

Philosophy-Goals-Objectives and Comprehensive Plans

Charter Schools

A district with ten or fewer schools may petition the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education to become a charter district pursuant to E.C. 47606.

The Board of Education accepts responsibility for protecting the interests of the public when granting or denying charter petitions. The Board desires to support innovations which improve student learning and views charter schools as an opportunity to implement school-level reform. The District administration shall work cooperatively with parents/guardians, students, teachers and principals in their efforts to design new schools and alternatives to the existing state laws and regulations that govern public schools.

By law, petitioners are responsible for developing the charter that will govern the charter school. Unlike other alternative education programs which are under the direct control of the district, charter schools shall be governed at the school in accordance with charter provisions approved by the Board. In granting charter petitions, the Board shall give preference to schools best able to provide comprehensive learning experiences for academically low-achieving students. (Education Code 47605)

The Board shall give appropriate consideration to charter school petitions in light of the effects on the district's children and the proposed school's ability to function effectively and meet its goals. In accordance with law, the proposed charter must include descriptions of the vision, mission and goals of the charter school, the governance structure which will be used, the educational outcomes to be attained by students and the method by which progress in meeting these outcomes will be measured.

In order to be formally received by the Board, a petition for a charter school shall be in writing and is to include all components and signatures required by law and shall be submitted the Superintendent's office at least ten working days before a regularly scheduled Board meeting date for inclusion as an agenda item on the Board agenda. Any petition submitted less than ten work days before a regularly scheduled Board meeting date shall be scheduled for formal receipt by the Governing Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. (Education Code 47605)

Within 30 days of formally receiving a petition to establish a charter school and accepting the petition as an agenda item at a Board meeting, the Board shall hold a public hearing to determine the level of support for the petition by teachers employed by the District, other employees of the District, and parents. (Education Code 47605)

Within 60 days of formally receiving a petition, or within 90 days with mutual consent of the petitioners and the Board of Education, the Board shall either approve or deny the request to establish the charter school. (Education Code 47605)

In its evaluation of the proposed charter, the Board shall include in its review the criteria set forth in the Education Code and the California Code of Regulations, Title 5, section 11967.5.1.

BP 0420.4(b)

The Board shall hold charter schools under its jurisdiction accountable for fulfilling the terms of their charters and may revoke a charter if deemed necessary.

The Board may approve one or more memoranda of understanding to clarify the financial and operational agreements between the District and a charter school authorized by the Board of Education.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

47600-47616 Charter Schools

60600 Assessment of Academic Achievement

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11967.5.1 Criteria for the Review and Approval of Charter School Petitions by the State Board of Education