



# Public School Choice 3.0 Proposal Review - Site Summary

## Reviews for: Sylmar High School

Reviewer	Recommended?	Comments
Reviewer A	YES	I believe Sylmar High School Applicant Team has outlined a list of programs and strategies that will bring success to the school and community. For example, the implementation of the 2x8 Block Schedule, Professional Development, Teachers reflection logs, and the community partnerships are all commendable.
Reviewer B	YES	The school has come together as a collaborative team to solidify their common practice around a clear vision and mission that will prepare there student community to be productive citizens for the 21st century. Staff will commit to common strategies of SDAIE methodology in all classes, Differentiation, Project Based Learning and a focus on meeting the needs of English Learners, special needs children and all children. In addition, staff will commit to the success and well being of all of their students. They are focused on the whole child experience putting in safety nets that include the community and supports for the internal systems already in place at the school. The governance plan is in place and the infrastructure should support the plan proposal.
<b>Applicant Sylmar HS (Lyons)</b>	NO	My overall concern is that the plan drafted by Sylmar teachers did not introduce new ideas and an overall reform strategy that would yield better results than have already been achieved. The plan describes in general terms the need and intent to utilize SDAIE strategies and differentiation as an instructional strategy but provides very few specifics for which and how these strategies will be implemented and their usage will be monitored. The school has embraced utilizing PLCs as a structure to improving the quality of instruction. There is some evidence that the school is using data to inform their work but overall lacks detail. In regards to assessments, the school’s assessment plan lacks detail on how school based assessments are developed, how they are implemented, how the data is collected and what occurs after the results are reviewed. The school’s professional development plan lacks specific references to the needs of the students, lacks specific SDAIE strategies the school will utilize despite the fact they were included in the overall instructional plan. The plan does not reflect a sense of urgency about improving student achievement. It celebrates a recent API increase without deeply determining what the remaining student needs are and how the school will continue to improve. In the Performance Plan, growth goals were set very low with only a 2.2% point increase in students scoring Proficient or Advanced in English. The plan aims to create a culture of high expectations for students but not as much for the adults. The plan provides no evidence for how the staff will adhere to higher expectations on improving instruction. Lastly, while the concept of parent involvement is referred to throughout the plan, there is no significant evidence of a clear strategic plan to consistently and meaningfully engage parents. For example, on p.35, the plan states that the school will invite parents to provide feedback on the school’s professional development practices. A concern is that very few parents would generally have the training to provide meaningful feedback.

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<b>Applicant Sylmar Promise Academies (YPI)</b>	Reviewer A	NO	YPI network has set forth a good plan to support the school and enhance the instructional development of the school. Although a thorough and good plan, the plan does not suggest that they could do it better than the existing school community that has an equally good plan.
	Reviewer B		<i>Reviewer B did not complete a review of this plan.</i>
	Reviewer C	YES	The plan overall was very well written with specific strategic detail its instructional plan. The plan focuses on implementing a Linked Learning approach as a comprehensive high school reform strategy. It will focus on preparing students to be prepared in two industry sectors: 1) health-medical and 2) media arts. A clear research base is described in the plan that provides their justification for utilizing such an approach. The plan includes innovative approaches to integrating technology such as utilizing the Khan Academy, a free online-learning community that provides free micro lectures. However, the plan lacks specificity on how such technology will actually be integrated into their overall instructional plan. The plan includes a strategy to prepare and certify administrators for classroom observation using the iObservation technology tool as part of an overall educator growth plan. A highlight is that YPI has extensive experience and the capacity to support the work at Sylmar HS. Although the data analysis was extensive and key findings were made in identifying mathematics learning as a major issue at Sylmar HS, the instructional plan lack substance that described specific strategies for improving the mathematics instruction at Sylmar HS. Lastly, the plan contained what appeared to be two errors in strategy: 1.) A plan was included to seek WASC accreditation, but the school currently is accredited. 2.) Although the enrollment for Sylmar HS is dropping, in 2010-11 the enrollment was 3491 students. The plan states that all students will be served by two SLCs with about 500 students.