



Los Angeles Unified School District
Charter Schools Division
Organizing and Guiding Principles for Determining Benchmarks

The following are guiding principles to help determine possible benchmarks for renewing charter schools. This is not an exhaustive list and does not encompass every possible situation. Benchmarks are established and issued based on a charter school's performance outcomes, and oversight record during the term of the charter including, but not limited to the following:

- If a charter school is below the state averages in DFS, both schoolwide and for the majority of its numerically significant subgroups, then a benchmark could be issued. Consideration should also be given to:
 - How far away is the school from the state's DFS (schoolwide and subgroup)?
 - What performance level was attained by the school (schoolwide and subgroup)?
 - What trends are indicated by the charter school's Change Levels (schoolwide and subgroup)?
- If a charter school is lower than the state, schoolwide and for all subgroups, the benchmark may be written as "Schoolwide and for all numerically significant subgroups".
- If a charter school's schoolwide and subgroups' DFS is close to the state's DFS (single digit from the state) but still below the state, then review Change Level. If the Change Level is Declined or Declined Significantly for the majority of subgroups then a benchmark could be issued.
- If a charter school is at or above standard (net positive), schoolwide and for the majority of subgroups (above state subgroup and the standard), but one or more subgroups are lower (indicating an achievement gap) a benchmark may be issued if the following conditions are true of the lower performing subgroup(s):
 - Lower DFS than the school
 - Below the standard
 - Lower DFS than the state's subgroup DFS
 - (Also consider Change Levels)
- If a charter school's schoolwide DFS is lower than the state, but the majority of subgroups are above state's subgroup DFS, this may not lead to a schoolwide benchmark. However, if one or more subgroups are lower than the state's subgroups, a subgroup benchmark may be issued if the following conditions are true of the lower performing subgroup(s):
 - Lower than the state subgroup
 - The subgroup Performance Level is Red
- A charter school may be issued a benchmark in any area of concern based on the review of the charter school's record of performance including but not limited to: fiscal management, reclassification rate of English Learners, governance concerns, and operational issues to name a few.