

BECOME AN ADVOCATE

All students deserve a high-quality education. To make this happen, we need strong advocates. We need you!

We need charter school leaders, teachers, parents, and students to stand up for our schools.

In this country, only 1 in 10 students from low-income communities graduates from college. This is unacceptable. We need great K-12 schools that give all students an equal opportunity to succeed.

TAKE ACTION NOW

1 Tell your local and state representatives that you support Camino Nuevo Charter Academy (CNCA) and other high-performing public charter schools. Visit: neighborhoodinfo.lacity.org

2 Tell your school principal or student and family services coordinator and that you want to be an advocate for CNCA. We offer opportunities to meet with legislators, tell your story, and attend various advocacy trainings and events.

3 Register to vote or encourage others to vote to bring positive change to our communities. Visit: registertovote.ca.gov

4 Help us spread the facts about public charter schools with your friends, family, and colleagues.

CNCA QUICK FACTS

Camino Nuevo Charter Academy is a network of seven public charter schools and one preschool in central Los Angeles, serving the communities of Westlake/MacArthur Park, Pico Union, Koreatown, and Echo Park.

“At Camino Nuevo, our children have received the education and support we would have wanted for ourselves. My husband and I are very grateful and very proud that our children will now be the first in our family to attend and graduate from college.”


- Lourdes Delgado, CNCA parent


STUDENT COMMUNITY

3,600 students
1,300 alumni

95% are Latino
96% are eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch, based on their family incomes
79% enter school as English language learners
12% receive special education services

RESULTS


97%
of CNCA students graduate from high school
(national low-income average is 76%)


92%
of CNCA students enroll in college
(national low-income average is 52%)

WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

Charter schools exist to provide choice and equal opportunity to all students, regardless of zip code, income, or ability. Charters are free of charge, and unlike magnet schools in traditional districts, they are not allowed to select their students. If too many students apply, charter schools hold lotteries to see who gets in.

Charter schools are public schools operated by independent non-profit 501c3 organizations, with a volunteer board of directors. CNCA board members are dedicated community leaders who volunteer their time and help raise funds for programs and services that enhance the education of our students.

In exchange for independent governance, charter schools must demonstrate high levels of student achievement and strong management to their charter authorizers. CNCA's authorizer is the LA Unified School District, which can close or replace charter schools for poor performance, weak financial management, and non-compliance with state and federal public school regulations.

Flexibility and freedom from traditional school district bureaucracy allows CNCA to choose an educational model and instructional materials that work best for our teachers and students and help us to meet the unique needs of our students.

CHARTER TRUTH TELLING

Myth No. 1

“Charter Schools Are Privatizing Education and Fulfilling Billionaire Agendas”

Facts:

- Charter schools are public schools, open to any child, and free of charge.
- As of July 2019, Assembly Bill 406 requires 100% of California charter schools to be nonprofit. Previously, 99% of the state's charter schools were already nonprofits.
- At CNCA, the majority of our funding (97%) comes through federal, state, and local tax dollars, with philanthropic contributions making up the remaining 3%.

- Traditional public schools also fundraise to better meet their students' needs, as California is currently ranked 45th out of the 50 states in per-pupil spending.
- Educational vouchers that allow families to apply per-pupil public funding are NOT applicable with charters. Charter schools are public schools.

Myth No. 2

“Charters Steal Funding and Enrollment from Traditional Public Schools”

Facts:

- In California, public school funding follows the student, with the funding going to the public school that families choose for their child, whether a charter school or a traditional district school.

- Public charter schools — on average — receive less funding for each student than traditional district schools. Charters also pay an oversight fee to their school district authorizer and are responsible for their own facilities.
- Charters are NOT the main factor in low-enrollment at district schools. Socio-economic issues including lower birth rates and a shortage in affordable housing that has caused the displacement of families are major factors for both district and charter school enrollment declines.
- Charter school growth and expansion provide greater community access and choice. Under-enrollment is not a reason to stop providing opportunities to students as there are nearly 950,000 students attending low-performing schools in southern California.

Myth No. 3

“Charters Don’t Serve All Students and Reject Underperforming Students or Students with Special Needs”

Facts:

- Charter schools are open to all students, regardless of zip code, income, or ability. Charter schools have no admissions tests or special entrance requirements, unlike district-run magnet schools and gifted programs that receive additional funding by the state to maintain their specialized programs.
- In LA, public charter schools educate a comparable percentage of students with special needs as traditional public schools:
45% CNCA | 23% LAUSD
of students classified as English learners*
12% CNCA | 12% LAUSD
of students received special education services*
*Data from 2017-2018

“Our college-going culture is getting stronger and stronger every year and our focus on our community’s heritage and cultural assets is a bright spot that will only continue to shine. I invite you to come see us in action anytime.”

- Ron Espiritu, CNCA Ethnic Studies teacher

Myth No. 4

“Charter Schools Are Mismanaged and Lack Accountability”

Facts:

- Charters are given greater flexibility than traditional public schools, but with that flexibility comes greater accountability through annual oversight visits by the authorizer.
- All public charter schools are required to provide financial reports to their authorizers, and must meet all state and federal education

and fiscal standards. If they are not meeting these standards, the authorizer can inactivate the charter and close the school.

- Since our first graduating class in 2008, CNCA high school graduation and college matriculation rates have been higher than those of the district and the state.
- Unlike traditional public schools, charters must renew their charter petitions every five years and receive a majority approval from their school board.
- The passionate and dedicated teachers at our schools are required to have the same teaching credentials as teachers at any other California public school.
- Senate Bill 126 ensures all public charter schools in California follow laws promoting transparency and accountability, just like all other public schools.

“I never thought that I would find a school that would take a strong interest in my future or that would empower me by giving me a voice. But Camino Nuevo has given me the opportunity to receive a college-preparatory education and learn English. It has been my second home.”

- Roberto Delgado,
CNCA 12th grade student



WWW.CAMINONUEVO.ORG | WWW.PUEBLONUEVO.ORG

CNCA'S CHARTER ADVOCACY GUIDE

