



BOARD OF DIRECTORS BUDGET MEETING

**Proposed FY24-25 Budget
June 28, 2024**

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**Location
2513 Youngstown Rd.
Turlock, CA 95380**

Agenda



Fusion Charter Agenda
Board of Directors Budget Meeting
June 28, 2024 9:00 am
2513 Youngstown Rd. Turlock, CA 95380

- **In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act**, if you need special assistance to access the meeting room or to otherwise participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact Jessica Barragan at 209-667-9047. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Governing Board to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting.
- **Any writings or documents that are public records** and are provide to a majority of the Governing Board regarding an open session item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Fusion Charter Office located at 441 W. Linwood Avenue, Turlock, CA 95380 during regular business hours. Prior to the meeting agendas may be found at www.fusioncharter.org.
- **Fusion Charter welcomes Spanish and other language speakers to the Board meetings.** Anyone planning to attend and needing an interpreter should call 209-667-9047, 48 hours in advance of the meeting so arrangements can be made for an interpreter. *Fusion Charter da la bienvenida a las personas de habla hispana a las juntas de la Mesa Directiva. Si planea asistir y necesita interpretación llame al 209-667-9047, 48 horas antes de la junta, para poder hacer arreglos e interpretación.*
- **Community members have two opportunities to address the Board of Directors.** If you wish to address the Board on an agenda item, please do so when the item is called. The start times are only an estimate and items may be considered in a different order. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes. Time limitations are at the discretion of the President of the Board. Individuals have an opportunity to address the Board during the Period for Public Discussion on topics with subject matter falling under the jurisdiction of the Board not listed on the agenda. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes, with a total of thirty (30) minutes designated for this portion of the agenda. Individuals with questions related to Fusion Charter issues may submit them in writing. The Board will refer requests to the school's Principal.

Vision

"We envision a loving, trauma-responsive school where all students prepare for a future in which they thrive."

Mission

"Fusion Charter will use a trauma-responsive approach and practical, high-interest, individualized learning to engage students and provide a pathway to college or career."

Values

Respect, Integrity, Courage, Hope



- I. 9:00 AM – Call to Order
 - a. Call Public Session to Order
 - b. Roll Call
- II. 9:03 AM – Approval of the Agenda
Motion by _____, Second by _____ that the meeting agenda be approved. (V)
- III. 9:05 AM – Period for Public Comment (D)
Presentations will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes per person, with a total of fifteen (15) minutes designated for this portion of the agenda. (D)
- IV. 9:10 AM – Principal’s Report*
Quick Summary/Abstract - It is recommended the Board of Directors accept the Principal’s Report.
Motion by _____, Second by _____ that the Principal’s Report be accepted. (V)
- V. 9:15 AM – Projected Budget 2024-2025*
Quick Summary/Abstract - It is recommended the Board of Directors approve the Projected Budget 2024-2025.
Motion by _____, Second by _____ that the Projected Budget 2024-2025 be approved. (V)
- VI. 9:25 AM – Approval of a Plan for the Comprehensive School Improvement Funds
Quick Summary/Abstract - It is recommended the Board of Directors approve the Plan for the Comprehensive School Improvement Funds
Motion by _____, Second by _____ that the Plan for the Comprehensive School Improvement Funds. (V)
- VII. 9:25 AM – Annual Board Certification of Fusion Core and Elective Curriculum for 2024-2025
Quick Summary/Abstract - It is recommended the Board of Directors approve the Annual Board Certification of Fusion Core and Elective Curriculum for 2024-2025.
Motion by _____, Second by _____ that Annual Board Certification of Fusion Core and Elective Curriculum for 2024-2025 be approved. (V)
- VIII. 9:30 AM – Local Indicators for the LCAP for 2024-2025
Quick Summary/Abstract - It is recommended the Board of Directors approve Local Indicators for the LCAP for 2024-2025.
Motion by _____, Second by _____ that the Local Indicators for the LCAP for 2024-2025 be approved. (V)
- IX. 9:35 AM – LCAP Budget Overview for Parents and LCAP 2024-2025
Quick Summary/Abstract - It is recommended the Board of Directors approve the LCAP Budget Overview for Parents and LCAP 2024-2025
Motion by _____, Second by _____ that the LCAP Budget Overview for Parents and LCAP 2024-2025. (V)
- X. 9:45 AM - ADJOURNMENT
Motion by _____, Second by _____ that the meeting be adjourned. (V)

(V) denotes “vote” (D) denotes “discussion” (*) denotes “supporting document”

Principal's Report

Principal's Board Report

June 28, 2024

On May 29, Fusion's 2024 graduates were congratulated by the entire Fusion faculty and staff, Aspiranet CEO Vernon Brown, COO Jeannie Imelio, and their family members and friends. Many of them had nearly lost hope of a high school diploma before enrolling in Fusion. Graduation 2024 added 45 more students to the list of those who have graduated from Fusion Charter since 2015. In total 345 young people are now alumni.



Here are a few interesting facts about the Class of 2024:

- A record 82% of graduates (37/45) walked the stage in individual ceremonies
- Ten students chose gold gowns, recently donated to Fusion, and 27 chose black
- Student Council President Elizabeth Ledbetter came to Fusion on 8/13/2018, the longest enrolled member of the Class of 2024 and graduated with honors
- Valedictorian Alejandro Panduro also attended Fusion since Grade 7
- Nine graduates completed with honors overall 3.0-4.0 average (A's and B's)
- Six early graduates completed all requirements by the end of Grade 11
- Turlock Unified was the district of residence for 33/45, or 73%
- Six graduates came from Hilmar and one from Delhi in Merced County
- Five graduates came from other Stanislaus County districts

Please enjoy the 2024 Fusion graduation photos on our website at fusioncharter.org and Fusion's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@fusioncharterschool/videos

A. Student Services and Information

Fusion has served a total of 231 students during the 2023-2024 school year, compared to 184 students during the 2022-2023 school year, 201 students in 2021-2022 and 185 in 2020-2021. An additional 37 students left Fusion without graduating before the end of the semester. Seventeen transferred to another school or juvenile detention. Twenty were referred back to their local districts due to attendance issues.

The school year began with 114 enrolled and ended with 149 students. Five seniors made progress but were credit deficient to the point that they will need a fifth year to graduate in 2025; four other seniors age 18 or older will be referred to an adult school program. In addition, 51 juniors, 33 sophomores and 29 freshmen are expected to return to Fusion in the fall, although some may move out of the area or return to their district school. Twenty Grade 8 students were promoted to high school and seven Grade 7 students will continue in junior high, along with seven others from our waitlist.

Summer School began on June 5, with funding from federal sources for an optional four-week period. Students are supported via individual appointments both remotely and on-campus to help them earn an additional 10 credits during the summer; 42 Fusion students and 44 TUSD students have registered and are working on core and elective credits for graduation. This is a large increase in summer enrollment and reflects the much greater interest by the district in collaborating with Fusion.

B. Student Activities

For Fusion's final 2023-24 field trip, 23 students and eight adults visited the Island Water Park in Fresno on May 30. The three juniors in the photo agreed that we should go again in 2025 and encourage more students to participate. Students never pay for Fusion activities, but must have good standing with at least 80% attendance the final quarter of the school year. Only two students were disqualified due to behavior, with more than 100 students and all grads eligible. Unfortunately, few were interested, even though we directly went to students' homes for pick up and return, and eight students canceled at the last minute. Similarly, only 19 students visited the Water Park in 2023.



C. Community Involvement

Fusion continues to receive technical assistance from Community Schools coaches in building greater parent and community engagement. We plan to build on our relationship with volunteers from TID and law enforcement as we improve school safety.

D. Personnel

Fusion is working with Human Resources to develop a process for paid internships for after two very productive experiences with unpaid CSUS student interns in the spring.

E. Professional Development



Fusion professional development has continued with presentations at two major conferences in June, the Community Schools conference in Hollywood and the Morro Bay school climate conference. We continue to refine and share our Homeless Innovative Practices grant-supported toolkit and provide training for other schools and districts through the end of the grant period in September.

F. Facility

Fusion is upgrading safety. We have already replaced ten existing cameras and will be adding additional cameras and lights to both ends of the building and improved front door and window safety. We will also install and maintain a direct radio to the Turlock Police Department. If our recent School Violence Prevent Program grant proposal to the Department of Justice is approved, we will replace all our gates and front fences.

G. Accountability

Attendance continues to be Fusion's greatest area of concern, as absences impact both individual student progress and the funding available for the overall school program. Fusion recorded an overall attendance rate of 70.96%, typical for alternative education programs but far below school district standards of 95% to 98%. The official average daily enrollment was 147.96 with an average of 42.97 absences for an annual ADA of 104.99, up 16.3% over one year ago at 90.31. Funding for Fall 2024 will be based on Average Daily Attendance for Spring P2, which was 104.17.

Enrollment was up from previous year and ranged from 114 in August to 164 in April, with the highest day of attendance on Thursday, March 14 with 134 out of 159, or 84.28% of all students. This compares to the highest day last year, Wednesday, March 29, 2023 with 114 out of 136, or 83.82%. Overall in 2023-24, there were 116 days with attendance at or above 100, compared to 40 days in 2022-23. The lowest attended day was the final day of school, Friday, May 31, 2024 with 76 of 150 attending (50.67%). This compares favorably to the lowest day last year, Friday, May 26, 2023 with 53 attending (40.46%). Another indicator of increased attendance is that there were only three days in the current school year with attendance below 80, compared to 32 days in the prior year. For both years, with the exception of the last week of school, almost all low attendance days were Fridays. Fusion staff continue to promote five days a week attendance for the upcoming year, with an attempt to change Friday attendance patterns by increasing engaging student activities. For some students, however, the appeal of a "Friday off" is more powerful than incentives that we have offered to date.

As Fusion continues to improve educational opportunities for all students, the faculty will revise Fusion's in-house elective Advisory to include specific life skills benchmarks such as the writing of cover letters, job interviews skills and basic financial literacy.

H. Mandatory Testing

For 2024 Fusion has completed testing, as required by the state, with 100% of English Learners assessed for proficiency and 94% of all eligible students assessed in math and English Language Arts. We have not yet implemented a universal mental health screening, but continue to work toward this goal.

I. Strategic Planning for 2024-25

As we prepare for a five-year renewal with TUSD, Fusion will revise the school charter to reflect Fusion's newly revised mission and vision statements. Each of our plans for the future will reflect the unique purpose of our school and community needs.

Mission Statement: Fusion Charter will use a trauma-responsive approach that puts social and emotional needs first, followed by practical, flexible, individualized learning to engage students and provide a pathway to college or career.

Vision Statement: We envision trauma-responsive schools in which all students are loved and respected as individuals and all graduates enter the adult community with the resources to thrive.

Planning will continue to focus on our critical school attendance, transportation, and student mental health issues. We will collaborate with Modesto Junior College on dual enrollment with transportation to vocational training opportunities through a newly received College and Career Access grant. This grant gives students opportunities to prepare for both college and career under Fusion guidance and with regular accountability, so that students do not become discouraged and drop classes or avoid continuing in college courses after graduation from high school.

We will also explore a larger School Violence Grant request of \$500,000 for 2025, including collaboration with the CSU Stanislaus Criminal Justice Department and the county juvenile probation system to proactively address related school attendance and mental health issues. Of the 231 students enrolled in 2023-24, 26 were detained in juvenile hall, on probation, or had other juvenile justice contact. This is 11.26% of our total number and compares with 15% (30 of 184) students enrolled in 2022-2023.

J. Financial Developments (The Financial Report contains additional information.)

Fusion has been awarded \$100,000 for a Dual Enrollment partnership with Modesto Junior College. The funds are expected to arrive in September and will support transportation and tutoring for college success for Fusion juniors and seniors.

The Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Block grant for 2023-24 has been replaced with an ongoing Arts and Music funding stream that requires regular reporting to assure the funds are spent as allocated. Fusion will increase art workshops and field trips to engage students and enrich opportunities.



K. Advocacy Update

As of the writing of this report, the state budget is still under deliberation. Proposed legislation for charter schools would have some impact on Fusion's operations but does not seem to negatively impact the budget for 2024-25 for alternative schools such as Fusion which serve very low income students.

L. Fusion 2024-2025 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Goals

The 2024-2025 **LCAP Goals** begin a new three-year plan which aligns with our WASC Accreditation Action Plan and Title I School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA).

1. Proficient English Literacy Skills for All Students

To equip our students with writing skills

2. Applied Math Skills for College and Career Readiness

To fill gaps in learning and prepare our students for the future

3. Program Alignment with Trauma-Responsive Mission/Vision

To improve well-being and graduation outcomes for all our students, including through grant activities for low income, homeless and foster youth

4. Schoolwide Improvement in College and Career Indicator and Graduation Rates

To demonstrate growth on the California Dashboard for College and Career Indicator and Graduation Rate for all measurable subgroups each year (Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, Hispanic)

The LCAP and Local Indicators are due to the Aspiranet Board with the budget. The Fusion Charter website link to the draft will be available for the public hearing and board meeting on June 28 at our [Fusion Charter](https://www.fusioncharter.org) website (<https://www.fusioncharter.org>).

M. Summary

The first day of the 2024-2025 school year is Tuesday, August 13. Graduation for the Fusion Class of 2025 will be held Wednesday, May 29. School will end May 31, 2025.

On the June board agenda, Fusion requests approval of the following items:

1. Approval of a plan for the Comprehensive School Improvement funds
2. Annual board certification of Fusion core and elective curriculum for 2024-2025
3. Local Indicators for the LCAP for 2024-2025 (Link to be provided)
4. LCAP Budget Overview for Parents and LCAP 2024-2025 (Link to be provided)
5. Budget for 2024-2025



Respectfully submitted,

Susan Nisan, Fusion Principal

June 19, 2024

FY24-25
Budget Report



Budget for FY2024-2025

Fusion's Projected Revenue for the 2024-25 budget is \$2,180,075 with estimated Projected Expenses of \$2,087,147. This leaves a balance of \$92,928.

Status of Recent Grant Funds

American Recovery Plan (ARP) Homeless Innovative Programs (HIP)--The first half of the \$450,000 grant award was received and expended in 2022-23. The second disbursement of \$180,000 was received in October 2023; the final \$45,000 will be issued as a reimbursement at the conclusion of the grant, which has been extended for three months to September 30, 2024.

Arts, Music and Instructional Materials--This is a one time award with a final total of \$46,210.

Community Schools Planning (CCSPP)--\$180,000.00 in advance funds were received in November, 2022 with the remaining \$19,041 to be disbursed at the completion of the grant in 2024. Fusion will apply for the implementation phase in Fall 2024 at an amount of \$150,000 per year for five years.

Ethnic Studies 21-22--This grant for \$2,684.00, received in August 2022, is for teacher training in the new Ethnic Studies course. It has not yet been used.

Learning Communities (LCSSP)--Fusion has received an award of \$16,500 for a three year period. Fusion plans to use these funds to support home visits.

Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant--This grant is not included in the 2023-24 budget. The entire \$136,337 award was received in 2023-24 for use through 2028. An adjustment in this funding was made for all California public schools after the close of the prior fiscal year. The new amount for Fusion is \$116,822.

Specialized Secondary Programs (SSP)--the Agriscience grant has concluded. Fusion was awarded a new SSP grant in 2023 for Digital Media and withdrew the grant request due to teacher availability. We did not reapply in 2024 but will consider an application in 2025.

New Grant Funds

Arts and Music in Schools (AMS)–Proposition 28 provided for ongoing funding for schools for Arts and Music education. Fusion began to receive these funds on a monthly basis in February 2024, with an initial allocation of \$22,000 for 2023-2024. The exact amount for 2024-25 is not yet available; additional information will be provided after state budget approval.

Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)–Fusion has been granted funding through June 30, 2025 to improve our "colors" on the California Dashboard on the College and Career Indicator and Graduation Rate Indicator. Fusion has been allocated \$163,444, of which \$43,596 was disbursed in June, 2024 and the rest to be reimbursed in 2024-2025, based upon expenses for “evidence-based” interventions to improve student outcomes.

College and Career Access Pathways Grant (CCAP)–Fusion has received \$100,000 to support dual enrollment in community college coursework over a three-year period.

School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) COPS Grant–Fusion applied for a \$100,000 microgrant to enhance school safety measures with a required \$25,000 match. We will consider a second application in 2025 for a \$500,000 collaborative project (including mental health, juvenile justice and university partners) with a request for a waiver for the match.

Current Cash Flow Status

As of May 15, 2024, the cash balance was \$754,622.62 which includes reserved amounts from the grant funds above. Between May 15 and June 15, Fusion received another \$208,693.20 in revenues. The final June LCFF and related state aid has not yet arrived.

ADA Funding Forecast for FY 2024-2025

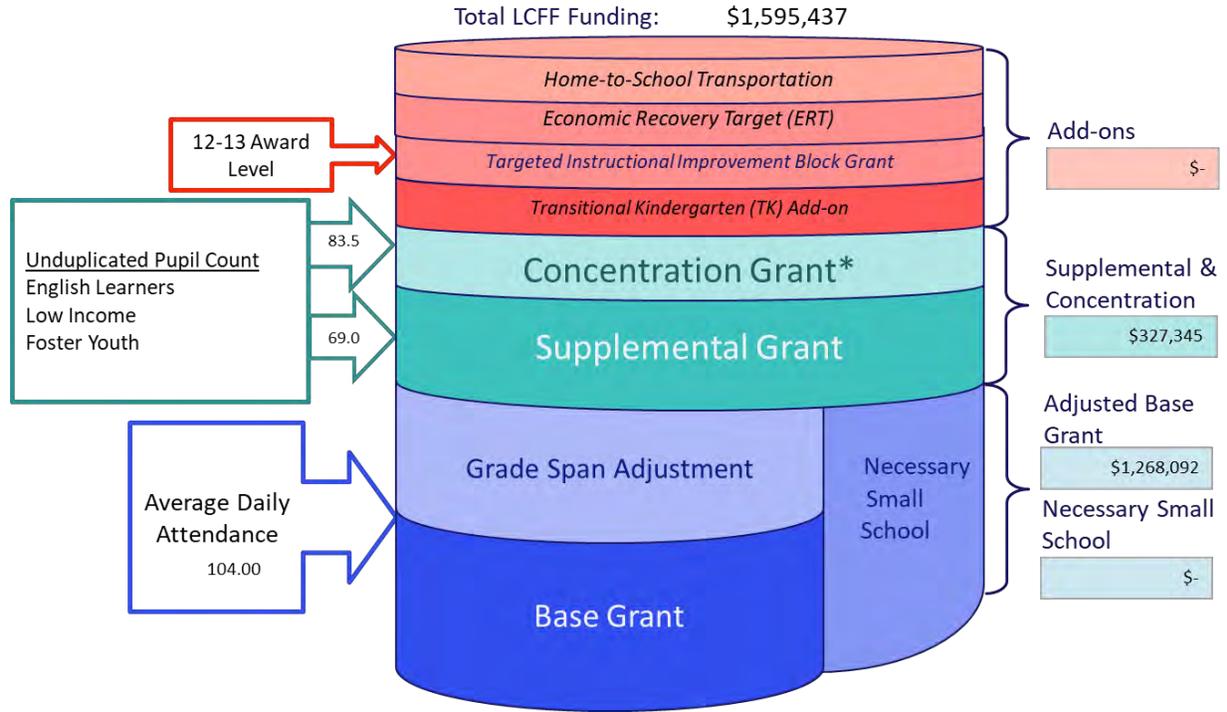
Fusion has surpassed the budgeted 2023-24 ADA target of 100, with a Fall 2023 P1 ADA of 99.75 and a Spring 2024 P2 ADA of 104.17, a 15% increase over 90.28 the previous year. The final ADA for the current year was 104.99. Please see the graphs below from the latest LCFF Calculator, released May 15, 2024 with a revised COLA of 1.07% for 2024-25. A later revised LCFF Calculator had unchanged amounts. The graphs do not reflect the funds anticipated for other ADA related sources such as special education and federal Title funds.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Susan Nisan, Principal
6/19/2024*

5/15/2024 Projected LCFF Calculator Graph for 2024-25

Projected ADA (104) revenues from all LCFF sources in 2024-25 will be \$1,595,437, slightly higher than the \$1,580,262 Spring P2 total LCFF funding, due to the 1.07% COLA for the new year that is built into the calculator.



*Unduplicated Pupil Percentage must be above 55% to receive Concentration Grant funding

Respectfully submitted by:

Susan Nisan, Principal

6/19/2024

**Plan for
Comprehensive
School Improvement
Funds**



Board Documents

June 28, 2024

Fusion Plan for Comprehensive School Improvement (CSI) Funds 2024-2025

Fusion has received Comprehensive School Improvement (CSI) funding due to low performance on the California Dashboard in Graduation Rate and College and Career Indicator for the 2022-2023 school year.

Fusion Charter will use \$163,444 in CSI funds to develop and conduct a needs assessment in collaboration with local community-based educational partners and Stanislaus County Office of Education support. Fusion will use multiple data points to analyze the root cause of low 2023 Graduation Rates and to examine and select evidence-based actions and culturally-appropriate, trauma-informed services to reduce dropout and improve the College and Career Dashboard Indicator. Our 2024-2025 LCAP goals will include specific actions and metrics that address interventions that will guide the alignment of the CSI plans.

The entire Fusion team will collaborate to establish monthly check points to monitor and evaluate progress in meeting the needs of all students, especially students at high risk of dropout who were initially referred to Fusion due to chronic absenteeism and credit deficiency. Action plans and support services will be adjusted as a result of monitoring outcomes.

Grant Expenditure for Evidence-based Actions to Improve the College and Career Indicator and Graduation Rate in the 2024-2025 School Year

Needs Assessment, Fusion Faculty Team	\$3,000	6 teachers	\$18,000
Substitute Teacher to cover for full time teachers for planning and evaluation sessions	\$200/day	15 days	\$3,000
Guidance Counselor Collaboration/PD	\$6,000	1	\$6,000
Certificated Teacher (40%) for College and Career Focus		.4 FTE	\$28,000
Tutors for intensive Writing and Math Skills	\$20/hr	1000 hours	20,000
Student Support Advocate	\$22/hr	416 hours	\$9,152
CSUS Interns—Four student interns to work on specific college and career programs	\$17/hr	480	\$2,040
Classified staff support hours for attendance tracking of students preparing in Advisory activities for credit	\$20/hr	416 hours	\$8,320
Health Benefits for Staff CSI Hours	\$35,000	—	\$35,000
Chromebooks for classroom use in Summer School	\$350	48 devices	\$16,800
Interactive Virtual Reality software and associated Professional Development	\$2,000	—	\$2,000
Meta VR Headsets for each classroom	\$200	15 headsets	\$3,000
College/Career Field Trip Transportation	\$10,000	—	\$10,000
Other Professional Development related to the School Improvement funds	\$2,132	—	\$2,132
Total Expense			\$163,444

**Board Certification
of Fusion Core &
Elective Curriculum
for 2024-2025**

Planning will continue to focus on our critical school attendance, transportation, and student mental health issues. We will collaborate with Modesto Junior College on dual enrollment with transportation to vocational training opportunities through a newly received College and Career Access grant. This grant gives students opportunities to prepare for both college and career under Fusion guidance and with regular accountability, so that students do not become discouraged and drop classes or avoid continuing in college courses after graduation from high school.

J. Financial Developments (The Financial Report contains additional information.)

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1. Approval of a plan for the Comprehensive School Improvement funds
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5. Budget for 2024-2025

Annual Board Certification of Fusion Core Courses and Electives

(from the draft of the Fusion Parent/Student Handbook 2024-2025)

Curriculum and Access

Fusion Charter combines highly-respected online curriculum with teacher-directed support.

Connectivity: Fusion Charter provides a device and internet connectivity for each student who requires access to curriculum off campus. Please let your teacher know your needs.

Logins and Email Accounts: Each student receives a **fusioncharter.org** email account through Google for Education. The login and account may be accessed on and off campus and is subject to monitoring by Fusion personnel. A technology agreement must be signed annually.



Students in Grades 7-12 use Edmentum Courseware's PLATO Learning Environment for both credit recovery and initial course instruction, as approved by the University of California's "a-g" admissions process.



Fusion uses the instructional content Platform "Newsela" (newsela.com) with differentiated instruction for multiple reading levels for each text in both English and Spanish. Texts are assigned at least weekly, including academic and social-emotional learning materials.

Personalized Learning Plan: Each student develops a learning plan with a Fusion teacher or mentor that is regularly updated. Students identify goals for completion of the High School curriculum. Specific courses will be selected to develop a graduation plan and a career path or college plan, including an explanation of how UC "a-g" courses meet university requirements.

Academic Integrity for a-g Courses for College Admissions: Students in Grades 9-12 who are seeking a-g designation will complete course final examinations under the supervision of a Fusion staff member or designee in order to maintain academic integrity with cell phones in a secure location as directed during the examination.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated and will result in the repetition of a test, assignment, paper, or project, and may require the proctoring of all work on site. Parents are notified in writing of incidents involving cheating.

Graduation Requirements for Fusion Charter Class of 2024-2025

Accreditation

Fusion is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). With WASC accreditation and UC/CSU course approval, Fusion coursework is recognized by other high schools, by California and out of state universities and colleges and by the admissions committees of the UC/CSU system, as well as the US Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force.)



Each student who meets Fusion’s graduation requirements earns a California state-certified standard high school diploma.

Required Subjects

Credits

ENGLISH	40*	<i>*Fusion Charter requires a total of 200 credits for high school graduation, except for students eligible for legally-mandated reduced graduation requirements of 130 credits for youth in foster care (AB 167), the juvenile justice system (AB 216), and students experiencing homelessness (AB 1806) after Grade 10. These students, with parental permission if under 18, may opt to graduate with only 130 “core” credits. The English requirement is reduced from 40 to 30 credits and all 60 elective credits are waived.</i>
SCIENCE (To include life and physical)	20	
ALGEBRA/Integrated Math 1	10	
MATH	10	
SOCIAL SCIENCE		
World History	10	
U.S History	10	
American Government	5	
Economics	5	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	20	
VAPA** Visual and Performing Arts/Foreign Language/Career Technical Education (CTE)	10	<i>**Per Education Code, TUSD has elected to allow CTE courses to satisfy Visual and Performing Arts or Foreign Language graduation requirements.</i>
TECHNOLOGY	5/0*	
HEALTH	5/0*	
Electives	50*	
Total Credits for Graduation	200*	

Graduation Ceremony



Graduation will be held Wednesday, May 28, 2025.

In order to walk the stage a student must be within 10 credits of completion of all graduation requirements by Wednesday, May 13, 2025 unless a written appeal is submitted to and approved by the principal. All graduation gowns are provided free of charge to students for use during the ceremony. Students may keep graduation caps, pins, awards, official transcripts and diplomas.

Credits

Semester Credit Cap and Appeal Process

In order to stay on track for graduation with 200 credits, a student should complete a minimum of 25 academic credits per semester in grades 9 through 12. A student who enrolls at Fusion Charter with fewer than this minimum must increase the number of academic credits earned each semester while in credit recovery. Fusion Charter recognizes the need to cap the credits earned at a maximum to promote mastery and retention of course content.

- Grade 9--Maximum of 35 credits per semester
- Grade 10--Maximum of 40 credits per semester
- Grade 11--Maximum of 45 credits per semester
- Grade 12--Maximum of 50 credits per semester



Summer School Cap

All students are limited to a maximum of 10 academic credits during each summer session.

Appeal Process

A student who requests permission to earn more than 50 academic credits in a semester must file a written appeal with the teacher of record and the principal. The decision to grant the appeal for excess credit recovery to a Fusion Charter student is at the principal's discretion and includes consideration of work habits and the student's projected graduation date.

Physical Education Credits

Fusion Charter students record daily physical activity on a log submitted monthly. For each 15 hours of activity a student earns one non-academic credit. The maximum number of credits granted for any monthly learning period is two, the equivalent of 30 hours of physical activity. The graduation requirement is 20 credits. A student may earn up to 20 additional elective credits of physical education.

Dual Enrollment College Credit

Supplementary credit earned at a community college or university is not subject to these semester limitations. Examples are MJC courses Introduction to College and Healthful Living. For more information on earning college credit while enrolled in high school, please see the **Fusion Charter Policy for Dual Enrollment Credit**.

For 2024-2025 Fusion has been awarded \$100,000 for a Dual Enrollment partnership with Modesto Junior College. The funds will support transportation and tutoring for college success for Fusion juniors and seniors.

College Bound Plan

While at Fusion Charter the student will meet with the Guidance Counselor to set a plan that would allow attendance at a college or university of their choice. This may include completing the necessary high school requirements, identifying an appropriate course of study, locating a college of choice, and completing admission requirements and applications. Fusion Charter provides opportunities each year for students to tour colleges and universities and/or to meet with representatives from post-high school educational and vocational training options. These events are free of charge and require parent permission if travel off campus is included.

Fusion Charter Policy for Dual Enrollment Credit

According to California *Education Code (EC)* Section 48800 a school governing board may authorize certain advanced students, upon recommendation from their principal and with parental consent, to attend a California community college as a special part-time student. A Fusion student may enroll in one or more courses at the community college level, including online courses, earning both high school and college credit concurrently. A Fusion student must meet all eligibility requirements as outlined on the appropriate college permission form, such as the Modesto Junior College (MJC) Special Part-Time Petition for Advanced Admission or the Merced College (MC) Permit for Special K-12 Students. The decision to grant advanced permission to a Fusion Charter student is at the principal's discretion and includes consideration of academic readiness, work habits and maturity.

The award of high school credit is subject to these additional qualifications:

1. Prior to or during the first term of enrollment in community college classes, a Fusion student must complete an Introduction to College Course.
2. A Fusion student may receive high school credit for only those college courses and specific course sessions with prior approval from the principal or counselor.
3. One semester of a non-remedial college course with a grade of C- or higher is equivalent to one year of high school coursework, following this formula: For less than three (3) college credits, triple the value of the course. A two (2) credit college course is equivalent to six (6) high school credits. For a non-remedial college course of three credits to five credits, ten (10) high school credits will be granted.
4. Any UC-transferable college course listed on the community college's University of California a-g course list as an HONORS course and earns an extra GPA point. A grade of D or F is not granted an extra point according to UC admissions policy.
5. College courses satisfy high school graduation requirements based on categorization on the community college's UC a-g course list for the year the course was completed.
6. A Fusion student in good standing in both high school and college coursework, including completing all coursework with a C- or higher, may request in writing that Fusion pay associated student and textbook fees. The granting of this request depends upon funds available and the timeliness of the request. Requests made less than two weeks before the beginning of a class are unlikely to be granted.

For more information about dual enrollment, visit these sites:

University of California admissions policies:

[University of California Admissions](#)

University of California ag course lists:

[University of California AG Course List](#)

Modesto Junior College Special Advanced Admission for High School Students:

[Application Information - MJC](#)

Merced College Special Admission for High School Students:

[Merced College - K-12 Students](#)

Fusion Courses for Elective Credit

Advanced Placement Computer Science--AP CSa, AP CSb (Not offered in 2024-25)

AP Computer Science is a college-preparatory elective course for students in Grades 10 through 12. The course will be submitted to the University of California for approval in 2022 and will culminate in the AP Computer Science examination in the Spring of 2023 and thereafter.

The student will earn five (5) credits for the first semester and five (5) credits for the second semester. A student with a qualifying grade on the AP exam may receive college credit upon enrollment at a 4-year university (Presented to the Aspiranet Governing Board on 6/24/2022)

Agriscience, Years 1 and 2

1. Agriculture--A Life Skills Approach--Ag LSAa, AG LSAb

Agriculture--A Life Skills Approach is an Agriscience Credit/No Credit elective course for students in Grades 10 and 11, developed at Fusion Charter with the Specialized Secondary Program (SSP) grant for new Career Technical Education (CTE) courses.

During the first year of implementation in 2021-2022, the student may earn non-core academic credit by participation in coursework and projects related to building a school greenhouse and establishing raised beds for a school garden. The student will earn five (5) ungraded credits for the first semester and five (5) ungraded credits for the second semester. (Presented to the Aspiranet Governing Board on 8/20/2021)

2. Principles of Integrated Agriculture and Social Science--Ag PIAa, AG PIAb

Principles of Integrated Agriculture and Social Science is an Agriscience Credit/No Credit elective course for students in Grades 11 and 12, developed at Fusion Charter with the Specialized Secondary Program (SSP) grant for new Career Technical Education (CTE) courses.

The student may earn non-core academic credit by participation in coursework and projects related to the school agriscience projects. The student will earn five (5) ungraded credits for the first semester and five (5) ungraded credits for the second semester. (Presented to the Aspiranet Governing Board on 6/24/2022)

Note: During the 2024-2025 school year, the faculty, students and families will collaborate to improve and implement a revised College and Career Life Skills portfolio for each graduate. Fusion's in-house electives and Advisory will include specific life skills benchmarks, such as the writing of cover letters, job interviews skills and basic financial literacy.

Fusion Charter Advisory--Advisory 9a/b, Advisory 10a/b, Advisory 11a/b, Advisory 12a/b

Advisory is a mandatory Credit/No Credit independent study course for all Fusion students in Grades 9-11. A student may earn non-core academic credit by completing assignments from a menu of activities designed by the Fusion faculty to promote college and career readiness and community engagement. Activities vary by grade level and include: the creation of a portfolio with resume, letters of reference and sample job applications; attendance at Friday events and activities outside the regular classroom session; reflections and follow-up assignments related to school visitors and community presentations. A student will earn one credit for the equivalent of 15 documented hours of activities approved by the teacher of record, up to a maximum of 2.5 credits per semester. (Approved by the Aspiranet Governing Board on 8/19/2016; Presented for revision on 6/30/2023 for a reduction in credits from 5 to 2.5 per semester.)

Fusion Charter Individualized Reading and Writing (IRW)--IRWa, IRWb, IRWc, IRWd

IRW is a Credit/No Credit independent study course for Fusion students in Grades 9-12.

A student may earn non-core academic credit by completing supplementary reading and writing assignments from a menu of activities designed to promote reading comprehension and writing fluency and skills. Activities vary by grade level and include individual reading recorded on a reading log with written reflections and summaries as assigned by the teacher of record based on the individual student needs. Students will also receive credit for participation in reading comprehension and writing activities in class and through the Instructional Content Platform “Newsela” and other comparable programs, which may supplement but not supplant Edmentum English coursework. A student will earn one credit for the equivalent of 15 documented hours of activities approved by the teacher of record, up to a maximum of 2.5 credits per semester. The course may be repeated up to a maximum of 20 credits per student.

Note: TUSD requires 10 credits of reading class as a graduation requirement for a student reading below grade level. The IRW course is recommended for students returning to TUSD. (Approved by the Aspiranet Governing Board on 5/18/2018; Presented for revision on 6/30/2023 for a reduction in credits from 5 to 2.5 per semester.)

Online Driver’s Ed--Fusion provides an online course for 2.5 credits of the Technology credit required for graduation. This course from Pacific High School is approved by the California Department of Motor Vehicles for a DMV Learner’s Permit for students aged 15.5 years and older. A student under age 17.5 years seeking a California Learner’s Permit needs a separate “behind the wheel” Driver Education practice course with a professional driving school. Fusion does not pay for this course. (Approved by the Aspiranet Governing Board on 11/10/2017).

Student Choice Mini Course Elective

Each Mini is a Credit/No Credit project-based course for Fusion students in Grades 9-12.

A student may earn non-core elective credit by completing customized activities designed to stimulate the joy of learning, cultural literacy and life skills. Activities vary by course and include a project designed by a student or a group of students under the supervision of a Fusion Staff member and both approved and assigned by the teacher of record based on student interest and needs.



Student Choice Minis include examples such as:

- Art of the Comic Book
- Audio and Video Technology
- Aviation and Rocketry
- Comic Con
- Coding
- Culinary Exploration
- Digital Journalism
- Drone Club
- eSports
- History of Music
- Media Arts
- Robotics
- Student Leadership

A student will earn one credit for the equivalent of 15 documented hours of activities approved by the teacher of record, up to a maximum of five credits per year. Mini courses may total a maximum of 20 credits per student over four years of high school and are entirely voluntary. (Approved by the Aspiranet Board, November 15, 2019; Revised 6/24/2022)

Local Indicators for LCAP 2024-2025

Local Indicators for the LCAP for
2024-2025 will be emailed.

**LCAP Budget
Overview for
Parents and LCAP
2024-2025**

LCAP Budget Overview for Parents
and LCAP 2024-2025 will be emailed.