



Sylmar High School

Board District 6 (Martinez) | Local District 2 (Pena-Sanchez)

Sylmar High School (Lyons).....	REWRITE
Sylmar Promise Academies (YPI).....	APPROVED

RATIONALE

Sylmar High School (Lyons)

- The proposal does not show a sense of urgency around improving student achievement nor does it introduce new ideas or an overall reform strategy that will yield better results than have already been achieved. The plan celebrates last year’s 35-point increase in the Academic Performance Index (API) score, but offers no analysis of or plan for how the school will continue to improve.
- The plan describes in general terms the need and intent to utilize Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (S.D.A.I.E.) strategies and differentiation as an instructional strategy, but provides very limited information on which and how those strategies will be implemented and how their usage will be monitored.
- While there have been increases in the Academic Performance Index (API) score over the last several years, proficiency rates remain very low, especially in Math. The team does not offer a plan for improving proficiency in math.
- The PD plan lacks detail and connection to the needs of students. The plan overly emphasized the need for students to have higher expectations for themselves, but does not speak to the need for teachers to have higher expectations for the students.

Sylmar Promise Academies (Youth Policy Institute)

- The proposal is well-written and includes a very strategic, detailed and research-based instructional plan. The proposal focuses on implementing a Linked Learning approach as a comprehensive high school reform strategy and aims to prepare students for careers in two industry sectors – health/medical and media arts.
- The plan includes innovative approaches to integrating technology into the learning environment such as partnering with Khan Academy, a free online-learning community that provides free micro lectures. It is unclear, however, how such technology will be integrated into the overall instructional program.

NEXT STEPS

Sylmar High School (Lyons)

- Approval is contingent upon the enactment by UTLA of all waivers requested by the design team.
- The team must rewrite and resubmit a proposal to the Office of Intervention and Intensive Support that:
 - Includes a more rigorous and deliberate focus on the instructional plan that demonstrates a sense of urgency to improve student learning and accelerate academic achievement for all students. The proposal must specifically spell out the instructional strategies that will support the overall instructional program;
 - A plan for accelerating achievement in mathematics; and
 - Includes a detailed plan for professional development that supports the instructional program, connects to the needs of students and pays special attention to how they are going to support teachers to implement these strategies across grade level and content areas.
- The team must work in conjunction with the other school(s) on campus to develop a campus-level Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to govern the management of critical operations aspects of the campus such as how students will choose among the schools on the campus. It is important to note that no decisions impacting the campus shall be made unilaterally until this agreement is finalized.



- The Magnet School Office will work with the school to double the size of the current math and science magnet program over the next several years as well as launch a new leadership magnet program that will begin in the 2013-2014 school year and grow one grade at a time. Over time, these magnet programs will transition into independent schools
- The deadline to submit all revisions is no later than **5:00 PM on April 27, 2012**. Detailed information will be provided to the design team via a letter from the PSC team. Additionally, a representative from the Intensive Support and Intervention Team or the Superintendent's Office will be assigned to support you as you consider the additional information that must be submitted.
- Further details regarding upcoming support activities including, but not limited to scheduling follow-up parent meetings, dates of upcoming workshops, implementation support over the summer, etc., will be communicated to the team by the PSC Team in the coming weeks.

Sylmar Promise Academies (Youth Policy Institute)

- Approval is contingent upon the enactment by UTLA of all waivers requested by the design team.
- Youth Policy Institute (YPI) will be invited to open one small school on the Sylmar High School campus with a capped enrollment of 500 students. If YPI does not accept the offer, then Sylmar HS will operate with more students.
- The teams must work in conjunction with the other school(s) on campus to develop a campus-level Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to govern the management of critical operations aspects of the campus such as how students will choose among the schools on the campus. It is important to note that no decisions impacting the campus shall be made unilaterally until this agreement is finalized.
- Further details regarding upcoming support activities including, but not limited to scheduling follow-up parent meetings, dates of upcoming workshops, implementation support over the summer, etc., will be communicated to the team by the PSC Team in the coming weeks.