

GHC | GRANADA HILLS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

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GRANADA HILLS CHARTER NAMED A 2019 CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

State cites school's intervention work as an outstanding education program



March 4, 2019 – In recognition of its high-quality academic intervention program and commitment to serving all its students, Granada Hills Charter (GHC) High School was named a 2019 California Distinguished School. The School joins 161 other middle and high schools across the state that were awarded the honor.

The California Distinguished Schools program by the California Department of Education focuses on outstanding education programs and practices. Schools receive the award for achieving exceptional student performance for two consecutive school years or closing the achievement gap between two school years.

Granada Hills Charter earned the Distinguished School award based on its academic intervention program, Academic Success for All. An interdepartmental program focused on supporting student achievement, Academic Success for All weaves together an array of services for students struggling with their grades. These include early identification of at-risk students, academic mentoring, family engagement programs and monitoring of student performance.

“We value every student at Granada Hills Charter, and each one deserves all the support needed to help him or her succeed,” said Brian Bauer, GHC’s Executive Director. “Often, a struggling student needs someone with whom to speak. By identifying students who may need extra help as early as possible, we are able to direct specific and individualized assistance to them – whether it is a supportive word or a more intensive intervention.”

The first component of the program is the early identification of students needing intervention. This identification ensures that every struggling student makes contact with a faculty member on campus who serves as an advocate to help the student improve his/her grades.

A key component of the program is the student-led Academic Mentor Program (AMP). Through a rigorous selection process, the intervention team selects a cohort of student mentors who work with targeted students in specific Algebra 1, Biology and English classes. In addition to AMP, the School has over 30 instructional aides who provide one-on-one support to students in the classroom. The school has also implemented a writing center and a math center for students who need additional help after school. Mentors also work in both of these centers, and are accessible to all students.



For students identified as the highest risk, GHC coordinates a team to monitor their progress and oversee their individual intervention programs. This team includes an intervention coordinator, a school social worker, school nurse, a special education coordinator, counselors, foster youth liaison, attendance and discipline deans. Together, the team coordinates the delivery of support services and also works with families, both individually and through regular parent workshops held throughout the year.

“The results from our intervention program are impressive,” Gina Corpus, GHC’s intervention coordinator said. “Thirty-eight percent of students with three or more Ds or Fs last year had improved their grades in at least one course. In 2017-18, 52 percent of students with Ds or Fs improved their grades by at least one letter while maintaining their other grades. We’re seeing results, and we’re always looking to improve how we support our students.”

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About Granada Hills Charter School: Granada Hills Charter School, the largest charter school in the nation, is an independent public school in the San Fernando Valley. A fiscally independent conversion charter school, Granada Hills Charter has a current student enrollment of approximately 4,750 in its high school program and 400 students to be enrolled in 2019-20 in its new TK-8 program. Both programs have a combined annual student wait list of nearly 4,000. The School’s student population is one of the most diverse, with more than 40 languages other than English spoken at home and over 60 nationalities represented. Over 50 percent of students are eligible for the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. As a 501c3 non-profit benefit corporation, the School’s Governing Board is the legal entity overseeing all school policy and its \$60 million operating budget. The school is ranked “#1 Best Charter High School in California,” “#4 Most Diverse Public High School in Los Angeles” and “#11 Best Charter High Schools in America” by Niche.com in the *2019 Best Schools* rankings.