

Los Angeles County of Education  
9300 Imperial Hwy.,  
Downey, CA 90242

November 17, 2024

Subject: Renewal for Alma Fuerte Public School

Dear Honorable School Board,

My name is Nathan Wang, and I am an authorized part-time teacher at Alma Fuerte School in Pasadena and a high school senior at Harvard-Westlake School. I am also the executive director of the non-profit organization Formative Youth Journalism Organization (FYJI) which fosters journalism education in middle schools in Pasadena and the greater Los Angeles area. Alma Fuerte is a partner of FYJI, and I am writing this letter in support of the renewal of Alma Fuerte Charter School.

As a growing organization, FYJI initially struggled to reach a school for our journalism programs. I have been in contact with Alma Fuerte School for a year, and the school offered to host our summer journalism program. Alma Fuerte School struck me as an institution with students who have enormous potential to achieve their aspirations. Additionally, the faculty at the school are truly interested in the well-being of the students. From creative culinary classes to the encompassing humanities and sciences curriculum, the students engage in a great number of academic opportunities sponsored by the school. They then bring these activities back to journalism class, sharing with me their school-fostered passions.

Having worked with students across all middle school grades at Alma Fuerte and select members of the school's TK-5 cohort, I have witnessed my initial understanding of the school materialize into a deep appreciation for the opportunities Alma Fuerte has to offer. Even during their summer break, Alma Fuerte journalism students entered each day with an eagerness to learn and engage in journalism activities that my team and I posed.

As we continue to work with Alma Fuerte this school year to develop the school's journalism program, I am continuously impressed by its students and the community's drive to engage in a print news publication on campus – an achievement only a few middle schools can boast.

I ask that you support Alma Fuerte School's renewal of charter status to continue to support the bright students and supportive community that surrounds it. Thank you, education board, for authorizing the school and for listening to educators like myself about the school's success and need in the community.

Please reach out for further clarification or request additional information at [nathan@fyji.org](mailto:nathan@fyji.org)

Sincerely,

Nathan Wang  
Executive Director, Formative Youth Journalism Initiative

