

Highland Academy Charter School- Renewal Application Summary

The Anchorage School District approved Highland Academy Charter School's (HACS) renewal application on November 1, 2022, for ten (10) years, through the end of school year (SY) 2032-2033. Highland Academy Charter School first opened in 2003 and last renewed in 2013.

Highland Tech Charter School's name was officially changed by the APC in 2016 to Highland Academy Charter School (HACS) to better reflect the academic focus.

Program Information:

The Highland Academy Charter School Community recognizes that every child needs an education system that prepares them for participation in a workforce requiring the ability to communicate with others, solve complex problems, and think critically. HACS strives to systematically support students to successfully face rigorous higher education coursework, career challenges, and a globally competitive workforce. This includes a focus on competency learning through real-world experiences, in order to provide opportunities to develop leadership for postsecondary success.

In combination with core academic standards, HACS students will learn and achieve competency in additional sets of standards that bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world experiences. These are: Personal, Social, and Service Standards (PSS) and College and Career Preparedness Standards (CCP). Embedded in these standards is skill development of communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity which are critical skill sets for success beyond the classroom.

Two critical and unique elements of the HACS curriculum are Standards sets for *Personal and Social Service* (PSS) and *College and Career Preparedness* (CCP). These standard strands cover a range of essential skills and dispositions and encompass a set of attributes necessary to promote the growth of young adults who are ready for college, the work force, and at the most basic level, adulthood.

Changes to the Charter include:

The most significant change since the last application in 2013 is academic level progression guidelines. Prior to a change in policy in 2018, all students were required to meet every standard at a proficient level. If students were not proficient by the end of the school year, a student was required to repeat the course the following year until they were able to demonstrate mastery of each standard. This policy was revised to allow teachers to use all evidence available (including student work, individual needs, and formal plans such as IEPs and 504 plans, etc) in order to determine movement to the next level, even if the overall level mark was developing. The determination of whether it does more harm than good to retain the student in a particular level is now balanced with the determination of whether the student is demonstrating readiness for the next level.

Additionally changes:

- Updated HACS Goals
- Information on APC board, teachers and staff; term of contract
- Clarifying language and statistics on services provided

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- Updated assessment data and related goals
- Updated intervention plan
- Climate and Connectedness Survey and explanation of score and related goals
- More detailed explanation of the lottery and admission process
- ASD goals and guardrails for 2026

Program Site:

Highland Academy Charter School sub-leases the facility from the Anchorage School District. The current mailing and physical address of HACS is:

5530 East Northern Lights Blvd Ste 1, Anchorage, AK 99504.

The facility has 12 classrooms, 6 office spaces (Admin, Counselor, Nurse, Paraprofessionals, SPED and front office), a staff lounge, a school store, a copy area, a commons/multi-purpose room, three storage rooms and an overflow room for project-based learning. A small outdoor play area is accessible for students at lunch time.

Enrollment Details by Year, Grades 6 – 12:

SY 2022-2023

170 Total number of students that enrolled during the year

SY 2021-2022

157 Total number of students that enrolled during the year

SY 2020-2021

170 Total number of students that enrolled during the year

SY 2019-2020

184 Total number of students that enrolled during the year

School Mission:

Highland Academy Charter Schools strives to equip students with the academic, social, and technical skills to excel in today's world and contribute positively to our society and future.

Vision Statement:

Educating for Leadership, Educating for Life

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School Goals:

Academic (ASD Goals and Guardrails- XXVI)

- Beginning September 2020, the percentage of students in grades 3-9 proficient in mathematics on the state summative assessment will increase from **40%** to **55%** by May 2026.
- HACS students will progress through Math in MAP Growth testing with the following goals:
 - 80% of students who are below proficient will increase by one category in the 2022-2023 MAP Growth test period.
 - 100% of students who are less than 20 percentile for achievement will improve by 10 percentile points. Additionally, our percentage of students completing Alegria II equivalency will increase from 51% to 75%.
- HACS students' performance will be measured through a variety of means, including, but not limited to, quarterly progress reports from certified teachers, level of proficiency at the end of each school year, attendance, graduation rates, and by participating in District, State, and National exams measuring students' achievement. These include formative assessments such as iReady and MAP Growth, as well as summative assessments including AK STAR and NAEP. Other assessments include the PSAT, SAT and ACT data as applicable.
- HACS aims to meet or exceed district and state performance targets for proficiency in reading, writing, and math. Additionally, specific measurable charter school performance targets and interventions will be implemented to support academic achievement. These include specific study hall class assignments aimed at closing academic gaps.
- HACS will also engage in the accreditation review process with Cignia, in order to guide improvement goals and ensure targets are met.

College, Career, Life Ready

- Beginning with the Freshman Class in September 2020, the percentage of high school students graduating Life Ready as well as College and/or Career Ready will increase from a baseline of 75% in Spring 2022 to **100%** in Spring 2026.