

Sacramento City USD

Board Policy

Charter Schools

BP 0420.4

Philosophy, Goals, Objectives and Comprehensive Plans

The Sacramento City Unified School District Governing Board believes that charter schools shall provide an opportunity to implement school-level reform and to support educationally sound innovations which improve student learning, increase learning opportunities for students identified as academically low-achieving, and provide competition to help improve the neighboring low-performing schools. These schools shall operate under the provisions of their charters, federal laws, specified state laws, and general oversight of the Board.

Criteria for Granting Charters

In determining whether to grant or deny a charter, the Board shall determine whether the proposed charter adequately addresses all the provisions required by the Education Code and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. The Board shall not deny a charter school petition unless specific written factual findings are made pursuant to law and administrative regulation.

The Board also shall assess community support for the charter school and the ability of the school to provide opportunities not currently available at district schools. The charter school petitioner shall provide the district and the Board with information about:

1. How its program will serve low-achieving and other special needs students
2. The facilities to be used by the charter school
3. The financial relationship between the charter school and the district
4. The way in which the school's administrative services and other noninstructional services will be provided
5. Potential liability effects upon the school and the district
6. Any additional information required by the district

The Board shall ensure that the proposed charter contains adequate processes and measures for holding the charter school accountable for fulfilling the terms of its charter. These shall include, but not be limited to, fiscal accountability systems as well as clear performance standards and multiple measures by which the charter school will be held accountable for meeting its educational and other goals for students. To assist the Board in its general oversight responsibility, charters shall provide for regular reports to the Board.

In granting charter petitions, the Board shall give preference to schools best able to provide comprehensive learning experiences for, and who present a plan to enroll, academically low-achieving students according to standards established by the California Department of Education. (Education Code 47605)

Charter School Monitoring

The Board shall monitor each charter school to determine whether it makes "adequate yearly progress" as defined by the State Board of Education and federal Title I accountability requirements. If a charter school fails to make adequate yearly progress for two or more consecutive years, the Board shall take action for program improvement in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulations.

Charter Renewals and Revocations

Upon the request of the charter school that it would like to renew its charter and at least 90 days before the expiration date of the charter, the Board shall evaluate the charter school's performance and determine whether to renew the charter for an additional term.

Renewal shall be subject to the school's ability to demonstrate reasonable, measurable progress toward the goals specified in its charter, including but not limited to: evidence of student achievement and other student outcomes; compliance with legal requirements; fiscal management; parent/guardian, student and staff satisfaction with the program; and the ability of the school's governance structure to provide access and accountability to the public. The Board may require that the school amend its charter to address any new issues before granting renewal.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

During the term of any charter, the Board may revoke the charter if deemed necessary in accordance with the Charter Schools Act and administrative regulations.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

17280-17317 Field Act

17365-17374 Field Act, fitness for occupancy

41365 Charter school revolving loan fund

42100 Annual statement of receipts and expenditures

42238.51-42238.53 Funding for charter districts

44237 Criminal record summary

44830.1 Certificated employees, conviction of a violent or serious felony

45122.1 Classified employees, conviction of a violent or serious felony

46201 Instructional minutes

47600-47616.7 Charter Schools Act of 1992, as amended

47640-47647 Special education funding for charter schools

47652 Funding of first-year charter schools
48000 Minimum age of admission (kindergarten)
48010 Minimum age of admission (first grade)
48011 Minimum age of admission from kindergarten or other school
51745-51749.3 Independent study
52052 Alternative accountability system
54032 Limited English or low-achieving pupils
56026 Special education
56145-56146 Special education services in charter schools
60600-60649 Assessment of academic achievement, including:
60605 Academic content and performance standards; assessments
60640-60649 Standardized Testing and Reporting Program
60850-60859 High school exit examination

GOVERNMENT CODE

3540-3549.3 Educational Employment Relations Act
54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act

PENAL CODE

667.5 Definition of violent felony
1192.7 Definition of serious felony

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11700.1-11705 Independent study
11960-11969 Charter schools

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24

101 et seq. California Building Standards Code

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6311 Adequate yearly progress
6319 Qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals
7223-7225 Charter schools

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

200.1-200.78 Accountability
300.18 Highly qualified special education teachers

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

89 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 166 (2006)
80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 52 (1997)
78 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 297 (1995)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Charter Schools: A Manual for Governance Teams, rev. 2005

CSBA ADVISORIES

Charter School Facilities and Proposition 39: Legal Implications for School Districts, September 2005

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Special Education and Charter Schools: Questions and Answers, September 10, 2002

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GUIDANCE

Charter Schools Program, July 2004

The Impact of the New Title I Requirements on Charter Schools, July 2004

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Building Standards Commission: <http://www.bsc.ca.gov>

California Charter Schools Association: <http://www.charterassociation.org>

California Department of Education, Charter Schools: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cs>

Education Commission of the States: <http://www.ecs.org>

National Association of Charter School Authorizers: <http://www.charterauthorizers.org>

National School Boards Association: <http://www.nsba.org>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

Policy SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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