



Charles Brown Learning Academy

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Charles Brown Learning Academy?

The Charles Brown Learning Academy serves scholars by prioritizing essential skills and using regular assessments to ensure mastery of those skills. Prerequisite standards are combined with current grade level standards to accelerate the amount of learning that takes place during the school year. This personalized approach to teaching enables scholars to improve their depth of understanding and increase their academic growth during the school year.

2. Why is Mother Lode Union School District opening an academy program?

- a. *Parents were surveyed in Fall 2022 about what type of program our district needed and 55% of parents surveyed indicated the need for an intervention program to address learning loss.*
- b. *An independent demographic study was conducted last year and the results showed that there will be an increase in housing construction in the area surrounding the Charles Brown campus which would increase enrollment in our district.*
- c. *The learning model being used in the Academy requires specific scheduling, routines, curriculum development, and a unique form of teacher collaboration. Implementing this model at an existing school would be a significant change to their current programs and would take more time to implement, but starting this model at a new campus allows us to put this new learning approach into place immediately.*

3. Who is eligible to attend The Academy?

- a. *Scholars have been invited based on academic needs and their learner profile. This will enable our teachers to plan instruction that targets scholars with similar needs.*
- b. *Currently, only students in Mother Lode Union School District boundaries may be invited to attend the academy. In the future, we will enroll candidates from surrounding districts as well.*

4. How is The Academy being funded?

The Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant is available to our district, but must be used to address learning loss and help students reach grade level proficiency. This grant funding will enable us to start this program until academy enrollment is high enough to fund the school with attendance funds.

5. Will opening this academy take resources away from other schools?

The funding allocations for Herbert Green and Indian Creek have not been affected due to the opening of Charles Brown. In addition to general funds that both schools will continue to receive, there are additional funding sources being utilized to provide multiple resources to Herbert Green and Indian Creek including the Educator Effectiveness Grant, the Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant, and Federal COVID Relief Funds.

6. If my child attends another school in the Mother Lode Union School District, what resources and supports are being offered at their school?

- a. *There are several resources and support programs being implemented at both Herbert Green Middle School and Indian Creek Elementary School. These include hiring Intervention Teachers*



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and Academic Coaches at both schools, providing 8 Instructional Aides to support classrooms, a dedicated Art Room and a dedicated STEAM Room at Indian Creek, newly purchased STEM curriculum at both Indian Creek and Herbert Green, before and after school interventions at both schools, and a partnership with the Boys and Girl Club of Placerville to provide an extended day opportunity to our students.

- b. In addition, we have upgraded technology in every classroom by adding Promethean Boards to improve student engagement, offered before and after school interventions to students that need extra support, and added several web-based, supplemental programs like Reflex Math and Lexia English.*
- c. In the 2023-24 school year, we are adding a Board Certified Behavior Analyst to support student mental health and behavior at Indian Creek, as well as one full time and one part time PE teacher at Indian Creek who will keep students active and provide additional planning time to our teachers.*
- d. Other resources and supports include access to mental health services like Care Solace and New Morning, mentoring programs like Beyond School Walls, and a variety of sports offerings such as cross country, wrestling, flag football, and soccer.*

7. How is the program at Charles Brown different from what is offered at the other schools?

- a. Scholars in the academy will benefit from an accelerated learning model. This acceleration is not a faster pace or advanced curriculum. Instead, our teachers will focus on essential standards to accelerate scholars towards grade level proficiency. Scholars will master the essential standards that are critical for success in future grade levels.*
- b. Two blocks of intervention are scheduled during the day to address academic needs in reading and math.*
- c. Lessons are planned to include reteaching prerequisite skills that will be needed before new learning can begin.*
- d. Regular common assessments will be conducted to ensure that students have mastered new skills.*

8. What are the future goals of the Academy program?

Each school year, we will be adding two grade levels until the school is a K-8th grade academy.

9. Will the academy be open to students that don't live in the Mother Lode Union School District boundaries?

School districts today are competing with neighboring districts for enrollment. By offering this unique program, we will first serve the students in our own district. Eventually, however, we will open the academy to candidates throughout El Dorado County therefore boosting enrollment in the Mother Lode Union School District and helping to provide another option to families.