

Executive Summary School Accountability Report Card, 2008-09 (Published 2009-10)

For Synergy Charter Academy

Address: 1010 E 34th St, Los Angeles, CA 90011

Principal: Jennifer Epps

Phone: 323-233-8559

Grade Span: K-5

This executive summary of the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) is intended to provide parents and community members with a quick snapshot of school accountability. The data presented in this report are reported for the 2008-09 school year, except the School Finances and School Completion data that are reported for the 2007-08 school year. For additional information about the school, parents and community members should review the entire SARC or contact the school principal or the district office.

About This School

Synergy Charter Academy, a public charter school authorized by the Los Angeles Unified School District, serves 155 inner-city students in grades K-5. Synergy Charter Academy teaches a standards based curriculum and focuses on implementing new approaches in instruction that can be about positive changes in our urban schools.

Student Enrollment

Group	Enrollment
Number of students	155
African American	10.97%
American Indian or Alaska Native	%
Asian	%
Filipino	%
Hispanic or Latino	86.45%
Pacific Islander	%
White (not Hispanic)	%
Multiple or No Response	1.94%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	81%
English Learners	28%
Students with Disabilities	5%

Teachers

Indicator	Teachers
Teachers with full credential	7
Teachers without full credential	0
Teachers Teaching Outside Subject Area of Competence	na
Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners	1
Total Teacher Misassignments	1

School Facilities

Summary of Most Recent Site Inspection

The school building has been permitted by the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety for use as a school. The overall building is in general good condition.

Repairs Needed

At the time of this report, there were no repairs needed at the school.

Corrective Actions Taken or Planned

At the time of this report, there were no repairs needed at the school.

Curriculum and Instructional Materials

Core Curriculum Areas	Pupils Who Lack Textbooks and Instructional Materials
Reading/Language Arts	0%
Mathematics	0%
Science	0%
History-Social Science	0%
Foreign Language	na
Health	0%
Visual and Performing Arts	na
Science Laboratory Equipment (grades 9-12)	na

School Finances

Level	Expenditures Per Pupil (Unrestricted Sources Only)
School Site	\$6506
District	\$4554 (07-08)
State	\$5512

Student Performance

Subject	Students Proficient and Above on California Standards Tests
English-Language Arts	68%
Mathematics	86%
Science	88%
History-Social Science	na

Academic Progress

Indicator	Result
2009 Growth API Score (from 2008 Growth API Report)	898
Statewide Rank (from 2007 Base API Report)	10
2008-09 Program Improvement Status (PI Year)	not in PI

School Completion

Indicator	Result
Graduation Rate	na

Postsecondary Preparation

Measures	Percent
Pupils Who Completed a Career Technical Education Program and Earned a High School Diploma	na
Graduates Who Completed All Courses Required for University of California or California State University Admission	na

School Accountability Report Card Reported for School Year 2008-09

Published During 2009-10

The School Accountability Report Card (SARC), which is required by law to be published annually, contains information about the condition and performance of each California public school. More information about SARC requirements is available on the SARC Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sa/>. For additional information about the school, parents and community members should contact the school principal or the district office.

I. Data and Access

DataQuest

DataQuest is an online data tool located at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/> that contains additional information about this school and comparisons of the school to the district, the county, and the state. Specifically, *DataQuest* is a dynamic system that provides reports for accountability (e.g. Academic Performance Index [API], Adequate Yearly Progress [AYP], test data, enrollment, graduates, dropouts, course enrollments, staffing, and data regarding English learners).

Internet Access

Internet access is available at public libraries and other locations that are publicly accessible (e.g., the California State Library). Access to the Internet at libraries and public locations is generally provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Other use restrictions include the hours of operation, the length of time that a workstation may be used (depending on availability), the types of software programs available on a workstation, and the ability to print documents.

II. About This School

Contact Information (School Year 2009-10)

This section provides the school's contact information.

School		District	
School Name	Synergy Charter Academy	District Name	LAUSD
Street	1010 E 34 th St	Phone Number	213-241-1000
City, State, Zip	Los Angeles, CA 90011	Web Site	www.wearesynergy.org
Phone Number	323-233-8559	Superintendent	Ray Cortines
Principal	Jennifer Epps	E-mail Address	
E-mail Address	jennepps@gmail.com	CDS Code	19-64733-0106427

[School Description and Mission Statement \(School Year 2008-09\)](#)

This section provides information about the school, its programs and its goals.

Synergy Charter Academy opened its doors in August 2004 as a direct funded charter school that serves students in grades K-5 in South Los Angeles. The school is authorized by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and is under Local District 5.

The **Mission** of Synergy Charter Academy is to eliminate the achievement gap that has persisted for generations among educationally disadvantaged students. This achievement gap has not gone away despite many people's best efforts and best intentions. Synergy believes that only by working more effectively together can we eliminate the achievement gap and create educational equity for all students. Synergy Charter Academy does this by creating a sense of **synergy** among all community stakeholders and by showing the educational community how to make better use of resources in order to achieve greater results.

Our **Vision** is that our students will meet or exceed the California Content Standards and be prepared to take college-preparatory classes in secondary school so that they can eventually attend the four-year university of their choice. Synergy Charter Academy provides a complete, integrated curriculum aligned to the state standards. To differentiate itself from others, Synergy emphasizes two innovative instructional approaches that can be used synergistically with existing research based educational infrastructure: Promoting Literacy Through Technology (including but not limited to computers) and Promoting Early Algebraic Thinking in the elementary grades. These are two powerful agents of change that level the playing field for struggling students and in many instances, even helps them to outperform their peers.

[Opportunities for Parental Involvement \(School Year 2008-09\)](#)

This section provides information about opportunities for parents to become involved with school activities.

There are many opportunities for parental involvement such as attending family/community meetings and parent workshops, serving on the school's Parent Council, serving as the parent representative to the Board of Directors, volunteering on campus, participating in Back to School Day and Student-Led Conferences, and chaperoning for class field trips.

[Student Enrollment by Grade Level \(School Year 2008-09\)](#)

This table displays the number of students enrolled in each grade level at the school.

Grade Level	Number of Students	Grade Level	Number of Students
Kindergarten	20	Grade 8	
Grade 1	20	Ungraded Elementary	
Grade 2	20	Grade 9	
Grade 3	20	Grade 10	
Grade 4	50	Grade 11	
Grade 5	25	Grade 12	
Grade 6		Ungraded Secondary	
Grade 7		Total Enrollment	

[Student Enrollment by Group \(School Year 2008-09\)](#)

This table displays the percent of students enrolled at the school who are identified as being in a particular group.

Group	Percent of Total Enrollment	Group	Percent of Total Enrollment
African American	10.97	White (not Hispanic)	
American Indian or Alaska Native		Multiple or No Response	1.94
Asian		Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	81
Filipino	.65	English Learners	28
Hispanic or Latino	86.45	Students with Disabilities	5
Pacific Islander		n/a	n/a

Average Class Size and Class Size Distribution (Elementary)

This table displays, by grade level, the average class size and the number of classrooms that fall into each size category (a range of total students per classroom).

Grade Level	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09					
	Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms			Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms			Avg. Class Size	Number of Classrooms		
		1-20	21-32	33+		1-20	21-32	33+		1-20	21-32	33+
K	19	1			20	1			20	1		
1	20	1			20	1			20	1		
2	20	2			20	1			20	1		
3	20	1			20	2			20	1		
4	20	1			20	1			25		2	
5	20	1			20	1			25		1	
6												
K-3												
3-4												
4-8												
Other												

III. School Climate

School Safety Plan (School Year 2008-09)

This section provides information about the school's comprehensive safety plan.

School safety is essential in order to provide an appropriate climate for learning. Synergy Charter Academy has a School Safety Planning Committee that consists of a parent, a teacher, an administrator and a non-certificated staff member. This committee has several meetings throughout the school year to collaboratively review and revise the school's safety plan that includes Prevention Programs and Emergency Preparedness. Additionally, emergency drills are routinely held for earthquake and fire preparedness for our students and staff.

Suspensions and Expulsions

This table displays the rate of suspensions and expulsions (the total number of incidents divided by the total enrollment) at the school and district levels for the most recent three-year period.

Rate	School			District		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Suspensions	0	0	0	9.8	7.2	7.1
Expulsions	0	0	0	.1	.1	0

IV. School Facilities

School Facility Conditions and Planned Improvement (School Year 2009-10)

This section provides information about the condition of the school's grounds, buildings, and restrooms based on the most recent data available, and a description of any planned or recently completed facility improvements.

The school takes great efforts to ensure that its campus is safe, clean, and functional within the available resources. Food service and restroom facilities are given the highest priority on a daily basis to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. Other cleaning functions are scheduled on a regular basis. Maintenance and repairs are handled as quickly as reasonably possible. The entire school community, including students and staff, are encouraged to take pride in the school facilities and to treat the school grounds, buildings, and restrooms with respect. For example, students are provided lessons on how to properly dispose of their trash after eating lunch and how to use the restrooms properly.

School Facility Good Repair Status (School Year 2009-10)

This table displays the results of the most recently completed school site inspection to determine the school facility's good repair status.

System Inspected	Repair Status				Repair Needed and Action Taken or Planned
	Exemplary	Good	Fair	Poor	
Systems: Gas Leaks, Mechanical/HVAC, Sewer	n/a	X			
Interior: Interior Surfaces	n/a	X			
Cleanliness: Overall Cleanliness, Pest/Vermin Infestation	n/a	X			
Electrical: Electrical	n/a	X			
Restrooms/Fountains: Restrooms, Sinks/Fountains	n/a		X		Water fountains do not operate. Synergy contacts with Arrowhead drinking water to provide water coolers for each room.
Safety: Fire Safety, Hazardous Materials	n/a	X			
Structural: Structural Damage, Roofs	n/a	X			
External: Playground/School Grounds, Windows/Doors/Gates/Fences	n/a	X			
Overall Rating		X			n/a

V. Teachers

Teacher Credentials

This table displays the number of teachers assigned to the school with a full credential, without a full credential, and those teaching outside of their subject area of competence. Detailed information about teacher qualifications can be found on the *DataQuest* Web page at <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>.

Teachers	School			District
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2008-09
With Full Credential	7	7	7	34116
Without Full Credential	0	0	0	1348
Teaching Outside Subject Area of Competence	0	0	0	n/a

Teacher Misassignments and Vacant Teacher Positions

This table displays the number of teacher misassignments (teachers assigned without proper legal authorization) and the number of vacant teacher positions (not filled by a single designated teacher assigned to teach the entire course at the beginning of the school year or semester). Note: *Total Teacher Misassignments* includes the number of *Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners*.

Indicator	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Misassignments of Teachers of English Learners	1	1	0
Total Teacher Misassignments	1	1	0
Vacant Teacher Positions	0	0	0

Core Academic Classes Taught by No Child Left Behind Compliant Teachers (School Year 2008-09)

This table displays the percent of classes in core academic subjects taught by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) compliant and non-NCLB compliant teachers in the school, in all schools in the district, in high-poverty schools in the district, and in low-poverty schools in the district. More information on teacher qualifications required under NCLB can be found at the NCLB Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nclb/sr/tq/>.

Location of Classes	Percent of Classes In Core Academic Subjects	
	Taught by NCLB Compliant Teachers	Taught by Non-NCLB Compliant Teachers
This School	100%	0%
All Schools in District	84.6%	15.4%
High-Poverty Schools in District	85.5%	14.5%
Low-Poverty Schools in District	90.6%	9.4%

VI. Support Staff

Academic Counselors and Other Support Staff (School Year 2008-09)

This table displays, in units of full-time equivalents (FTE), the number of academic counselors and other support staff who are assigned to the school and the average number of students per academic counselor. One FTE equals one staff member working full time; one FTE could also represent two staff members who each work 50 percent of full time.

Title	Number of FTE Assigned to School	Average Number of Students per Academic Counselor
Academic Counselor	0*	0
Library Media Teacher (Librarian)	0*	n/a
Library Media Services Staff (paraprofessional)	0*	n/a
Psychologist	0*	n/a
Social Worker	0*	n/a
Nurse	0*	n/a
Speech/Language/Hearing Specialist	0*	n/a
Resource Specialist (non-teaching)	0*	n/a
Other	0*	n/a

* As a direct funded charter school, Synergy does not have its own staff to provide the services listed above. Instead, Synergy contracts services with outside agencies if such services are needed.

VII. Curriculum and Instructional Materials

Quality, Currency, and Availability of Textbooks and Instructional Materials (School Year 2009-10)

This table displays information about the quality, currency, and availability of the standards-aligned textbooks and other instructional materials used at the school, and information about the school's use of any supplemental curriculum or non-adopted textbooks or instructional materials.

Core Curriculum Area	Quality, Currency, and Availability of Textbooks and Instructional Materials	Percent of Pupils Who Lack Their Own Assigned Textbooks and Instructional Materials
Reading/Language Arts	good quality, one copy per students, available in all classrooms	0
Mathematics	good quality, one copy per students, available in all classrooms	0
Science	good quality, one copy per students, available in all classrooms	0
History-Social Science	good quality, one copy per	0

	students, available in all classrooms	
Foreign Language	na	na
Health	good quality, one copy per students, available in all classrooms	0
Visual and Performing Arts	na	na
Science Laboratory Equipment (grades 9-12)	na	na

VIII. School Finances

Expenditures Per Pupil and School Site Teacher Salaries (Fiscal Year 2008-09)

This table displays a comparison of the school's per pupil expenditures from unrestricted (basic) sources with other schools in the district and throughout the state, and a comparison of the average teacher salary at the school site with average teacher salaries at the district and state levels. Detailed information regarding school expenditures can be found at the Current Expense of Education Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/ec/> and teacher salaries can be found on the Certificated Salaries and Benefits Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/cs/>.

Level	Total Expenditures Per Pupil	Expenditures Per Pupil (Supplemental)	Expenditures Per Pupil (Basic)	Average Teacher Salary
School Site	8,117	1,611	6,506	53,944
District	n/a	n/a	4,568 (07-08)	63,391 (07-08)
Percent Difference – School Site and District	n/a	n/a	30%	18%
State	n/a	n/a	5,512 (07-08)	67,049 (07-08)
Percent Difference – School Site and State	n/a	n/a	15%	24%

Types of Services Funded (Fiscal Year 2008-09)

This section provides information about the programs and supplemental services that are provided at the school through either categorical funds or other sources.

In addition to its standards-based instructional program, the main programs and supplemental services that are provided at Synergy include:

- The Reading Counts Program
- The Spring Into Reading Program
- The computer lab and its Literacy Through Technology Program
- The Early Algebraic Thinking Program
- The after school intervention program
- Summer school
- The daily physical education program
- Field trips
- Community/Family meetings and Parent Workshops

Teacher and Administrative Salaries (Fiscal Year 2007-08)

This table displays district salaries for teachers, principals, and superintendents, and compares these figures to the state averages for districts of the same type and size. The table also displays teacher and administrative salaries as a percent of a district's budget, and compares these figures to the state averages for districts of the same type and size. Detailed information regarding salaries may be found on the Certificated Salaries and Benefits Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/fd/cs/>.

Category	District Amount	State Average For Districts In Same Category
Beginning Teacher Salary	39,788	42,065
Mid-Range Teacher Salary	63,553	67,109
Highest Teacher Salary	78,906	86,293
Average Principal Salary (Elementary)	108,621	107,115
Average Principal Salary (Middle)	117,632	112,279
Average Principal Salary (High)	120,447	122,532
Superintendent Salary	300,000	216,356
Percent of Budget for Teacher Salaries	36.90	39.40
Percent of Budget for Administrative Salaries	5.6	5.5

IX. Student Performance

California Standards Tests

The California Standards Tests (CSTs) show how well students are doing in relation to the state content standards. The CSTs include English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 2 through 11; science in grades 5, 8, and 9 through 11; and history-social science in grades 8, and 10 through 11. Student scores are reported as performance levels.

Detailed information regarding CST results for each grade and performance level, including the percent of students not tested, can be found on the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Results Web page at <http://star.cde.ca.gov>.

Note: Scores are not shown when the number of students tested is 10 or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy or to protect student privacy. In no case shall any group score be reported that would deliberately or inadvertently make public the score or performance of any individual student.

CST Results for All Students – Three-Year Comparison

This table displays the percent of students achieving at the Proficient or Advanced level (meeting or exceeding the state standards).

Subject	School			District			State		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
English-Language Arts	57	67	68	31	35	38	43	46	50
Mathematics	82	89	86	31	35	37	40	43	46
Science	15	65	88	27	36	38	38	46	50
History-Social Science	na	na							

CST Results by Student Group – Most Recent Year

This table displays the percent of students, by group, achieving at the Proficient or Advanced level (meeting or exceeding the state standards) for the most recent testing period.

Group	Percent of Students Scoring at Proficient or Advanced			
	English-Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	History-Social Science
African American	56	69	*	
American Indian or Alaska Native				
Asian				
Filipino	*	*	*	
Hispanic or Latino	69	89	87	
Pacific Islander				
White (not Hispanic)				
Male	54	83	*	
Female	78	88	94	
Economically Disadvantaged	68	85	87	
English Learners	34	78	*	
Students with Disabilities	*	*	*	
Students Receiving Migrant Education Services				

California Physical Fitness Test Results (School Year 2008-09)

The California Physical Fitness Test is administered to students in grades 5, 7, and 9 only. This table displays by grade level the percent of students meeting the healthy fitness zone on all six fitness standards for the most recent testing period. Detailed information regarding this test, and comparisons of a school's test results to the district and state levels, may be found at the Physical Fitness Testing Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/pfi/>. *Note: Scores are not shown when the number of students tested is 10 or less, either because the number of students in this category is too small for statistical accuracy, or to protect student privacy. In no case shall any group score be reported that would deliberately or inadvertently make public the score or performance of any individual student.*

Grade Level	Percent of Students Meeting Healthy Fitness Zones		
	Four of Six Standards	Five of Six Standards	Six of Six Standards
5	20%	16%	16%
7	na	na	na
9	na	na	na

X. Accountability

Academic Performance Index

The Academic Performance Index (API) is an annual measure of the academic performance and progress of schools in California. API scores range from 200 to 1,000, with a statewide target of 800. Detailed information about the API can be found at the API Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/>.

API Ranks – Three-Year Comparison

This table displays the school's statewide and similar schools API ranks. The statewide API rank ranges from 1 to 10. A statewide rank of 1 means that the school has an API score in the lowest 10 percent of all schools in the state, while a statewide rank of 10 means that the school has an API score in the highest 10 percent of all schools in the state. The similar schools API rank reflects how a school compares to 100 statistically matched "similar schools." A similar schools rank of 1 means that the school's academic performance is comparable to the lowest performing 10 schools of the 100 similar schools, while a similar schools rank of 10 means that the school's academic performance is better than at least 90 of the 100 similar schools.

API Rank	2006	2007	2008
Statewide	7	8	10
Similar Schools	na	na	na

API Changes by Student Group – Three-Year Comparison

This table displays, by student group, the actual API changes in points added or lost for the past three years, and the most recent API score. *Note: "N/A" means that the student group is not numerically significant.*

Group	Actual API Change			Growth API Score
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009
All Students at the School	35	55	-3	898
African American	*	*		
American Indian or Alaska Native				
Asian				
Filipino	*	*		
Hispanic or Latino	37	64	-1	907
Pacific Islander				
White (not Hispanic)				
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	37	59	-3	893
English Learners	*	*		
Students with Disabilities	*	*		

Adequate Yearly Progress

The federal NCLB Act requires that all schools and districts meet the following Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) criteria:

- Participation rate on the state's standards-based assessments in English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics
- Percent proficient on the state's standards-based assessments in ELA and mathematics
- API as an additional indicator
- Graduation rate (for secondary schools)

Detailed information about AYP, including participation rates and percent proficient results by student group, can be found at the AYP Web page <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/>.

AYP Overall and by Criteria (School Year 2008-09)

This table displays an indication of whether the school and the district made AYP overall and whether the school and the district met each of the AYP criteria.

AYP Criteria	School	District
Overall	yes	no
Participation Rate - English-Language Arts	yes	yes
Participation Rate - Mathematics	yes	yes
Percent Proficient - English-Language Arts	yes	no
Percent Proficient - Mathematics	yes	no
API	899	yes
Graduation Rate	na	yes

Federal Intervention Program (School Year 2009-10)

Schools and districts receiving federal Title I funding enter Program Improvement (PI) if they do not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same content area (English-language arts or mathematics) or on the same indicator (API or graduation rate). After entering PI, schools and districts advance to the next level of intervention with each additional year that they do not make AYP. Detailed information about PI identification can be found at the AYP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ay/>.

Indicator	School	District
Program Improvement Status	not in PI	in PI
First Year of Program Improvement		2004-05
Year in Program Improvement		3
Number of Schools Currently in Program Improvement	n/a	390
Percent of Schools Currently in Program Improvement	n/a	45.5

Career Technical Education Programs (School Year 2008-09)

This section provides information about the Career Technical Education (CTE) programs and lists programs offered at the school.

NA

XI. School Completion and Postsecondary Preparation

NA

XII. Instructional Planning and Scheduling

Professional Development

This section provides information on the annual number of school days dedicated to staff development for the most recent three-year period.

Intensive professional development is provided to support the implementation of standards-based core instruction. Opportunities for professional development include a Teacher Training Academy before the start of the school year, on-going professional development scheduled throughout the school year, attendance at conferences and workshops, and on-line training such as Teachscape.

XIII. National Assessment of Educational Progress

NA