



Paramount Unified School District

Recommendation to Close Alternative Education Center and Transition Services to Buena Vista High School

Board of Education Meeting
November 18, 2015

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Delores Stephens, Co-Interim Superintendent
Manuel San Miguel, Ed.D., Director, Student Services and Alternative Education

Purpose

- Provide background information on the history and status of the Alternative Education Center (AEC).
- Describe recommendation, rationale, communication and next steps.

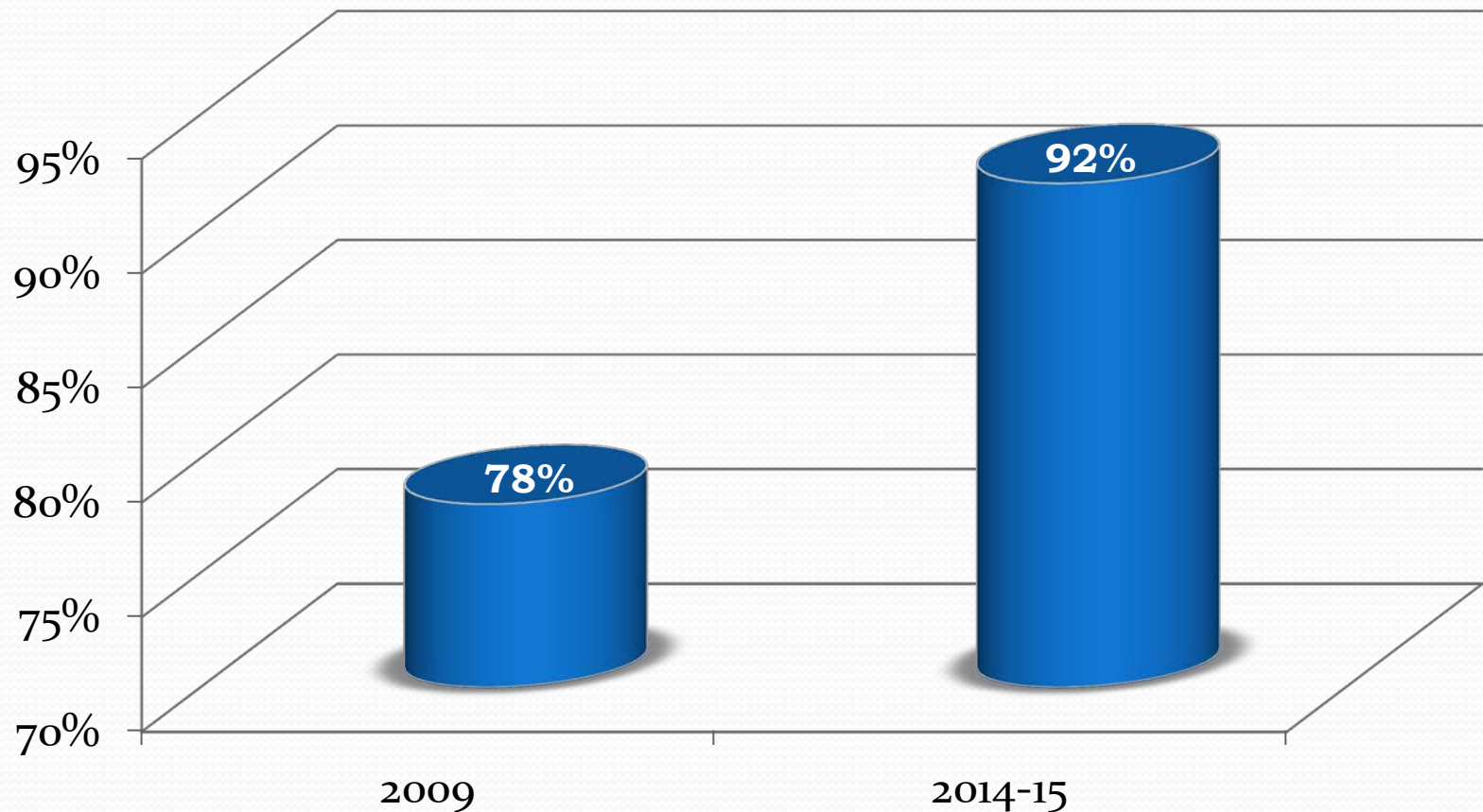
Background

- AEC was created in 2009-10 to “recapture” fifth year seniors who did not graduate on time .
- In June, 2009 PHS’s graduation rate was less than 78%.
- In 2009-10, AEC enrolled 156 students.
- AEC is identified as a school. Its WASC review in 2012 resulted in “Candidate” status.

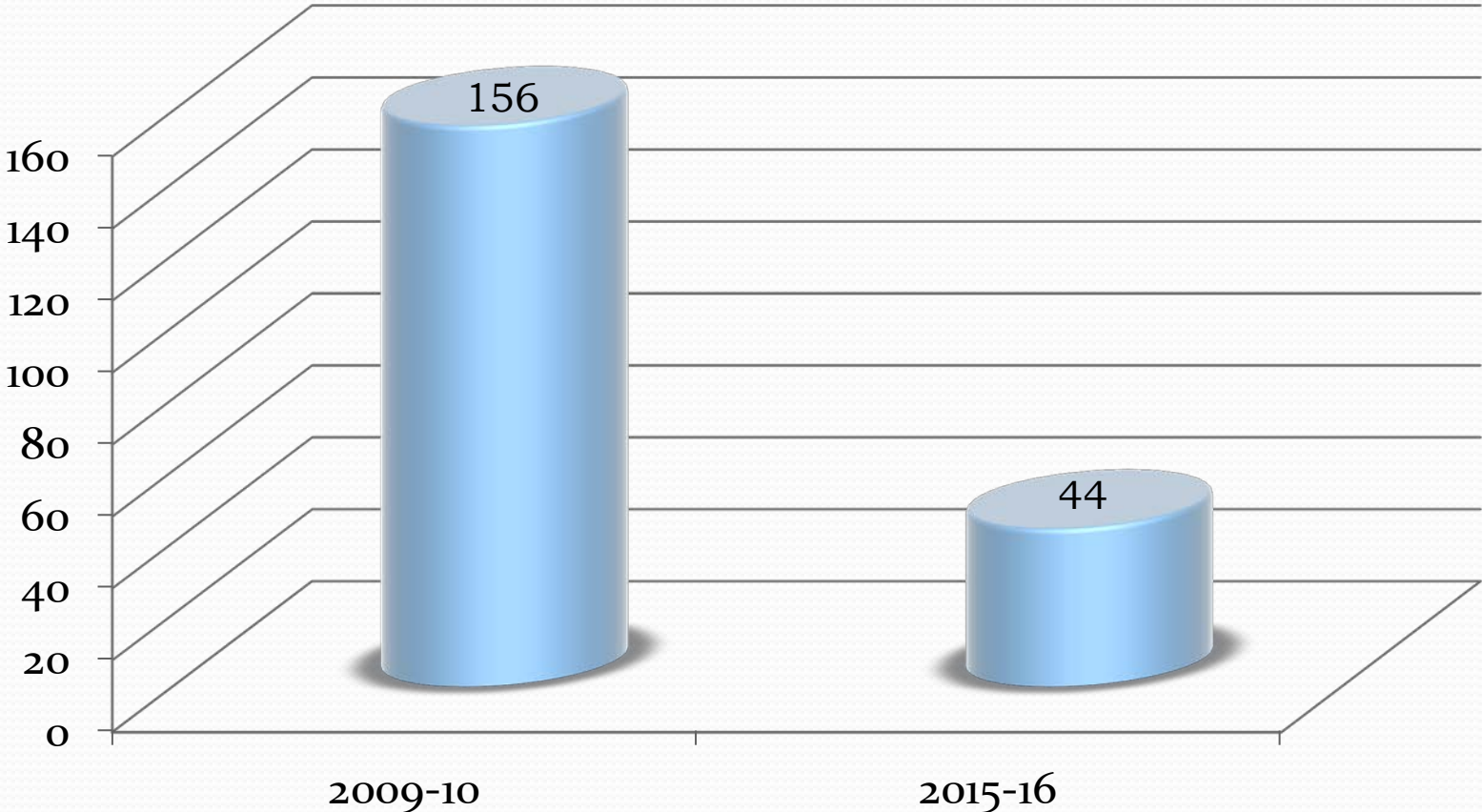
Progress Made

- In 2015, PHS's graduation rate was 92%. This increased graduation rate means more students are graduating on time. Currently, AEC enrolls 44 students.
- Paramount High School received Gold Ribbon recognition from the CDE in 2014-15. Buena Vista High School is recognized as a Model Continuation HS status.

PHS's Graduation Rate, 2009-2015



AEC's Enrollment, 2009-2015



Assessing and Addressing Needs

- In light of the increased on time graduation rate and the decrease in fifth year seniors there is a need to re-evaluate the AEC.
- PUSD will continue to support students who need more than four years to earn a high school diploma.
- Both on line learning and direct instruction will be provided for students who need to earn credits to graduate as fifth year seniors.

Communication and Feedback

A meeting with AEC and Buena Vista staff to discuss the recommended closure of AEC and transitioning services to Buena Vista was held in October. After hearing the presentation, teachers made these comments:

- *Buena Vista students can take advantage of additional courses since the program will be part of their school rather than separate. This will help students who attend Buena Vista.*
- *On line courses give students the opportunity to accelerate credit recovery.*
- *There is the potential for increased technology at Buena Vista.*

Recommendation

- Beginning January 25, 2016, close the Alternative Education Center as a school. Transition all services currently provided at the AEC to a program that is part of Buena Vista High School.
- Continue to provide on line and direct instruction for students to support high school diploma completion.
- Location and staff will remain same in 2015-16. There is the potential to expand services to include an on line learning lab and career center for Buena Vista in 2016-17.

Timeline and Next Steps

Action	Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet with AEC and Buena Vista staff	October 19-20
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send letter to AEC students	Week of October 26
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation and Public Hearing	November 18
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete required documentation to CDE, WASC.	December, 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AEC becomes program within Buena Vista High School.	January 25, 2016 (second semester)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess need for on line learning lab and career center at Buena Vista High School	February-March, 2016



Questions