC.

B. Performance Summary

The school does not meet academic performance standards. Despite a high grades on the state report card Roots and Wings Community School could not provide evidence it met its charter goals.

The school does not meet operational performance standards. The 2013 audit identified one repeat non-compliance finding. The 2012 audit identified two non-compliance findings.

The school's financial performance does not raise concerns at this time. The charter projected its cash carryover to be $26,812; however, on the final cash report, the charter ended the school year with $57,377.15. An increase of $30,565.15. 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 using records from the school's previous authorizer.

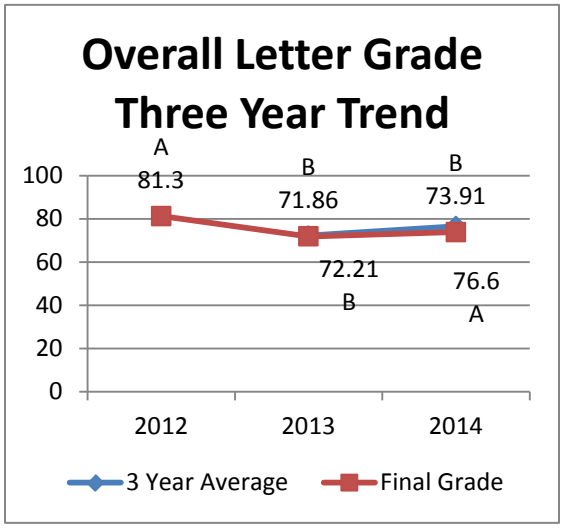
Roots and Wings has had above average performance on the state report card for the past 3 years earning an A average. However, an assessment audit in 2015 raised concerns about the validity of assessment data.

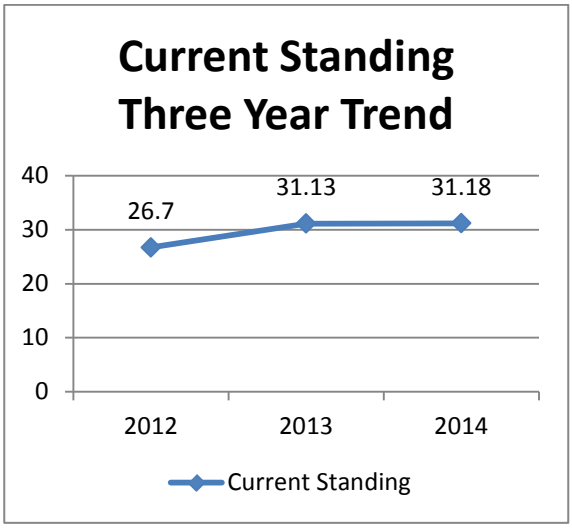
CSD Confirmed 21 charter goals in Roots and Wings contract with Questa School District. The school did not have data to confirm meeting any of the stated goals.

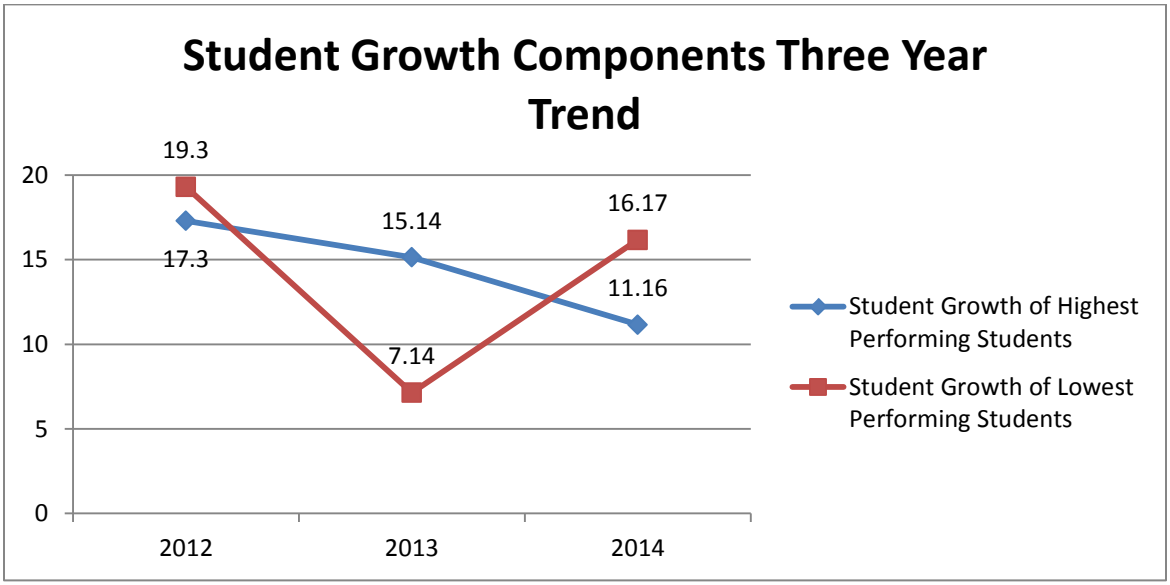
Three year trend data for overall letter grade, current standing, and student growth components is provided below.

Limited information is available about the school's financial performance. The charter projected its cash carryover to be $26,812; however, on the final cash report, the charter ended the school year with $57,377.15. An increase of $30,565.15. The FY16 budget does not reflect phase in grades or growth units.

The school has demonstrated poor organizational performance in the 2013 audits. The 2013 audit identified one repeat non-compliance finding.



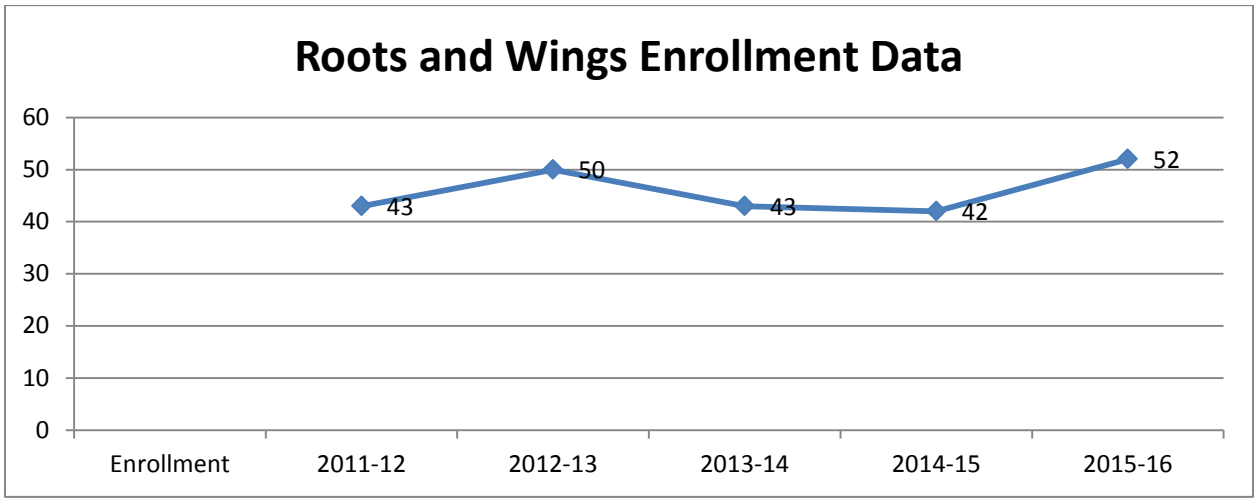


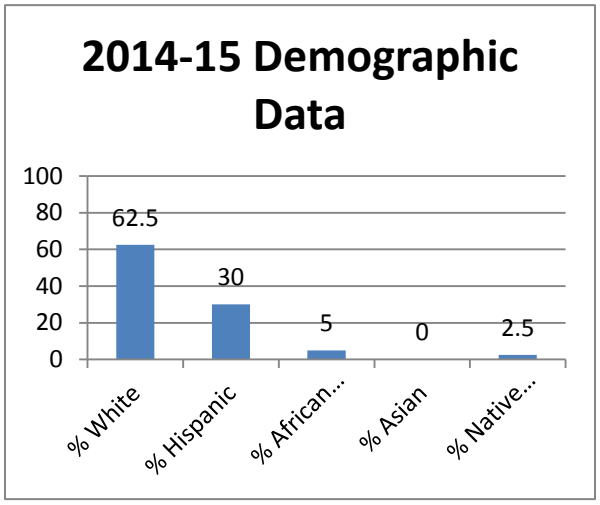


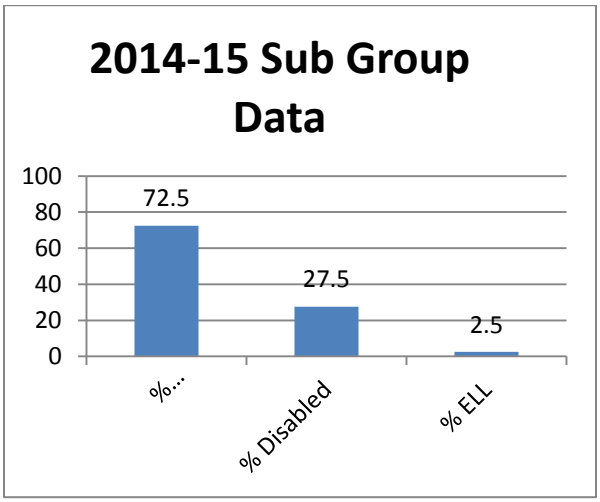
PARCC Data
Because the school has such a small population, PARCC data was not publicly available for analysis.

3. Profile
Roots and Wings Charter School maintains a low enrollment as their cap is 50. It appears that the school has exceeded that enrollment cap in the 2015-16 SY. The school serves a population including 73% economically disadvantaged and 63% White and 30% Hispanic. Just over 28% of the population has IEPs and 3% are ELLs.

The school's mission: Roots and Wings Community school is an Expeditionary Learning School that serves the diverse students of the Upper Rio Grande Valle. Set in a farm and mountain environment, Roots and Wings uses the natural surroundings, active pedagogy and personalized atmosphere to make learning an adventure. The results are students that are engaged, self reflective, and active citizens. The school promotes academic excellence, the fostering of character and service, and students connected to the unique agricultural, cultural and linguistic heritage of Northern New Mexico.







4. Additional School Choices					
School	**Distance from School**	**Economically Disadvantaged ± 5%**	**Special Education ± 5%**	**ELL ± 5%**	**State Grade**
Alta Vista Elementary	5.4 Miles	Yes	No	No	F
Arroyo Del Norte Elementary	21.8 Miles	Yes	No	Yes	D
Enos Garcia Elementary	19.6 Miles	Yes	No	Yes	D

5. Statements of Progress

The school has maintained an above average grade in all remaining areas of the report card over the past 3 years.

The validity of the school's assessment data is unclear, as a 2015 assessment audit uncovered numerous violations of regulations, statutory requirements, and standard protocols for assessment administration. The 2015 assessment audit uncovered a failure to provide annual assessment training to staff, failure to abide by material security requirements, failure to document testing processes or irregularities, failure to document student testing accommodations, student test taker interactions during testing, and student test taker and staff interactions during testing.

Roots and Wings Charter School was only required to submit a statement of progress for the 2013 state report card in the area of Q1 performance. CSD creates its analysis of the statements of progress in accordance with the rubric provided to schools during the final renewal training given by CSD.

Roots and Wings did not provide a statement of progress for the area of Q1 performance for 2013, rather the school indicates that their scores fell without presenting any information about systematic and data related actions the school took as a result of the low grade. Roots and Wings did increase its Q1 score the following year, moving from an F to a C for the 2014 school year. Roots and Wings did not indicate in their statement of progress how they accomplished that score increase.

The school responded to the preliminary analysis of their application with a lengthy explanation of their collection of and monitoring of data. The school provided a sample testing self-analysis that students perform. CSD did not confirm evidence of these practices during the site visit.

Evaluation Summary			
Area: Charter Goals	**CSD Evaluation**		
	Meets	**Does Not Meet**	**Falls Far Below**
Goal #1	☐	☒	☐
Goal #2	☐	☒	☐
Goal #3	☐	☒	☐
Goal #4	☐	☒	☐
Goal #5	☐	☒	☐

CSD Confirmed 21 charter goals in Roots and Wings contract with Questa School District. The school did not have data to confirm meeting any of the stated goals. Roots and Wings Charter School failed to include the entirety of their charter goals in the renewal application. As such, CSD could not analyze the meeting of the goals from the school's previous charter. Roots and Wings school was not able to produce data to validate the goals included in the application, citing that the previous administrator took the data with him.

6. Proposed Motion Language

Motion to Renew without Conditions

Move that the Public Education Commission approve the renewal application for Roots and Wings Community 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 Roots and Wings Community School for a term of **[PEC TO PROVIDE]** years with the following conditions:

- **[PEC TO PROVIDE]**

As described in the renewal application and analysis, Roots and Wings Community 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 high state report card grades, and because the prior authorizer did not provide evidence that is has adequately notified the governing body of the charter school of the unsatisfactory performance with regard to charter goal standards of reporting and provided reasonable opportunity for the governing body to remedy the problem, 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 Roots and Wings Community School.

As described in the renewal application and analysis, Roots and Wings Community 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.