The GREAT Academy
Renewal Executive Summary

1. Summary

A. The GREAT Academy was approved and authorized by the PEC in 2010. The school has been in operation since 2011. This is their first renewal. The school has seen a drop in points earned in all areas of the report card from 2013 to 2014 with the exception of Q1 performance and Opportunity to Learn.

B. **Performance Summary**

The school does not meet academic performance standards. The school's three year trend for the letter grade shows an upward trend with the three year average as a B. The current standing shows a very slight upward trend. The student growth measure for the lowest performing students shows consistent performance, but the student growth measure for Q3 shows an upward trend.

The school did not meet two of the five performance goals in its charter contract.

The school does not meet operational performance standards. The 2013 audit identified one non-compliance finding. This is an improvement over the 2012 audit, which identified one repeat significant deficiency and two repeat non-compliance findings along with four other non-compliance findings, and the 2011 audit which identified two significant deficiencies and one material weakness along with seven non-compliance findings.

The school's financial performance raises some concerns. The charter projected its cash carryover to be $300,000; however, on the final cash report, the charter ended the school year with $265,998.33. A decrease of ($34,001.67). For FY16, the charter anticipated on phasing in grades 6th & 7th. Due to the low enrollment for grade 7th, the charter only phased in grade 6th. For FY16 budget, the charter projected the 40 Day enrollment to be at 220 MEM; however, the actual 40 Day MEM there was 236 MEM enrolled.

2. Performance Analysis

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

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

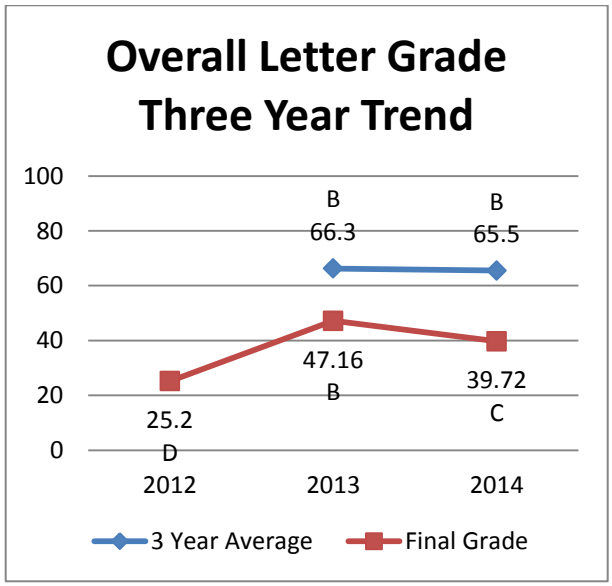
The GREAT Academy has had adequate performance on the state report card for the past 3 years earning a B average in 2014. Three year trend data for overall letter grade, current standing, and student growth components is provided below.

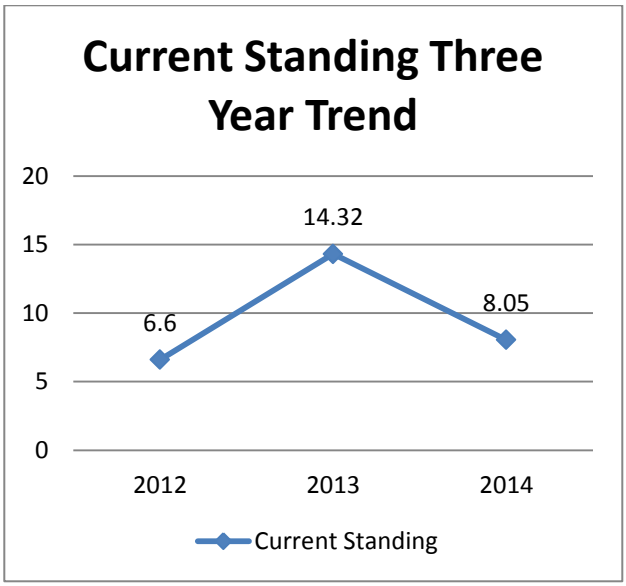
The school is out of compliance academically as a result of failure to meet 2 of 5 charter goals.

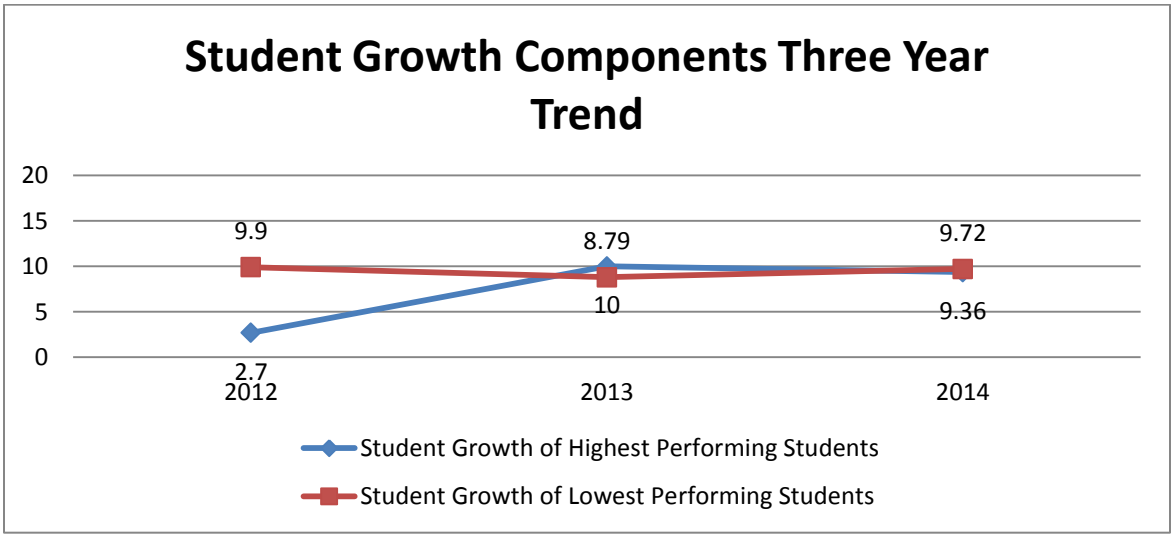
Limited information is available about the school's financial performance. The charter projected its cash carryover to be $300,000; however, on the final cash report, the charter ended the school year with $265,998.33. A decrease of ($34,001.67).

The school has demonstrated poor, but improving organizational performance in the 2011, 2012, and 2013 audits. The 2013 audit identified one non-compliance finding. This is an improvement over the 2012 audit, which identified one repeat significant deficiency and two repeat non-compliance findings along with four other non-compliance findings, and the 2011 audit which identified two significant deficiencies and one material weakness along with seven non-compliance findings.

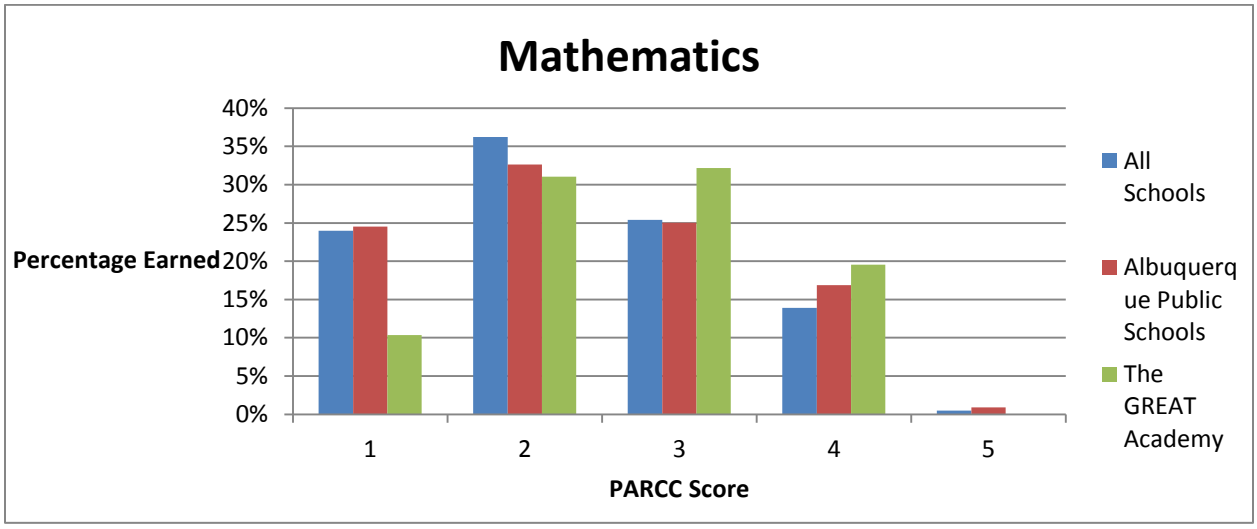
Additionally, CSD did not confirm evidence of the school providing services to ELL students.

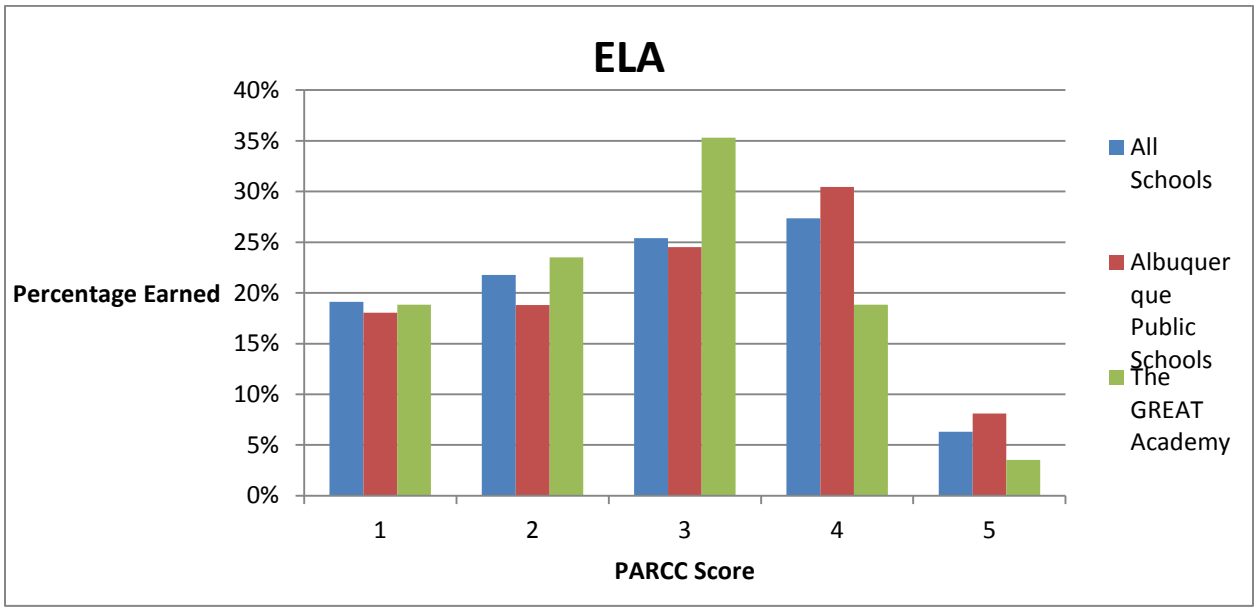






PARCC Data
The GREAT Academy's PARCC scores from the 2015 testing show poor performance in the level of meets expectations in English Language Arts when compared to the state at large and the Albuquerque Public School District. In mathematics the school scored better than the state and district in approaching expectations, a score of 3 and meets expectations, a score of 4. Overall The GREAT Academy performed about the same as their peers for the grades tested.

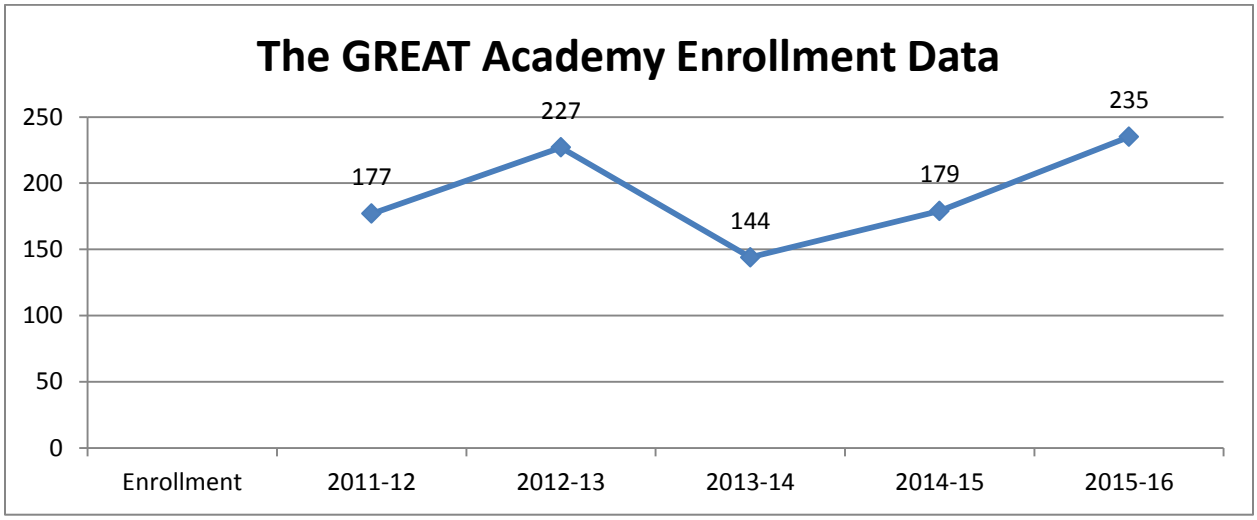


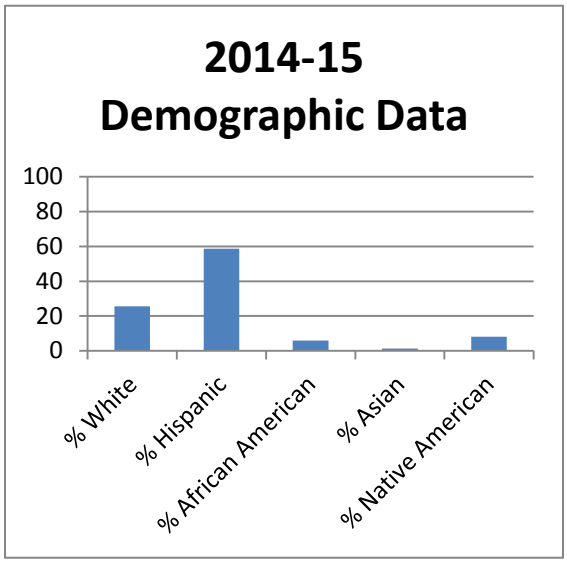


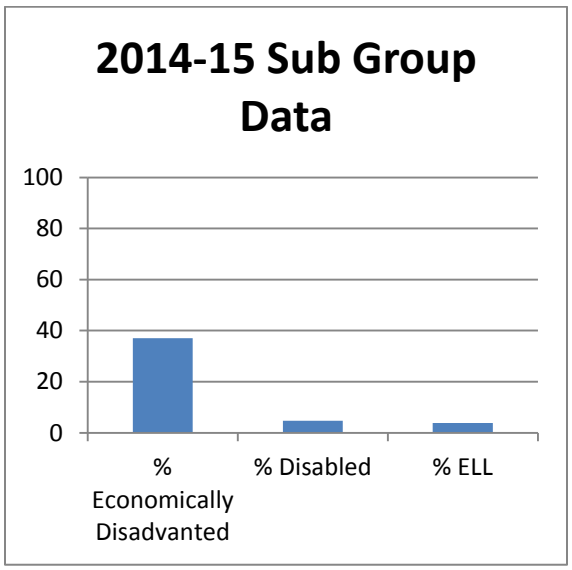
3. Profile

The GREAT Academy is a 6, 9-12 school that has been open since 2011. After a drop in enrollment in the 2013-14 SY the school has seen a steady increase; enrollment is capped at 360. The school serves a population including 37% economically disadvantaged, 58% Hispanic, 25% white, 6% African American, and 8% Native American . Approximately 4% of the population served is ELL and 5% have IEPs.

School's Mission: The GREAT Academy mission is to ensure that all students Gain Real-world Experience through Active Transition.







4. Additional School Choices					
School	**Distance from School**	**Economically Disadvantaged ± 5%**	**Special Education ± 5%**	**ELL ± 5%**	**2014 Final Letter Grade**
Sandia High School	3.8 Miles	Yes	+7%	Yes	A
Albuquerque High School	6.3 Miles	No	No	No	B
Del Norte High School	1.4 Miles	No	No	No	B

5. Statements of Progress

The GREAT Academy 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. Additionally schools were required to create statements of progress for charter goals which they failed to meet. The school provided statements of progress which are analyzed following the rubric provided to schools during the final renewal training given by CSD.

The GREAT Academy was required to submit statements of progress for Final Grade, Current Standing, Q3 Performance. The school did not complete all required statements of progress.

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**
Final grade	☐	☒	☐
Current Standing	☐	☒	☐
Q3	☐	☒	☐
Area: Charter Goals	**CSD Evaluation**		
	Meets	**Does Not Meet**	**Falls Far Below**
Goal #1	☐	☒	☐
Goal #3	☐	☒	☐

6. Proposed Motion Language

Motion to Renew without Conditions

Move that the Public Education Commission approve the renewal application for The GREAT Academy 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 The GREAT Academy for a term of **[PEC TO PROVIDE]** years with the following conditions:

- **[PEC TO PROVIDE]**

As described in the renewal application and analysis, The GREAT Academy 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 adequate academic performance as identified in the letter grades, and because there is not evidence that the school's governing body has been adequately notified of the unsatisfactory performance 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 The GREAT Academy .

As described in the renewal application and analysis, The GREAT Academy 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.