School Information

County: Los Angeles County
District: Compton Unified School District
School: Cesar Chavez Alternative School
Civic Coor: Cheryl Greer-Davis Email: greerdavisc@yahoo.com
Principal: Laura Brown Email: Lhenry@compton.k12.ca.us

Date of Visit: April 7, 2016
Team Leader: Michelle Herczog Signature: ________________________
Agency: Los Angeles County Office of Education Phone: (562) 922-6908
Member: Danielle Mitchell, LACOE Signature: ________________________

Site Validation Team Recommendation

☑ The Site Validation Team has validated information to confirm that high quality civic learning is institutionalized to enable every student to participate in a civic inquiry and investigation at least once during their high school career. The team, therefore, recommends that this school be selected as a California Democracy School.

☐ The Site Validation Team was unable to validate the full implementation of high quality civic learning for all students and cannot recommend that this school be selected as a California Democracy School.
Additional Comments

After examining a great deal of evidence, observing classrooms, and interviewing students, teachers, school administrators, a school board member, parent, and community stakeholders, it is abundantly clear that Cesar Chavez Alternative School has established systems and practices to ensure that all students engage in civic inquiry and investigation activities to prepare them for civic life in the 21st century. There is also ample evidence to confirm that the initiative will be sustained in the years to come as a result of intentional capacity building and commitment of the staff and school community.

Members at visit:

- Cheryl Greer-Davis, Civic Learning Coordinator
- Cindy Quesada, Register Recorder, County Clerks Office
- Evelyn Salinas, Register Recorder, County Clerks Office
- Saul Figueroa, Program Manager, El Nido Family Centers
- Cynthia Ridder, substitute teacher, government
- Laura Brown, Principal
- Golden Fowler, Special Education Teacher
- Joyce Duren, El Camino College, Compton Center, Outreach Specialist for EOPS/CARE
- Maria Bazan, Community Relations Specialist and Parent Liaison
- Tanisha Scott, Educational Counselor, Kaiser Permanente
- Michelle Chambers, Office of Assemblymember Mike Gibson
- Mae Thomas, Compton School Board Member
- Students
- Parent

The goal of the school is to get students caught up on credits and return to comprehensive high school. Students are enrolled in grades 10, 11, and 12. Most students are seniors.

Evidence of Institutionalization and Sustainability:

- Civic inquiry and investigation is implemented:
  - Civic Action Project (CAP) from Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) is only being implemented in one U.S. History class due to high staff turnover. School policy is in place to embed civic inquiry and investigation in all government classes next year.
  - Year One and Two: CAP was implemented in all 12th grade government and 11th grade U.S. History classes

- The following verbal commitments have been made by the site principal:
  - Civic Inquiry and Investigation will be embedded in all government classes using the Civic Action Project (CAP) from Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) beginning with the 2016-17 school year. This requirement will not require school board approval but will be written into the Single Plan for Student Achievement, WASC accreditation and teacher handbook.
  - Gregoria Medina from CRF will continue to train existing and new teachers in the school in the use of CAP.
  - All students will be required to participate in CAP in order to graduate.

- The school policy is evidenced in the Single Plan for Student Achievement for 2015-16:
  - Actions to Be Taken to Reach This Goal: Professional development for teachers and staff on project based learning. All history teachers will be trained on how to implement the Civic Action Project into the history curriculum.

- “Civic-minded Citizens” is identified as a Student Learner Outcome in the Cesar Chavez Continuation High School 2014-2015 School Accountability Report Card.
Impact on students:
- Realizing they now know who to go to if they have an issue – whether it's the principal, mayor, etc.
- Students dug deep into different topics. For example, study of police body cameras revealed a number of different perspectives.
- Motivating students to learn more on their initiative.
- Study of government is now relevant for students – how to address problems appropriately.

Student interviews:
- This project has helped me understand more about police abuse.
- I feel like I know how to solve problems and want to do more to help my community.
- The teachers here really care about me and other students. I have learned so much and really feel like I can make difference and want to help other people.