



Valley Region Span K-8 #1

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

Sylmar Leadership Academy (LD 2).....	PROVISIONAL APPROVAL
Sylmar STEM Academy (DREAMS).....	REJECTED

RATIONALE

Sylmar Leadership Academy (LD 2)

- This plan had a well-organized approach to instruction that permeated throughout the plan. Students at this school will be organized into personal learning environments, or Houses, with service learning as a key component of their instructional program.
- Lesson Study will be a critical part of the professional development. Weekly reverse minimum days will allow for professional development sessions in the mornings.
- While the vision emphasizes that the school will ensure that all students are college-prepared career-ready life-long learners; it is hard to understand what is unique about this school in comparison to other schools that also have this same vision. The team did not clearly outline what students will know and be able to do upon matriculation toward the end of the goals of developing leadership and a sense of community responsibility, which are stated as key elements to be woven throughout the school at large.
- There are three systemic approaches that will drive the instructional program: data-based decision making, personalized learning environments (PLE) and service-based learning; however, it is unclear how data-analysis, which is an integral component of the school’s instructional approach, will drive what the school does throughout the year beyond the 3-day professional development period planned prior to the start of the school year.
- The mission statement identifies specific staff goals about creating service-learning opportunities, adult mentorships, and peer to peer mentorship between older and younger students.

Sylmar STEM Academy (DREAMS)

- Despite being a thoughtful plan that includes personalized learning environments, project-based learning, interdisciplinary instruction and a focus on math, science, and engineering, the DREAMS plan lacked a clear STEM focus and the engineering component was underdeveloped.
- Much of the plan seemed to focus on the middle school portion of the school instead of the entire grade span.

NEXT STEPS

- Approval is contingent upon the enactment by UTLA of all waivers requested by the design team.
- Clarification required. The team must provide further details regarding the leadership component of the plan and explain how leadership skills and values will truly be developed among the young students at this school.
- Once the team provides the clarification requested above and the update is approved by the Superintendent, the Sylmar Leadership Academy (LD 2) will be approved to operate on the Valley Region Span K-8 #1 campus. Over the next two years, LAUSD’s Magnet School Office will work with the school to develop it into a high-performing span K-8 magnet school focused on leadership development.
- 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.