



## **Chico Country Day School Renewal Petition for 2020-2025**

The Chico Unified Educational Services Team has reviewed the renewal petition for Chico Country Day School. The following is an overview of our findings for the renewal petition for 2020-2025.

### **Educational Program:**

Chico Country Day clearly described their comprehensive educational program. CCDS has a clear mission and vision for the school. Attendance requirements are clearly addressed. Their goals clearly reflect what it means to be college and career-ready. The renewal petition describes their academic program with great detail and highlights their Project-Based Learning program. The school reports that students lead their conferences and IEPs, which we believe is a positive practice. Also included in the renewal petition is how the school's academic program could address the academic needs of English Learners and Students with Disabilities. The petition clearly describes how it will inform parents about the transferability of courses to high schools.

**Measurable Student Outcomes** - Chico Country Day clearly defines desired student outcomes. These are aligned with their Local Control and Accountability Plan and include chronic absenteeism rate, suspension rate, expulsion rate, attendance rate, social-emotional measures and academic indicators. In addition to state testing, AIMSWEB is administered as a benchmark assessment three times per year. Students also take part in a school-wide exhibition during which they demonstrate their learning to the school community. Chico Country Day administers a Student Risk Screening Scale three times per year to identify behavioral challenges. Time for staff data analysis and planning based on the data collected from all measures is described.

**Student Progress Measurement** - Chico Country Day administers all state required assessments. In addition, the school administers local measures as indicated in the previous section. Desired performance levels are clearly defined.

### **Governance Structure:**

Chico Country Day governance structure and operations are clearly described. They operate as a non-profit public benefit corporation and the renewal petition includes evidence that the school's governance structure includes the required elements of

compliance with meeting requirements, reasonable conflict of interest policy, and appropriate size/composition of board members and/or advisory councils. There is a plan for involvement or input of parents/guardians in the governance of the school.

**Employee Qualifications:**

The school meets all requirements for hiring and staff qualified teachers. All teachers hold appropriate Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificates. There is a clear plan for recruitment and evaluation of the staff, including the school leader. Additionally, there is an approved and public organizational chart delineating board roles and lines of authority.

**Health and Safety:**

CCDS meets all requirements for health and safety. Every employee at the school has cleared all background checks and proof of tuberculosis examination. Staff members also annually have the Mandated Child Abuse Reportings and natural disaster and emergencies (fire/earthquake) drills/practices. Chico Country Day has a comprehensive School Safety Plan that addresses all necessary elements. These elements include safety issues, discrimination and harassment. All emergency procedures are addressed including evacuation.

**Racial and Ethnic Balance:**

One area of concern is the lack of diversity on campus. The demographic make-up of students does not reflect the demographics of Chico Unified. This has been an on-going discussion between Chico Unified and Country Day for many years. It is important to note that both Chico Unified and Country Day have expressed concern about this. It is our recommendation that the school matches the student demographics, including, but not limited to, socio-economic status, racial, language, foster youth, homeless and students with disabilities.

**CCDS Enrollment:**

English Learners	0.4%	(2 students)
Foster Youth	0.0%	(0 students)
Homeless	1.4%	(8 students)
Migrant Education	0.0%	(0 students)
Students with Disabilities	8.2%	(46 students)
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	22.4%	(125 students)

Total Number of Students: 558

\*Source: DataQuest, 2018-19 Census Day

**Chico Unified School District Enrollment:**

English Learners	5.8%
Foster Youth	0.8%
Homeless	2.3%
Migrant Education	0.1%
Students with Disabilities	13.6%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	49.2%

Total Number of Students: 12,242

\*Source: CALPADS, 2018-19 Census Day

**Suspension and Expulsion:**

Chico Country Day's renewal petition describes the suspension and expulsion policies and procedures. Country Day understands relevant laws protecting the constitutional rights of students and provides for due process for all students and demonstrates understanding of the rights of students with disabilities in regard to suspension and expulsion.

**Staff Retirement System:**

The Country Day staff does participate in STRS/PERS and/or Social Security. The charter renewal does outline a process to settle disputes, both internally and externally. The petition does acknowledge that except those disputes between the district and the school, all disputes involving the school shall be resolved by the school according to the school's own internal policies. Country Day is the employer of record for the Educational Relations Act (EERA). The renewal petition does include describing attendance alternatives for students residing within the county who choose not to attend charter schools. CCDS does not operate under a Collective Bargaining Agreement. The petition addresses employee return rights, sick/vacation leave, and earning service credit while at the charter school.

**Finance:**

All annual auditing procedures meet requirements and their financial plan meets expectations. Additionally, the renewal petition clearly addresses all of the pieces for their annual operating budget. Costs of all major items are identified and within reasonable market ranges. Revenue assumptions are in line with state and federal funding guidelines. Annual operating budget items meet the required standard. Annual revenues and expenditures are identified by source and expenditure assumptions

reflect the school design plan. The strong reserve or projected ending balance meets requirements. CCDS's long-term plan meets requirements as well.

**Special Education:**

Chico Country Day's renewal petition includes reference to Ed Code, Section 504 Act and Title II and SELPA policy in relation to procedures and processes that guide their special education program. Chico Country Day understands the relevant laws protecting the rights of students with disabilities and can identify the SELPA policy. Diane Olsen met with CCDS to get further clarification related to the process of how Chico Country Day notifies the authorizing school district when a special education student enrolls, becomes eligible, ineligible or leaves the district and describes the transition to or from district when a student with an IEP enrolls in or transfers out of the charter school. This is their response -

*As their own LEA, Chico Country Day School collaborates with the district of residence and authorizing school district regarding special education students. CCDS notifies the district and sets up transition IEP meetings when students are moving on to district high school programs. CCDS communicates with district staff (and attends when invited) IEP meetings for students entering Kindergarten. When students leave the charter school, CCDS communicates with the district as appropriate.*

Diane concurs that this is the process that they have been implementing.