

Preparing Students for a Brighter Future: Abstract Narrative

Amethod Public Schools,
345 12th street, Oakland, CA 94618
510-899-4806
Contact person – Jorge Lopez

Amethod Public Schools (AMPS) runs a network of very high performing schools that cater to, and accelerate the learning for educationally disadvantaged students. The AMPS network flagship school, Oakland Charter Academy (OCA), is the oldest charter school in the City of Oakland, and 12th school chartered in the state of California. In 2008, OCA became an NCLB-National Blue Ribbon School, for excellence in serving low income students. In 2007, the organization and families decided that a feeder high school was needed for the OCA middle school students and thus Oakland Charter High (OCHS) was formed. Oakland Charter High School (OCHS), in 2010 became the fourth highest performing high school in California and the top high school in Oakland and Alameda County.¹ The AMPS organization focused on other areas in the East Bay Area where better school choices were needed. AMPS eventually focused attention to West Contra Costa Unified where it opened Richmond Charter Academy middle school in 2011. In its first year RCA became the highest performing middle school in the history of Richmond Public Schools², thus developing the foundation for future growth that led to the establishment of Benito Juarez Elementary and John Henry High School. For over 20 years we have served an educationally disadvantaged population, producing excellent results, with all schools having 80% plus free and/or reduced lunch, and typically over-representing English language learners.

The goal of the grant is to increase the number of Amethod schools by 4, adding 890 new seats as well as substantially expand the existing schools by roughly 830 seats, while maintaining the high academic standards of the organization and continuing to serve educationally disadvantaged students.

In the two decades since Amethod Public Schools first school, Oakland Charter Academy (OCA) was founded, OCA and its sister schools, have been among the highest performing in their respective Districts as well as within the State, all the while serving a disproportionately Latino, ELL, and low income population this grant will allow us to better serve even more students.

¹ This is based on State Academic Performance Indicator (API) the statewide school ranking process

² Based on API scores