Working Together to Improve Academics, Reduce Poverty

CWDA Symposium
Sacramento, CA
October 5, 2011

Why are we here?
Elementary API Scores • 2005 to 2010

Charter Schools...
* are Public Schools
* must serve ALL students, including ALL special needs
* are held to higher accountability standards
* pay LAUSD to use their facilities
* receive less money than traditional schools

Our Inner City Location in South Central Los Angeles
(Location of 1992 LA Riots)

Synergy Charter Academy
90011 Zip Code Demographics
• 85% Latino, 15% African American
• 85% Free and Reduced-Price Lunch
• 2004 Adjusted Gross Income was $20,486 (state average = $58,600) according to citydata.com
• 6,809 households with six or more people living in it
• 9,774 single parent households
Move-In Day 2004: T-Minus Four Days

Inaugural Teachers and Directors - 2004
Why are we here?
Elementary API Scores • 2005 to 2010

A National Model for Educational Equity
Elementary API Scores • 2005 to 2010

SYNERGY
California Distinguished School
2007
2008
2009

Synergy’s Elementary Awards

Synergy’s Vision
College Admissions

Secrets to Our Success

SYNERGY
Charter Academy
Est. 2004
First ever elementary National Blue Ribbon School in South Los Angeles

2010
Meeting with LAUSD Board
President Monica García

School Visit by State Superintendent
Jack O’Connell

Senator Romero

Parent Workshop on Vision Problems
How do we get parents involved?

Parent Volunteer Hours

- Some Schools
- 40 hours
- 2004

- 20 hours
- 2005

- 15 hours
- 2006

- 0 hours

Redefining Parent Involvement

- Student Attendance
- Student Behavior
- Student Work Habits
- Student Uniforms

- Parent Involvement (Meetings & Workshops)

Helping Parents See the Big Picture

Results

Year 1 API Presentation

Percent Proficient in Reading: Hawaii

- State of Hawaii: 40
- Kalani High: 63
- Waipahu High: 33
Synergy Students Visit College Campuses

A National Model for Educational Equity
Elementary API Scores • 2005 to 2010

Parents’ Perspective

Communication
• Communication - Share Information
  • Provide parents with a complete perspective.
  • Promote a professional brand image.
  • Present information in a way that makes sense to parents.

Schools in the 90011 Zip Code

UC Accord
San Marino High School
College Opportunity Ratio
100:100:78

UC Accord
Jefferson High School
College Opportunity Ratio
100:31:12
Home-School Communication

Message Monday Envelope

Family Field Trip
College Campus Tour

Synergy
Charter Academy

College Admissions Workshop

Past workshops have included:
- College admissions workshops & college tours
- Health workshops – vision, nutrition, lead poisoning
- Bullying

Which Colleges Did We Attend?

Which Colleges Will Our Students Attend?
Synergy’s Vision

• Our vision is for students to eventually attend the four-year university of their choice.

Average Starting Salaries and Unemployment Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>No HS Diploma</th>
<th>With HS Diploma</th>
<th>Bachelor’s</th>
<th>Master’s</th>
<th>Doctorate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Starting Salary</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
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</tbody>
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Cost of Attendance

- $37,096 Tuition
- $598 Mandatory fees
- $1,298 Room and board
- $796 Books and supplies
- $1,600 Personal and Miscellaneous
- $580 Transportation

Total Estimated Cost: $51,968

Total Cost for 4 years: $207,872

University of California
(UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara)

A to G Requirements

A. History/Social Science – 2 YEARS REQUIRED
B. English – 4 YEARS REQUIRED
C. Mathematics – 3 YEARS REQUIRED, 4 YEARS RECOMMENDED
D. Laboratory Science – 2 YEARS REQUIRED, 3 YRS RECOMMENDED
E. Language Other than English – 2 YEARS REQUIRED, 3 YEARS RECOMMENDED
F. Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) – 1 YEAR REQUIRED
G. College-Preparatory Electives – 1 YEAR REQUIRED
Remove Barriers to Involvement

- Time – Hold evening and weekend meetings
- Respect people’s time
  - Give parents new information that makes them feel glad that they came
- Inconvenience – include maps
- Language barriers

Thank you for attending!
WeAreSynergy.org