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To: New Mexico Public Education Commission
From: Dr. Arrow Wilkinson, WHCS Executive Director
C.C.: K. Sando, WHCS Governing Board President, S. Valverde, WHCS G.B. Member.
WHCS Faculty, NMPED Charter School Division.
Date: February 11, 2025
Re: PEC Notification-January 25, 2025

The following information is in response to the PEC Notification letter dated January 25, 2025 regarding Unsatisfactory performance of the Walatowa High Charter School.

Educational Context:

Walatowa High Charter School (WHCS) serves grades 9-12 and is situated on the Pueblo of Jemez Indian Nation, the world's sole Towa-speaking community, where the language is 100 % orally preserved. With the unwritten language, 100% of our students are English Language Learners (ELL) and begin their academic journey from a Towa-speaking, 100% language-immersion Head Start program.

Unlike other school districts with a K-12 model, WHCS does not benefit from the elementary-to-middle school transition. WHCS receives transfer students from various high schools and middle schools, with the majority transitioning from San Diego Riverside Charter School (SDRCS). This influx results in different levels of academic rigor and curricula, creating inconsistencies in scholastic preparation and knowledge gaps.

When a student enters Walatowa, diagnostic assessment platforms other than SAT are implemented to identify baseline reading and math levels. IXL; Discovery Education: Reading Plus/Dreambox Math; NewsELA/Formative and Accuplacer. Assessment data results are disaggregated and utilized to make educational accountability decisions: Layer I and Layer 2 strategies; data-driven instruction; differentiated instruction; high impact tutoring; Marzano's

High-Yield Instructional Strategies; Social Emotional Learning; and accommodations/modifications for each student.

In 2024, San Diego Riverside Charter School (SDRCS) requested the assistance of WHCS in the creation of a Strategic Academic Improvement Plan for SDRCS. Strategic plan information was based on assessment data and a root cause analysis survey. Baseline diagnostic testing for SDRCS students in Grades 6-8 was conducted at the end of SY 2023-24. The data demonstrated the following:

1. 64% of 8th-grade students are three or more grade levels below proficiency in English
2. 90% of 8th-grade students are > 2 or more grade levels below proficiency in Math.

The root cause analysis identified additional factors contributing to the student skill deficits at SDRCS:

1. High turnover rates among certified middle school teachers and school leadership
2. Inconsistencies in the math and ELA curriculum and the transition between elementary and middle school
3. Inconsistent student support services
4. Inconsistent implementation of Layer I and Layer II intervention programs
5. Inconsistent SEL support

I. Unsatisfactory performance:

- The following uncorrected unsatisfactory performance has been identified: Students fall far below Mission-Specific Indicator: SAT: Cohorts 1 & 2.

1. Mission-Specific Indicator: Reading Proficiencies & 2. Mission - Specific Indicator: Math Proficiencies

For SY 2022-2027, WHCS Full Academic Year (FAY) students will track and improve in reading and math proficiency rates for two distinct cohorts until graduation as measured by the SAT which will be administered two times during each school year.

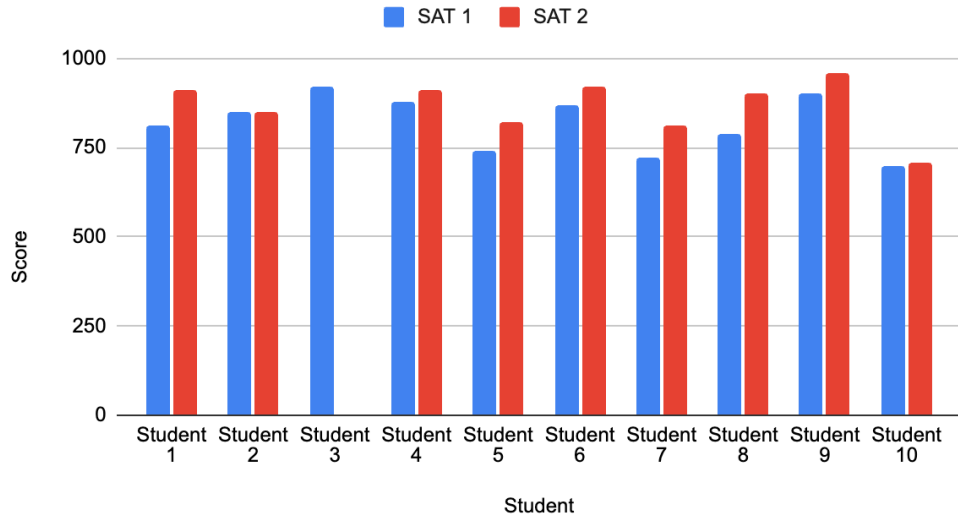
- Cohort 1: Juniors who began their 9th-grade year enrolled at the school and attended the school each of the following years.
- Cohort 2: Students who enrolled in the school after freshman year.

College Board 2021 SAT results show that American Indian & Alaskan Natives residing in NM had an average score of 887 on the SAT:

<https://reports.collegeboard.org/pdf/2021-new-mexico-sat-suite-assessments-annual-report.pdf>

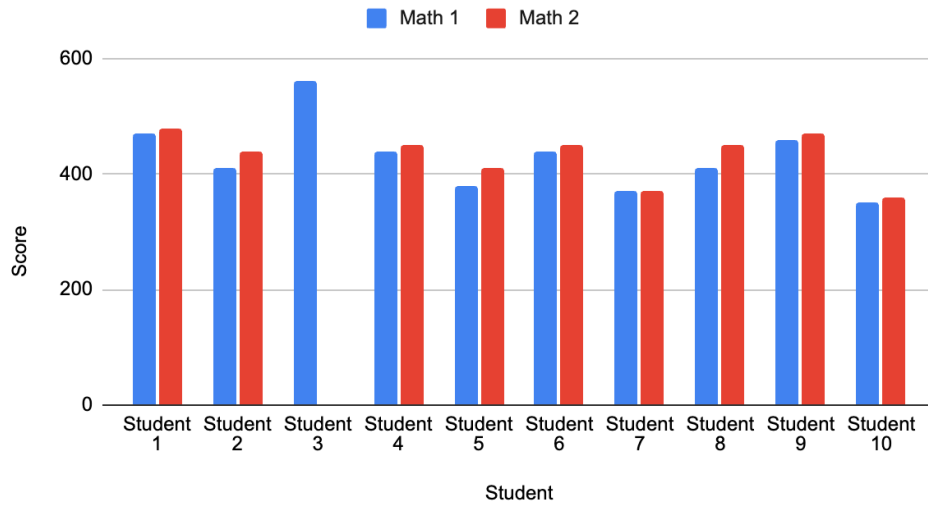
2023-2024 SAT Student Data:

SAT 1 and SAT 2

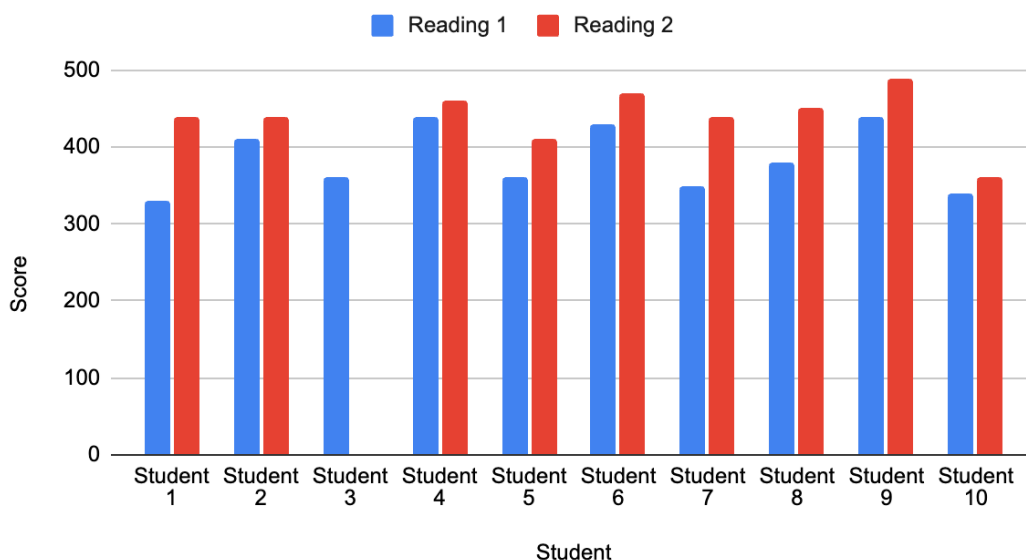


60% of the students scored >887. Qualified for dual credit enrollment.

Math 1 and Math 2



Reading 1 and Reading 2



*** 20% scored above the individual SAT math >390 and reading >330 to qualify for dual credit enrollment based on CNM Placement guide in both math and ELA courses.**

*** 20% of students scored into ELA only dual credit courses.**

*** 100% of students met one requirement for dual credit enrollment.**

According to our data, our students met the primary mission-specific indicators of improvement in reading and math proficiency rates as measured by the SAT even though as a whole they may not have reached the average SAT score for American Indian & Alaskan Natives residing in NM. It is essential to emphasize the significant individual growth of our students. These individual scores are crucial indicators of students' ability to participate in dual-credit courses to promote college and career readiness, one of the hallmarks of our mission. These programs provide invaluable opportunities to earn college or career credits while still in high school. This can greatly enhance their future educational and career prospects, as well as their persistence in pursuing higher education or career opportunities.

The unrecognized academic growth at Walatowa High Charter School underscores the importance of evaluating more than just average SAT scores. In addition to SAT, WHCS utilizes disaggregated data from an additional college placement assessment platform such as Accuplacer to measure academic gains and college/career course placement.

Discrepancy between SAT and Accuplacer scores: % Growth

100% of our students are English Language Learners (ELL) with Towa as their first language. The SAT includes sections that require higher levels of language proficiency and more extensive reading comprehension skills. The Accuplacer presents questions in a more straightforward manner, which can be

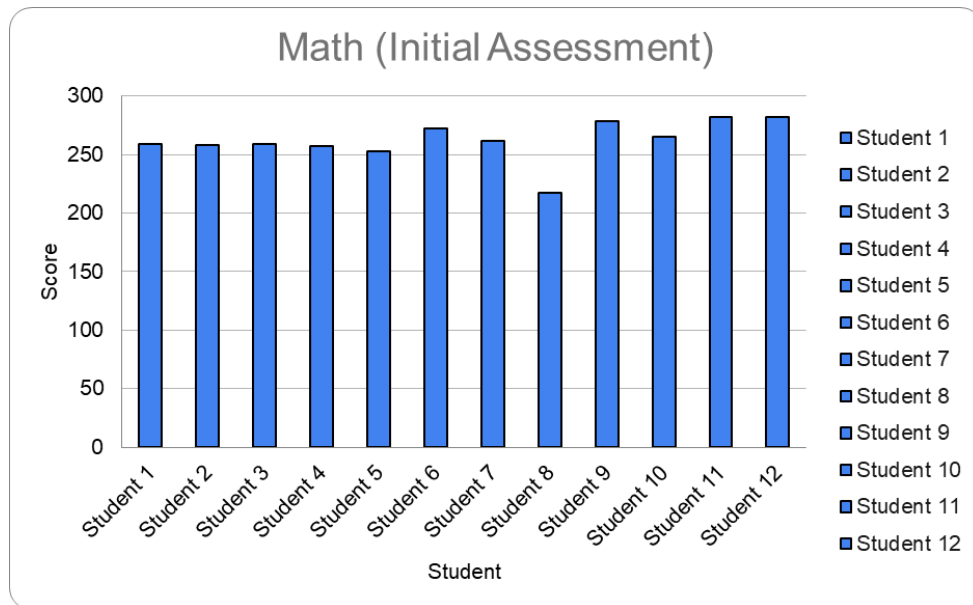
less challenging for ELL students. The test's format presents fewer language barriers compared to the SAT, making it a more equitable assessment of our students. Therefore, our educational programs place a stronger emphasis on the skills assessed by the Accuplacer. Accuplacer is developed and administered by the College Board, the same organization that makes the SAT and AP tests. Accuplacer is most often administered by colleges who want to ensure students are ready for college or the level of college classes to ascertain preparedness for specific college classes.

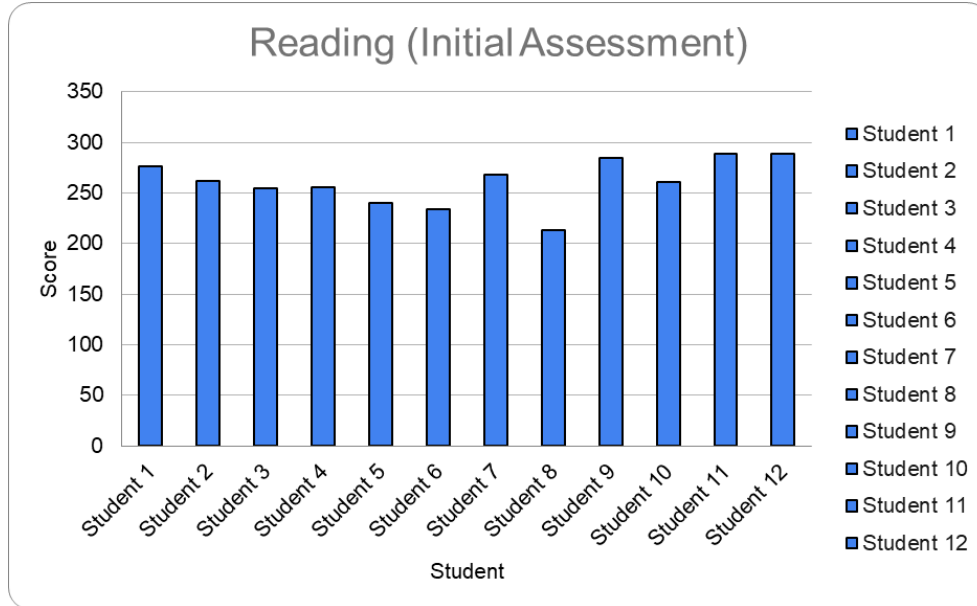
3. WHCS Mission-Specific Indicator: Accuplacer: Cohort 1 & 2

For SY 2022-2027, WHCS Full Academic Year (FAY) students, (Cohort 2), will earn a Score of 252 or higher on Accuplacer NG-Reading and Math or they will increase their score from the year before by 5% during the fall of their senior year.

Cohort 2: Seniors who enrolled in the school after freshman year and have attended the school for a full year from the date of enrollment

2023-2024 Accuplacer Data





***66.7% qualified to enroll in dual credit courses based on their reading and math Scores.**

***16.7% qualified in math dual credit courses.**

***8.33% qualified for ELA dual credit courses**

***1 student did not qualify but made significant progress.**

*** 91.6% students qualify to enroll dual credit courses.**

WHCS students exhibit a positive educational upward trend upon enrollment through graduation due in large part to their participation in data-driven instruction provided by instructors with 21+ years of experience along with Layer I and Layer 2 interventions, SEL opportunities, dual credit career programs, Heritage language/cultural course, and tribal program support (JHHS Behavioral Health, Community Wellness and Social Services).

College admissions departments view these trends as positive indicators of potential success, and persistence in higher education. These achievements are a testament to the hard work, resilience, and dedication at Walatowa High Charter School, which has accordingly been recognized with the Spotlight School distinction.

II. Unsatisfactory performance - 5b-(2) material weakness 5c (1) repeat.

WHCS Corrective Action Plan Response was provided to Sheila Quintana-Filosa CPA, Clifton Larson Allen LLP Director and implemented by WHCS in 2024-2025 school year.

Unsatisfactory performance -5.e. CSD was not able to locate the updated CPO license in the New Mexico Chief Procurement Officer List.

Please review the following NM State Purchasing Division - New Mexico Chief Procurement Officer List:

Dr. Arrow Wilkinson. Walatowa High Charter School

<https://www.generalservices.state.nm.us/state-purchasing/chief-procurement-officer/chief-procurement-officer-list/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the New Mexico Chief Procurement Officer List. The page has a dark blue header with the New Mexico General Services Department logo and navigation links. Below the header is a yellow navigation bar with links for Facilities Management, Printing & Graphics, Purchasing, Risk Management & Health Benefits, Surplus Property, and Transportation. The main content area is white and features a search bar with the text 'walatowa' and a blue 'Search' button. Below the search bar is a table with the following data:

Agency Name	First Name	Last Name	Title	Registration Date
WALATOWA HIGH CHARTER SCHOOL	DR. ARROW	WILKINSON	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	4/15/2019