

FRANKLIN-McKINLEY DISTRICT-CHARTER COLLABORATION COMPACT

Date Signed: January 2014

Number of All Public School Students: 11,269 (2013-2014) Ed-Data.org¹

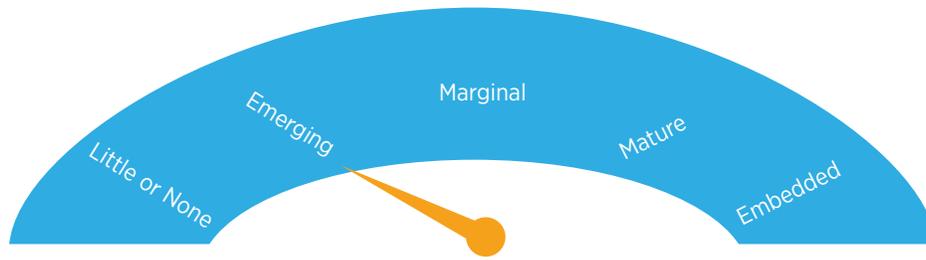
Percent of Charter School Students to All Public School Students: 23.1%

Charter Authorizer(s): Franklin-McKinley School District

School District Governing Body: Elected Board

Compact Grant Amount: \$100,000

CURRENT STATUS OF COLLABORATION:



OVERVIEW

Franklin-McKinley School District (FMSD) is one of 17 school districts serving students in San Jose, California. Although the San Jose and neighboring Silicon Valley communities are home to numerous charter schools, many local school boards remain hostile to approving them. This leads charter petitioners to appeal to the Santa Clara County Office of Education. FMSD is an outlier in this regional context, having directly approved six independent charter school petitions. Charter leaders also report a strong interest in collaboration, encouraged by Superintendent John Porter's leadership and willingness to partner with them long before signing a Compact agreement or receiving grant funding to do so. Five of the six independent charter schools are co-located with district-operated schools. FMSD has also turned to its charters for advice and consultation on turning around low-performing schools.

The Compact includes several community organizations, many of which had been working together on the Franklin-McKinley Children's Initiative, which aims to coordinate school reform, health, and social services in one of San Jose's poorest neighborhoods. Participants often refer to their "North Star" goal of ensuring all students leave 8th grade with the skills and habits needed to participate in a high school course of study that prepares them for college or career. The Compact aims to have all children attending a high-performing school by 2020, defining a high-performing

school as one in which 70 percent of students achieve on a college-ready path. In this light, the Compact soon hopes to issue a Common Progress Report that will inform parents and the community about each charter and district school's performance on multiple measures. At the moment, the district and charters lack common standardized testing data—results from the statewide administration of the new Common Core-aligned Smarter Balanced Assessments will not be available until this fall.² Although Compact participants felt it was important to get started, their commitment could be tested once it becomes clear where each school ranks.

Lasting collaboration in FMSD is possible, but could be challenged as charters continue to grow their enrollment, and leadership changes. Rocketship Education, which operates two campuses approved by FMSD, recently applied for a third, citing a waiting list of 500 families. FMSD's board denied the petition in April, and Rocketship has appealed to the county. Separately, FMSD joined three other San Jose districts in a lawsuit regarding Rocketship's county-approved expansion of 20 schools in the area. As part of a mediated settlement, this expansion is now on hold. Lastly, FMSD Superintendent Porter announced he will retire in June. School board members frequently attend Compact meetings and have stated their commitment to continuing his vision of collaboration; still, Dr. Porter leaves big shoes to fill.

1. See the Ed-Data report [here](#).

2. Additionally, California choose to administer only a practice test of the Smarter Balanced Assessments in 2013-14; no official tests were administered.

COMMON AREAS OF COLLABORATION	COMPACT PROGRESS
High-Performing Schools	Dr. Porter believes partnering with charters can help the district turn around some of its lowest-performing schools. Two newly hired district school principals redesigned their campuses after consultation with KIPP charter leaders. Two other district schools sought advice and training from Rocketship on personalized learning. ACE Charter Schools, a San Jose area charter network, opened a middle school in FMSD in August 2014. Part of ACE's mission is reaching out to families who don't typically enroll in FMSD charter schools—families who may believe that such schools are only for kids who already do well academically. ACE actively recruits from the district's lowest-performing students.
Special Education & English Language Learners (ELL)	Acknowledging that charter schools were serving fewer students with special needs than the district, compact leaders worked to increase awareness among families that special education services are provided by charter schools. Efforts included an enrollment fair for families in the Santee neighborhood of San Jose, one of the city's most under-resourced; the Compact committee is considering a district-wide expansion of this fair. Charter and district school leaders have made joint site visits to Los Angeles schools that have had success with inclusive education models. Compact work on English Language Learners appears limited.
Facilities & Resources	All but one of FMSD's independent charter schools are adjacent to district schools, on district property, facilitated in part by Proposition 39 (California's facilities law) and driven by cost-prohibitive rents in Silicon Valley. The district and charters have jointly advocated for better facility funding from the state. FMSD has taken a "good fences make good neighbors" approach to co-location. Schools have separate entrances and drop-off locations. Collaboration between each school's teachers is limited.
School Performance Framework	The Compact, with Innovate Public Schools, is finalizing the design of a Common Progress Report, which includes parent surveys administered in common and will allow parents to see how each school is progressing toward the North Star Goal. Common standardized testing data has been limited during the design process, but Compact participants felt it was important to get started, and hope to finish the report in the fall.
Enrollment Systems	FMSD does not have a common enrollment system, nor are its various application deadlines and lotteries aligned.
Human Capital & Professional Development	A cohort of charter and district teachers received training on peer coaching from the Reach Institute for School Leadership in Oakland. The Compact also facilitated a professional learning community (PLC) for 5th grade math teachers and were pleased at collaboration between veteran district teachers and less experienced charter teachers. The Compact is considering additional training from the Reach Institute and PLCs in other subjects or grades.
Common Core	FMSD and the charter schools have implemented Common Core separately. However, leaders have used the Compact meetings to discuss the standards and report some alignment on interventions and supplemental services. The district has also made its Common Core trainings open to charter school teachers.