

Peabody Charter School 2007-08 SARC

School Description and Mission Statement (2007-08)

This section provides information about the school's goals and programs.

Peabody Charter School, built in 1927, is situated on Santa Barbara's north side. From the original six classrooms, the school has steadily expanded to its current 34-classroom campus plus an auditorium and cafeteria/kitchen. The school has an Exploration Center, completed in 2005, that consists of a science lab, library, technology lab, and outdoor patio and amphitheatre. Thirty-five credentialed classroom teachers, a curriculum coordinator, one resource specialist, a special day class teacher, a speech and language specialist, a physical education teacher, and a librarian comprise Peabody's full-time certificated staff. On a part time basis, additional staff supports the educational program and serves the students. This includes five art instructors, a drama teacher, a music teacher, an instrumental music teacher, and p.e. assistants. The administration includes a principal, assistant principal, and curriculum coordinator. There is a director of fiscal services and school business coordinator. Classified staff includes instructional assistants, cafeteria staff, custodians, maintenance and operations personnel, office staff, an accounts manager, and a health assistant.

The Charter

The staff, parents, and students of Peabody believe that our charter school allows the ability, flexibility, and latitude to provide innovative curriculum development and an outstanding instructional program. Peabody's charter was first granted by the Santa Barbara Elementary School District in 1993 and renewed in 1998 and 2003; the charter reflects the thoughts and ideas of parents, staff, and community, with the intent to structure school programs to provide an opportunity for all students to be successful life-long learners in the 21st century. As of March 2007, Peabody Charter School is almost completely autonomous and responsible for all matters related to the governance of the school, including its administration, budget and fiscal operations, maintenance of the facility, food services, professional growth opportunities for staff, curriculum development, and the methodology and delivery of instruction to our ethnically and socio-economically diverse student population of 740.

While remaining academically and financially strong for the past 14 years, Peabody has provided its students, community, and district with innovative and effective elementary instruction tailored to its constituents and its vision. The following are examples of how this partnership of educators, parents, and community members has worked together for the betterment of the students:

- Educational Excellence. In 2007, the school met or exceeded the state targets in English language arts and mathematics for almost every group. Also three out of four Academic Performance Index (API) growth goals were met again in 2007. Also, the performance gap on the API has steadily declined since 2003.
- Recognition. Peabody received the Title 1 Academic Achievement Award in 2006-07 and is only one of four schools in Santa Barbara County that earned this recognition.
- The student community of 740 reflects a rich ethnic and socio-economic diversity:
 - 43 percent of our students are Hispanic; 43 percent are white.
 - 35 percent of our students speak Spanish as their first language.
 - 38 percent of our students come from families that live at or below the poverty level.
- Teacher Competence. All classroom teachers have met or exceed the credential requirements of No Child Left Behind. No teacher is assigned to a position out of their credentialed area.

- Enrollment- The school has increased its enrollment every year, with a student population of 740 this year, which is very near the school's capacity of 750. We had an extensive waiting list for 2007-2008.
- Enrichment. Students have many enrichment opportunities to enhance their educational experience. All K-6 students receive specialized instruction in physical education, multimedia visual arts, music, drama, Spanish, science, technology, and library.
- Parent Involvement. All parents are required to volunteer in the classroom and at various school activities and fundraisers for a minimum of three hours per month.
- Fundraising. The Peabody Foundation board, comprised of parents, staff, administration, and community members, was established in 1995 to facilitate fundraising for the school's needs. It has raised funds of over \$3 million to date. The balance left on the Exploration Center is less than \$300,000 due to outstanding 2006-07 efforts (almost \$100,000) which included a golf tournament, auction evening, and grant writing.
- School Facility Improvements. Widespread support and hard work by the community led to the building of the state-of-the-art Exploration Center, a modern, beautiful three learning environment which houses a science lab, a library (with fireplace and small amphitheatre), and computer lab. Recent additional enhancements to the campus include privacy walls in the main building, ADA modernizations, field re-siding, and new carpets for ten classrooms.
- Partnerships. Close, mutually beneficial relationships have been built with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, the University of California Santa Barbara Education Department, and local businesses.

This is merely an overview of the remarkable accomplishments at Peabody Charter School since 1993. In 1997 and again in 2000, Peabody Charter School was recognized as a California Distinguished School. Being an independent charter school has allowed the staff to use its expertise, energy, and resources to best serve the community and build an outstanding educational program.

Vision

The school community of staff, parents, and K-6 students will work collaboratively to create a safe, caring, supportive, innovative, and academically challenging educational environment which ensures that all students are self motivated, competent, lifelong learners in the 21st century.

Educational Philosophy

We believe that learning best occurs when:

- students have responsibility for their choices, actions, and learning;
- The instructional program is rich in authentic, hands-on educational experiences that include laboratory science, multimedia art education, environmental studies, community partnerships, and technology;
- there is acceptance of different learning styles and an emphasis on the many ways that students learn, such as in flexible groupings, diverse modalities, cooperatively, through multiple intelligences, and with personal choice;
- specialists enhance the program and serve as teaching resources for performing and visual arts, science, physical education, GATE, Special Education, and technology;
- the staff collaborates and meets regularly to plan, reflect, analyze, and facilitate student-centered learning and assessment;
- the school supports teacher professionalism with appropriate budget allocations and time for planning, staff development, and instructional materials;

- parents are expected and required to be actively involved in their children’s education *and* volunteer in the classroom and other school activities; and
- teachers create instruction, curriculum, assessments, and requirements to meet the needs of all learners, including those who require remediation and those who require acceleration.

Opportunities for Parental Involvement (2007-08)

This section provides information about opportunities for parents to become involved with school activities.

Research indicates that parent involvement in school is positively related to the academic success of their students. To this end, parent participation in school programs and activities is a requirement at Peabody. Parents are encouraged to serve as members of the board of directors, on the Foundation, English Learner Advisory Committee, Parent Teacher Organization, etc., and are welcomed in the classroom and school as volunteers.

Parents can be participants in the following groups:

- Foundation. The foundation oversees the school capital fundraising, such as the state of the art Exploration Center and the field/track renovation.
- ELAC. English Language Advisory Committee (P.O.D.E.R.); parent and teacher group that addresses the needs of the English Learners; liaison to the principal.
- PTSO. Parent, teacher, staff organization dedicated to increased family activities, communication and staff appreciation; all parents are encouraged to participate.
- Board of Directors. Three parent representatives are selected for our governing board.

In addition, parents may fulfill the volunteer requirement in a variety of ways that may include but are not limited to the following:

- Attendance at specific school events for which volunteer hours are awarded.
- Volunteer and assist teachers, office staff, library, maintenance crews, etc.
- Aid in after hour events such as Saturday work days, performance events, school registration/preparation, and extra curricular activities such as dances, athletic events, etc.
- Share expertise.

Parents also are responsible for honoring the Enrollment Contract including overseeing their students’ progress, work, attendance and behavior. Parents are encouraged to express their concerns, to visit the school, and to meet with the staff.

School Safety Plan (2007-08)

This section provides information about the school's comprehensive safety plan.

Date of Last Review/Update: March 1, 2007

Date Last Discussed with Staff: November 2, 2007

Student safety is an important concern at Peabody Charter School. Our school safety plan is updated annually before the beginning of each school year and is available in the school office. The plan includes evacuation routes and procedures, job tasks for each team, including safety, utilities shut-off, triage, building security as well as fire drills, evacuation instructions and lock-down procedures. Staff members receive regular training in CPR and first aid. Periodic emergency/disaster drills are conducted throughout the school year. Using documented safety plans and procedures; actual emergency situations are reenacted to keep us prepared.

Peabody Charter School has adopted an Integrated Pest Management Plan using no pesticides or harmful chemicals on the campus.

Suspensions and Expulsions

This table displays the rate of suspensions and expulsions (the total number of incidents divided by the total enrollment) at the school and district levels for the most recent three-year period.

Rate	School			District		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Suspensions	0.8	6.5		2.3	3.1	
Expulsions	0.0	0.1		0.0	0.0	

School Facility Conditions and Improvements (2008-09)

This section provides information about the condition of the school's grounds, buildings, and restrooms, and a description of any planned or recently completed facility improvements.

Peabody Charter School, built in 1927, is conveniently situated on Santa Barbara's north side in the San Roque neighborhood. From the original six classroom buildings, Peabody Charter School has steadily expanded to its current 34 classroom campus. The school, surrounded by beautiful and lush grounds, has a large library, an auditorium, a preschool, and a cafeteria. Six rooms were modernized in 2002. The original building was modernized during the 2004-06 school years. Restroom facilities (29 toilets) include four for the kindergartens, ten for the primary grades and ten for the upper grades, two in the auditorium, one in the cafeteria and two in the main building. In January 2005, Peabody opened an 8,000 square foot building called the Exploration Center, which consists of a state of the art library, technology center and science learning laboratory.

Our on-site full-time maintenance person along with three full-time custodians maintain the yards and buildings in excellent condition. All restrooms are in working order.

Students are supervised beginning at 7:30 a.m. each morning until the last bus leaves after our homework centers at 4:00 p.m.

Academic Counselors and Other Support Staff (2007-08)

This table displays, in units of full-time equivalents (FTE), the number of academic counselors and other support staff who are assigned to the school and the average number of students per academic counselor. One FTE equals one staff member working full time; one FTE could also represent two staff members who each work 50 percent of full time.

Title	Number of FTE Assigned to School
Library Media Teacher (Librarian)	1.0
Library Media Services Staff (paraprofessional)	0.4
Psychologist	0.6
Health Assistant	1.0
Nurse	0.1
Speech/Language/Hearing Specialist	1.0
Other	

Types of Services Funded (2007-08)

This section provides information about the programs and supplemental services that are available at the school and funded through either categorical or other sources.

Peabody Charter School offers enrichment programs for students during the regular school day. Peabody has a strong visual and performing arts program offering vocal and instrumental music, ceramics, drama, fine arts, digital arts, and storytelling. Peabody also has a K-6 physical education program and staff offering three 45 minute p.e. periods weekly during which the classroom teachers have release time. The physical education program also organizes a track meet for grades 4-6, a sports day for grades K-3, and a jog-a-thon that raises over \$100,000 yearly. The p.e. staff also brings in community high school and college teams to introduce sports (soccer, basketball, tennis, football, and baseball). Peabody has a healthy on-site café that serves delicious nutritious meals and utilizes the produce from the school garden which is overseen and tended to by the sixth grade.

School services include a psychologist/counselor three days per week, one fulltime speech therapist, a full time librarian, and two full time special education teachers. We offer an early intervention in literacy program that provides individual tutors 30 minutes daily to students who need additional support in reading for grades K-3.

The curriculum coordinator and assistant principal are integrally involved in helping teachers prepare lessons, provide training, and instructional support. All instruction is standards based and is also aligned with state technology standards.

Professional Development

This section provides information on the annual number of school days dedicated to staff development for the most recent three-year period.

Peabody Charter School participates in district-wide professional development initiatives scheduled throughout the year, including Saturday workshops, summer workshops, late-start days, and early release days. No schooldays are dedicated to school-wide professional development.

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Schooldays dedicated to school-wide professional development	0	0	0