

**ACE Charter School
2011-12 Annual Charter School Report
to the
Santa Clara County Board of Education**



**Submitted by Greg Lippman, Executive Director
January 11, 2012**

Highlights

1. The most important highlight was the strong performance by ACE 8th graders, especially English Learners on the 2011 CST. While ACE's overall 8th grade proficiency numbers were good, especially in Algebra, it is a particular highlight for ACE that over 40% of the students who scored Proficient in Algebra had previously scored Far Below Basic or Below Basic.
2. ACE also secured financing for new campus, including a \$1M grant from the San Jose Redevelopment Agency.
3. The school's instructional team led a successful implementation of new English Language Development strategies in all classrooms after an 8-day professional development seminar over the summer.

NOTE: While it is not an accomplishment of the middle school per se, ACE also had the organizational milestone of having its first high school approved by the East Side Union School District on November 17th, 2011.

School Location and Facility

Where is your campus located?

The campus is located at 480 McCreery Avenue in the Alum Rock School District

What is your current facility arrangement?

ACE has a split facility, with 6 classrooms leased from a local church, and 9 classrooms leased from the Alum Rock School District on the Chavez elementary school site.

What is the capacity of your facility?

The facility's capacity is 375 students.

Does your facility have any special features?

There are none.

If you lease your facility, what is the length of the lease?

ACE has a year-to-year lease. Please note that we will be moving into a permanent facility in Fall 2012.

If you have purchased your facility, when did you purchase it?

N/A

Enrollment/Registration

What is your school's current enrollment and ethnic /racial demographics?

The schools current enrollment is 355 students. The demographic breakdown is:

- 93% Latino
- 3% African-American
- 3% Asian
- 1% Other

Describe your Enrollment/Recruitment Plan, including the number of applications you received disaggregated by the student's district of residence.

ACE recruits at organizations in and around the Mayfair such as churches, community centers, charter schools such as Rocketship, etc. ACE parents also do a great deal of one-on-one and small-group recruitment.

Applications Received

	Alum Rock	Berryessa	Evergreen	Franklin-McKinley	Morgan Hill	Mt. Pleasant	Oak Grove	San Jose	TOTAL
5th	38		1	12	1	1		3	56
6th	86	2	4	13		1	2	18	126
7th	63	1	5	10		3	3	11	98
8th	58	2	3	10	1	3	2	2	81
TOTAL	245	5	13	45	2	8	7	34	351

Describe the socioeconomic status of your students (e.g., participants in free or reduced-price lunch, parent education level)

94% of ACE students qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch.

What are the retention and attrition rates for students?

In 2010-11, ACE had a 14% attrition rate.

Teachers and Classified Staff

Describe the demographics of the administrative, teaching, and classified staff.

ACE's staff demographics, including all site-based and central office staff, is the following:

- 46% Latino
- 38% White
- 16% Asian or East Asian

What are the retention and attrition rates for teachers?

In 2011, ACE retained 11 of 12 teachers.

What is the salary schedule for administrators, teachers, and classified staff?

The salary schedule for teachers starts at \$47,000, and has a step salary structure moving forward that caps at Year 12. Classified staff salary ranges from the low 30's to the high 60's, and administrator salaries range from the low 70's to slightly over 100K.

Board Members

ACE Charter School Board of Directors

	Years Served
Tamara Alvarado Director of Multicultural Leadership, 1st Act Silicon Valley	4 years
Jonathan D. Hicks Attorney, Hoge Fenton Jones & Appel	4 years
Gary Rummelhoff Chief Financial Officer, United Way of Silicon Valley	3 years
Susan Hammer Former Mayor, City of San Jose	4 years
Elizabeth Alvarez Community Leader	3 years
John Danner CEO, Rocketship Education	3 years

Dulce Gonzalez ACE Charter Parent	1 year
Beth Gonzales Teacher, Eastside Union School District	4 years
Manou Mobedshahi President, Mobedshahi Hotel Group	4 years
Dr. Linda Murray Superintendent-in-Residence, Education Trust-West	4 years
Dr. Andrea Whittaker, Director, Teacher Performance Assessment Consortium, Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity	4 years

The demographics of the board are the following:

- 55% White
- 27% Latino
- 9% African-American
- 9% Other

Do you adhere to the Brown Act?

ACE adheres to the Brown Act in all of its meetings.

How do you handle conflict of interest?

ACE has a conflict of interest policy that is reviewed and renewed yearly.

Satisfaction Surveys

Do you administer a satisfaction survey to parents, teachers, and students?

Yes, ACE administers a yearly survey, and then conducts follow-up focus groups with families, students, and staff in order to respond to concerns or organizational weaknesses. The following are some of the key areas of strength and weakness that emerged from the most recent parent and staff (November 2011) survey:

Surveys

Scale: 1—Strongly Disagree; 2—Disagree; 3—Neutral; 4—Agree; 5—Strongly Agree

Parent Survey

1. Strengths

- My child's teachers set high standards of achievement for all students 4.3
- My child's school gives him/her needed academic support 4.2

2. Weaknesses

- Students at this school treat each other with respect 3.3
- Students at this school are treated equally when they break rules 3.7

Staff Survey

1. Strengths

- I am committed to the school's mission 4.6
- I am passionate about ACE's mission and values 4.8
- I have grown professionally during this school year 4.4

2. Weaknesses

- I am satisfied working at ACE 3.2
- I believe that the ACE model is successful for FBB/BB students 3.0
- ACE's Technology program helps me reach my goals with my students 2.6

Growth Plans

What are your plans for increasing the number of charters (schools)?

ACE plans to open a new high school in Fall 2012, and, pending achievement results and internal organizational milestones, is looking to grow more middle and high schools in the next several years.

Special Programs

What percentage of your school and district (or county, if countywide) enrollment receives special education services?

Special Education Percentages (2010-11)

ACE Charter School	Alum Rock Union School District
12%	13%

What special education services do you provide?

ACE provides a continuum of services for Special Education students. ACE has two full-time RSP teachers, and contracts with outside agencies for more specialized services. ACE also runs a schoolwide Response to Intervention program that provides individualized support through teachers, tutors and technology.

What percentage of your school and district (or county, if countywide) are English Language Learners?

English Learner Percentages (2010-11)

ACE Charter School	Alum Rock Union School District
72%	45%

What programs do you provide for English Language Learners?

Since almost three-quarters of ACE students are English Language Learners, all ACE classes are designed to support ELL student learning. All ACE teachers are trained in Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) strategies, which are used in all core classes. In addition, ACE offers a daily Reading class for English Learners, as well as small-group tutoring and homework support in the extended day program.

Fundraising

What is the school's fundraising methodology?

The Executive Director and select board members reach out to foundations, corporations, and individuals for grants and donations. The Executive Director and the Business Manager are responsible for all grant applications and management of agreements and restricted funds from donors.

What amount are parents requested to donate?

Parents are not requested to donate any amount.

In the context of your overall operational budget, what is your current fiscal position?

ACE's current position is solid, but always vulnerable to further state cuts and deferrals. ACE has a line of working capital with a local community bank that allows the school to manage state deferrals and the

resulting cash flow issues. ACE has a fundraising target of 350K for fiscal year 2011-12 (which ends in June 2012); 265K of that funding has already been secured, with over 120K of proposals in the current pipeline.

Foundation Donations and Other Grants

What foundation donations do you receive?

Major donations come from the Applied Materials Foundation, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the Sobrato Foundation, the Shortino Family Foundation, the OST Collaborative (Packard, Sand Hill Foundation, and SV2), as well as several smaller donations from family and individual foundations.

What is the budget and board composition for the foundation from which you receive donations?

ACE does not have a single, ACE-connected foundation from which it receives donations.

What grants do you receive?

Other than the foundation donations listed above, ACE receives grants from a large group of individuals, as well as corporations such as Microsoft and SanDisk.

Replicable Practices

Select one of the school's practices which can be replicated.

Our most replicable successful practice is our 8th Grade Success in Algebra

What data supports this practice?

ACE's 2011 CST scores in Algebra support the practice. The percentage of ACE 8th graders who scored Proficient or better in Algebra is higher than the percentage of White 8th graders in San Jose Unified who scored Proficient or better in Algebra. In addition, over 40% of the students who scored Proficient in Algebra entered ACE at the Far Below Basic or Below Basic level.

What achievement outcomes have been realized over time (2-5 years) with this practice?

Since ACE has only had one 8th grade class to date, the CST scores described above are the most salient outcomes.

Describe the efforts the school has made to share its best practices.

ACE is part of a partnership with Downtown College Prep, funded by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, to support Algebra attainment in middle school. ACE and DCP are part of a learning collaborative that is organized and run by SVCF. ACE also works closely with the San Jose Charter Consortium, and shares its practices with consortium members. ACE continues to work to initiate partnerships with its neighbors in the Alum Rock School District.

School Dates

On what date and at what time will Open House be held?

ACE does not have a traditional "Open House." Instead we have a series of monthly Community meetings, as well as Schoolwide Academic Exhibitions once a semester. The first Exhibition Night will be December 15th, 2011, and the culminating Exhibition and Ganas Awards Night will be held in the first week of June.

What is the date and time of your promotion and/or graduation ceremony?

Tuesday, June 5th, 2012 at 6 pm.