



Summit Public Schools: Sierra

2018–2019 ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL
PERFORMANCE REPORT

by Washington State Charter School Commission



WASHINGTON STATE
Charter School Commission
STUDENTS • INNOVATION • TRANSPARENCY

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Summit Public Schools: Sierra

1025 S King St, Seattle, WA 98104	
School Contact Information	(206) 453-2520
School Website	https://summitps.org/our-schools/summit-sierra-seattle/
District of Residence	Seattle Public Schools
Leadership	School Leader: Jill Riemer
School Mission	The mission of Summit Public School: Sierra ("Summit Sierra" or "Sierra"), like all Summit schools, is to prepare a heterogeneous student population for success in a four-year college, and to be thoughtful, contributing members of society.
Education Program Terms & Design Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students will have Personalized Learning Plan (PLP) all four years at Summit Public Schools All students will develop common core aligned cognitive skills throughout their four years at Summit Public Schools. All students will participate in expeditions at Summit Public Schools where they will explore passions, participate in internships, engage in community service projects and develop their habits of success. All students will have a mentor who will meet with them regularly to set goals, reflect on progress and develop action plans.
Grades Served	9-11
First Year of Operation	2016-2017
Total Student Enrollment	387 Students

Student Demographics

STUDENT GROUPS

Special Education	17%
Limited English	8%
Low Income	40%

GENDER

Male	52%
Female	48%

RACE / ETHNICITY

American Indian / Alaskan Native	N/A
Asian	9%
Black / African American	35%
Hispanic / Latino of any race(s)	11%
Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	N/A
Two or More Races	14%
White	31%

INTRODUCTION

The Organizational Performance Framework is a reporting tool designed to communicate to the charter school and the public the compliance-related standards that all charter schools authorized by the Washington State Charter School Commission (Commission) must meet. The Organizational Framework lists the standards which align to state and federal law, rules, regulations, and the charter contract that charter schools are required to meet.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Commission's Organizational Framework lays out the legal requirements for charter schools. It is designed to treat all charter schools as though they are the same only in terms of meeting minimum legal and ethical requirements. This enables charter schools to retain the flexibility and autonomy to be different in the ways that matter most for a school's mission, vision, and educational program. The expectations set out in the Organizational Framework derive from state and federal law as well as the operating terms in the charter application. Of the three frameworks, the Organizational Framework is most closely aligned with the charter contract in terms of documenting operational expectations such as special education, accounting practices, and reporting requirements.

One of the Commission's core responsibilities with respect to charter schools is to protect the public interest, and the Organizational Performance Framework is the primary lever for carrying out this responsibility. The framework enables the Commission to ensure that charter schools are respecting the rights of students, staff, and families within the schools as well as the interests of the general public in ensuring that charter schools meet the legal obligations that state and federal legislatures have determined should apply.

The central premise of charter school autonomy is that the authorizer will articulate the expected outcomes, and the school will have maximum flexibility to determine the best way to achieve those outcomes. In other words, the authorizer articulates the ends, and the school decides the means of getting there. The Organizational Performance Framework is the place where the school is held externally accountable for how it operates.

AT A GLANCE

SUMMIT SIERRA

Is Summit Sierra meeting legal obligations?

Ratings will be determined through the Commission’s annual oversight activities as well as through the Commission’s Pre-Opening and Annual Compliance Calendar. Additionally, the charter school board’s signed assurances and school contract will be reviewed for evidence of compliance. Schools are obligated to comply with all state and federal public school reporting and compliance requirements as monitored by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the State Auditor’s Office (SAO).



MEETS Standard

The school materially meets the expectations outlined per state and/or federal laws, rules and regulations, or the charter contract.

DOES NOT MEET Standard

The school failed to implement the program in the manner described; the failure(s) were material and significant to the viability of the school, or regardless of the severity of the failure(s), the board had not instituted remedies that have resulted in prompt and sufficient movement toward compliance to the satisfaction of the authorizer.

SUMMIT SIERRA

These ratings provide clarity to schools about how decisions will be made, and which components of performance are most important. Additionally, ratings provide a “bright line” regarding charter school performance expectations that ensures consistency in Commission decision-making and supports parents as they navigate their public school options.

INDICATOR	MEASURE	RATING
1. Education Program	1a. Material Terms of the Charter Contract	MEETS
	1b. Education Requirements	MEETS
	1c. Students with Disabilities Rights	MEETS
	1d. English Language Learner Rights	MEETS
2. Financial Management and Oversight	2a. Financial Reporting & Compliance Requirements	MEETS
	2b. Adherence to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)	MEETS
3. Governance & Reporting	3a. Governance Requirements	MEETS
	3b. Management Accountability	MEETS
	3c. Reporting Requirements	MEETS
4. Students, Parents & Employees	4a. Rights of Students	MEETS
	4b. Recurrent Enrollment	DOES NOT MEET
	4c. Teacher and Staff Credentials	MEETS
	4d. Employee Rights	MEETS
	4e. Background Checks	MEETS
5. School Environment	5a. Facilities and Transportation	MEETS
	5b. Health and Safety	MEETS
	5c. Information Management	MEETS
6. Other Obligations	6a. School Specific Non-Academic Goals	DOES NOT MEET

METHODOLOGY

1. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

MEASURE	THE SCHOOL DEMONSTRATES COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:	RATING
1a. Material Terms of the Charter Contract	The material terms of the education program in all material respects and the education program in operation reflects the terms as defined in the charter contract or subsequently approved amendments. This indicator measures the school’s adherence to the education program terms and design elements in Attachment 4 of a school’s charter contract.)	MEETS
1b. Education Requirements	Applicable laws, rules regulations, and provisions of the charter contract related to education requirements and mandated programming as a result of state or federal funding.	MEETS
1c. Students with Disabilities Rights	Applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to the treatment of students with identified disabilities and those suspected of having a disability.	MEETS
1d. English Language Learner Rights	Applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to requirements regarding English Language Learners (ELLs).	MEETS

SCHOOL-SPECIFIC NARRATIVE

As verified by the Commission through its Quarterly School Reviews, and board observations, Summit Sierra remained in compliance throughout the year with the implementation of its Education Program Terms.

The State Auditor’s Office (SAO) issued no findings in its [Accountability Audit Report](#) regarding the implementation of mandated programming as a result of state or federal funding. The SAO report noted: “Public School operations complied, in all material respects, with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.” Furthermore, the Commission found no violations of laws, rules, regulations, or provisions of the charter contract related to education requirements.

SCHOOL COMPLIANCE WITH PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES	
Equitable access and opportunity to enroll	✓
Identification, location, and evaluation of students who may be eligible for special education	✓
Provision of a Free and Appropriate Public Education in the least restrictive environment	✓
Provision of procedural safeguards to students with disabilities and their families	✓
Identification, location, and evaluation of students who may be eligible for 504 Plans	✓
Provision of services and accommodations under Section 504	✓

OSPI released the results of its Washington Integrated Sub-recipient Monitoring (WISM) review. The goal of the review is to promote special education program effectiveness and to ensure each school meets its state supervision and oversight requirements for special education programs under state and federal law. Summit Sierra received a determination of “Meets Requirements,” of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* for Part B.

Summit Sierra conducts meetings with parents and appropriate personnel to determine acceptance of transfer Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and provision of comparable services or the need to revise the IEP based on a review of current data. Summit Sierra uses a Student Support Team (SST) process to refer and evaluate students suspected of having a disability and needing services and accommodations or special education. This process includes appropriate team participation to include the parent. The school ensures that evaluations are sufficient in scope to develop an appropriate Section 504 or IEP. To develop plans, Summit Sierra completes a review of existing data from comprehensive evaluations. As needed, Summit Sierra provides instructional support and services to students with special needs and provides accommodations and modifications for diverse learners. The school ensures procedural safeguards for students and families as evidenced in timely notifications and conducts necessary progress monitoring activities. Summit Sierra provides the least restrictive placements that address students receiving the

maximum access to the general education setting with their typical peers. Current placement services include full inclusion, push-in services, and pull-out services, and individual and small group instruction from the special education teachers and related service personnel. Ancillary services include student support counselors and associate teachers to support the academic and behavior needs of students with learning challenges.

Summit Sierra ensures students who have been removed from classes for disciplinary reasons receive appropriate services, manifestation determinations, functional behavior assessments, and behavior intervention plans as needed.

SCHOOL COMPLIANCE WITH PROTECTING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER (ELL) STUDENTS	
Removal of barriers to the enrollment and retention of ELL students	✓
Communicates with all English learners in a language they can understand	✓
Provides English language development services to English language learners (ELL)—national original minority students	✓

Summit Sierra uses a home language survey in its enrollment packet to determine families who need information in a language other than English. The school provides qualified and competent adult interpreters to communicate with parents of English Language Learners (ELLs) at events and translate vital documents as needed or requested.

Summit Sierra has a process to identify, assess, and place ELL students in classes that include a home language survey and provisions for testing students on the state language proficiency assessment. The school administers the Washington English Language Proficiency Assessment (WELPA) to determine English proficiency and provides on-going progress monitoring of academic performance. The school’s English language development services are based on sound educational theory and have been implemented effectively, including qualified staff and adequate resources and facilities. The school measures the effectiveness of the ELL program through grade level and team data analysis and makes modifications as needed. The school ensures ELL services through a full-inclusion model. Professional development has been documented for all staff on ELL assessment administration and strategies for vocabulary instruction.

SCHOOL RESPONSE: A response was not provided by the school.

DATA SOURCES: *Attachment 4 of the Charter Contract, charter contract amendments, board meeting agendas, packets, reports and minutes, Academic Calendar, Statement of Assurances within Charter Contract, Pre-Opening Conditions Calendar submissions, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), State Auditor’s Office (SAO) Accountability Audit, Washington Integrated System of Monitoring (WISM)*

2. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT

MEASURE	THE SCHOOL DEMONSTRATES COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:	RATING
2a. Financial Reporting and Compliance Requirements	Applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to financial reporting and compliance requirements. All policies and requirements issued by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and Washington State Auditor’s office concerning accounting for public school districts in the state of Washington.	MEETS
2b. Adherence to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)	Applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to financial management and oversight expectations as evidenced by an annual independent financial audit.	MEETS

SCHOOL-SPECIFIC NARRATIVE

Summit Sierra maintained compliance with its financial reporting and compliance requirements to the Commission, OSPI, and the SAO. All charter schools, authorized by the Commission, have an annual requirement to submit an independent financial audit. These independent financial audits are also reviewed by the SAO.

The school’s independent auditors, [Clifton Larson Allen LLP](#), issued an unmodified report that identified no material weaknesses, reported no significant deficiencies, and noted no areas of noncompliance material to the financial statements. The SAO audit, in review of the independent audit, states, “We did not become aware of any instance in which the work of the other auditors gave rise to concern about the quality of their work.”

SCHOOL RESPONSE: A response was not provided by the school.

DATA SOURCES: *Quarterly Financial Report, Annual Budget, annual independent financial audit, Commission Financial Performance Framework Report 18-19SY.*

3. GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING

MEASURE	THE SCHOOL DEMONSTRATES COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING	RATING
3a. Governance Requirements	Applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to governance by its board.	MEETS
3b. Management Accountability	Applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to oversight of the school management team.	MEETS
3c. Reporting Requirements	Applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to relevant reporting requirements to the Commission, state, and federal authorities.	MEETS

SCHOOL-SPECIFIC NARRATIVE

BOARD OVERVIEW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority of members required for quorum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fewer than 3, but no more than 9 directors allowed

Summit Sierra is governed by a Charter Management Organization (CMO) Summit Public Schools Washington, which oversees multiple schools within the portfolio. The Summit Public Schools Washington Board oversees the following schools: Summit Atlas, Summit Olympus, and Summit Sierra.

The Board maintained compliance with its governance requirements. This was verified by both the Commission through its board meeting observations and review of meeting materials and by the SAO through its [Accountability Audit Report](#)

The Board of Directors demonstrated an understanding of the school’s bylaws and policies and procedures through its consistent compliance with the regulations. The Board met 9 times during the 18-19 School year, within quorum requirement. Directors/board members reviewed board packets in advance and received extensive updates from the school leadership team regarding student academic performance, fundraising and partnerships, finance, and school policies. The directors/board members regularly participated in committees presenting their progress at open board meetings. Committees included governance, finance, development, academic excellence, and school leadership evaluation.

The Board held all meetings in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adhered to the rules and regulations of the Public Records Act, and demonstrated effective and transparent management of conflicts

of interest and code of ethics. Summit Public Schools Washington Board is active and provides competent oversight of the school. The Board is comprised of individuals with experience in various areas of relevant fields. A review of meeting minutes and notes demonstrates the Board's clear understanding of and commitment to the school's mission. Directors/board members were consistently engaged in full board meetings, asking clarifying questions to each other, school staff, and other presenters and offering expertise where needed.

The Summit Public Schools Washington Board Leadership Evaluation committee meets annually to set goals for the upcoming year. These goals reflect academic, staffing, student, and family targets. The Board and school leader revisit the goals throughout the year. The Board provides the school leader with a mid-year and end of the year progress report that includes board, student, and staff feedback. The report consists of qualitative and quantitative research data. If the school is not meeting its goals, the board works with the school leader to determine how to realign resources. Informally, Board committees are tasked with clear goals, which are monitored at each full board meeting.

The Board did not note any significant deficiencies. The school maintained compliance with its reporting requirements to the Commission. The Commission received no reports from state or federal entities regarding late or inaccurate compliance submissions.

SCHOOL RESPONSE: A response was not provided by the school.

DATA SOURCES: *Commission Board Meeting Observations, Annual Compliance Calendar, SAO Accountability Audit*

4. STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND EMPLOYEES

MEASURE	THE SCHOOL DEMONSTRATES COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:	RATING
4a. Rights of Students	Applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to the rights of students.	MEETS
4b. Recurrent Enrollment	Number of students continuing to be enrolled in the school from one year to the next is expressed as a percentage of the total number of students eligible to continue their enrollment at the school.	DOES NOT MEET
4c. Teacher and Staff Credentials	Legal obligations for public schools to employ appropriately qualified and credentialed staff, including administrative, teaching, and educational support staff as required by law.	MEETS
4d. Employee Rights	Applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to employment considerations.	MEETS
4e. Background Checks	Applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to background checks of all applicable individuals (including stand and members of the charter community, where applicable).	MEETS

SCHOOL-SPECIFIC NARRATIVE

SCHOOL COMPLIANCE WITH ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT PRACTICES	
No limits to admission on any basis other than age group, grade level, or enrollment capacity	✓
No tuition charged	✓
Follows lottery enrollment laws	✓
Does not inquire about a student's special education status during the application process	✓
Accepts a variety of documents to establish a student's age and residency	✓
Does not inquire about a student or parent's U.S. citizenship status or immigration status	✓

The Summit Sierra had assigned staff members to fulfill its responsibilities under Section 504, Title IX, McKinney-Vento, Foster Care, and state nondiscrimination laws. Each of the coordinators received training regarding their responsibilities. Summit Sierra included a nondiscrimination statement in all major school publications widely disseminated to students, parents, and employees and on the website.

The school posted its sexual harassment policy and educational rights of homeless children and youth in accessible locations of the school's campus. The Commission verified that the school adopted discrimination complaint and appeal procedures and sexual harassment policies and procedures that are consistent with the requirements in state law. Summit Sierra has formalized methods of data collection and analysis as well as the ability to implement effective interventions throughout the year regarding discrimination and discipline of students across subgroups. The school has a process for auditing instructional materials to evaluate and eliminate bias pertaining to protected classes in all textbooks and instructional materials.

Summit Sierra has removed barriers to the enrollment and retention of all students. Its application is available on its website and campus. The school follows admissions and enrollment practices outlined in RCW 28A.710.050 (not limiting admission on any basis other than age group, grade level, or enrollment capacity; not charging tuition; following lottery enrollment laws; revising enrollment capacity annually to facilitate the academic success of its students). Summit Sierra includes a Student Housing Questionnaire in its enrollment packet and consists of a comprehensive Homeless Student Policy in its Family Handbook. The school identified a Foster Care/McKinney-Vento Liaison responsible for enrollment, accommodations, and transportation for eligible students and coordination of services with community agencies and entities.

Recurrent enrollment for the for the first two years is used as a baseline to set subsequent recurrent enrollment targets. Summit Sierra set a recurrent enrollment target of 85% for the 2018-19 academic year. The Commission determined the rate of 2018-2019 recurrent enrollment was 81.7%. Thus, the school failed to meet the target rate earning a 'Does Not Meet' standard rating.

The State Auditor's Office (SAO) issued no findings in its [Accountability Audit Report](#) regarding teacher and staff credentials as tested through its evaluation of staff mix compliance.

As verified through compliance submissions based on the Annual Compliance Calendar, the Commission identified no areas of non-compliance related to employment considerations or background checks.

SCHOOL RESPONSE: A response was not provided by the school.

DATA SOURCES: SAO Accountability Audit, Employee Handbook, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Washington Integrated System of Monitoring (WISM)

5. SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

MEASURE	THE SCHOOL DEMONSTRATES COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:	RATING
5a. Facilities and Transportation	Applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to the school facilities, grounds, and transportation.	MEETS
5b. Health and Safety	Applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to safety and the provision of health-related services.	MEETS
5c. Information Management	Applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and provisions of the charter contract relating to maintaining and handling information appropriately.	MEETS

SCHOOL-SPECIFIC NARRATIVE

The State Auditor’s Office (SAO) issued no findings in its [Accountability Audit Report](#) regarding transportation.

Summit Sierra facility met all health and safety code requirements, maintained compliance with legal obligations for providing student transportation, and offered a safe environment conducive to learning. The facility’s design, size, maintenance, security, and equipment were all adequate to meet the school’s needs. The school was accessible to all, including people with physical disabilities.

Summit Sierra maintained compliance with public records requirements, proper and secure maintenance of student, governance, and finance records, rules, and regulations regarding transferring of student records. The school follows adequate safety and security procedures to ensure a safe testing administration. Summit Sierra has identified an Assessment Coordinator who provides training to all staff.

SCHOOL RESPONSE: A response was not provided by the school.

DATA SOURCES: SAO *Accountability Audit*, *Commission Annual Compliance Submission(s)*

6. MISSION SPECIFIC NON-ACADEMIC GOALS

MEASURE	THE SCHOOL DEMONSTRATES COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING	RATING
6a. Other Obligations	Mission Specific Non-Academic Goal 85% of students respond neutrally or positively to the question “there is an adult at the school that I trust” on spring survey.	DOES NOT MEET

SCHOOL-SPECIFIC NARRATIVE

Each year, Commission authorized charter schools set Mission Specific Non-Academic Goal that is aligned to or supports the school’s unique mission. All data for Mission Specific Goals are self-reported by the individual school.

Summit Sierra developed Mission Specific Non-Academic Goal that was approved by the Commission. The non-academic goal was, “85 % of students will respond neutrally or positively to the question, ‘there is an adult at school that I trust’ on the Spring survey. The Mission Specific Non-Academic Goal was not met with 81% of students responding neutrally or positively.

SCHOOL RESPONSE: A response was not provided by the school.

DATA SOURCES: *Mission specific non-academic goal*



MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 40996, Olympia, WA 98504-0996

PHONE

(360) 725-5511

STREET ADDRESS

1068 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

EMAIL

charterschoolinfo@k12.wa.us

CHARTERSCHOOL.WA.GOV

