

Philosophy, Goals, Objectives, and Comprehensive Plans

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT

The Governing Board recognizes its ongoing responsibility to oversee that any charter school the Board has authorized is successfully fulfilling the terms of its charter and is providing a high-quality educational program for students enrolled in the charter school.

(cf. 0420.4 - Charter School Authorization)
(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

The Superintendent or designee shall identify at least one staff member to serve as a contact person for each charter school authorized by the Board. (Education Code 47604.32)

The Board and Superintendent or designee may inspect or observe any part of the charter school at any time. The Superintendent or designee shall visit each charter school at least annually. (Education Code 47604.32, 47607)

Waivers

If the charter school wishes to request a general waiver of any state law or regulation applicable to it, it shall request that the district submit a general waiver request to the State Board of Education (SBE) on its behalf. Upon approval of the Board, the Superintendent or designee shall submit such a waiver request to the SBE on behalf of the charter school.

(cf. 1431 – waivers)

Provision of District Services

The charter school may purchase administrative or other services from the district or any other source. (Education Code 47613)

Whenever the district agrees to provide administrative or support services, the district and charter school shall develop a memorandum of understanding which clarifies the financial and operational agreements between the district and charter school.

At the request of a charter school, the Superintendent or designee shall create and submit any reports required by the State Teachers' Retirement System or Public Employees' Retirement System on behalf of the charter school. The district may charge the charter school for the actual costs of reporting services but shall not require the charter school to purchase payroll processing services from the district as a condition for creating and submitting these reports. (Education Code 47611.3)

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (continued)

Material Revisions to Charter

Material revisions to a charter may be made only with Board approval. Material revisions shall be governed by the same standards and criteria that apply to new charter petitions as set forth in Education Code 47605 and shall include, but not be limited to, a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed. (Education Code 47607)

If an approved charter school proposes to establish or move operations to one or more additional sites, the charter school shall request a material revision to its charter and shall notify the Board of those additional locations. The Board shall consider approval of the additional locations at an open meeting. (Education Code 47605)

The Board shall have the authority to determine whether a proposed change in charter school operations constitutes a material revision of the approved charter.

Monitoring Charter School Performance

The Superintendent or designee shall monitor the charter school to determine whether it complies with all legal requirements applicable to charter schools, including making all reports required of charter schools in accordance with Education Code 47604.32. Any violations of law shall be reported to the Board.

The Board shall monitor each charter school to determine whether it is achieving, both schoolwide and for all groups of students served by the school, the measurable student outcomes set forth in the charter. This determination shall be based on the measures specified in the approved charter and on the charter school's annual review and assessment of its progress toward the goals and actions identified in its local control and accountability plan (LCAP).

The Board shall monitor the fiscal condition of the charter school based on any financial information obtained from the charter school, including, but not limited to, the charter school's preliminary budget, annual update of the school's LCAP, first and second interim financial reports, and final unaudited report for the full prior year. (Education Code 47604.32, 47604.33, 47606.5)

The district may charge up to one percent of a charter school's revenue for the actual costs of supervisory oversight of the school. However, if the district is able to provide substantially rent-free facilities to the charter school, the district may charge up to three percent of the charter school's revenue for actual costs of supervisory oversight or, if the facility is provided under Education Code 47614, the pro-rata share facilities costs calculated pursuant to 5 CCR 11969.7. If the district charges the pro-rata share, it may also charge one percent of the charter school's revenue in oversight fees. (Education Code 47613)

(cf. 7160 – Charter School Facilities)

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (continued)

Technical Assistance/Intervention

If, in three out of four consecutive school years, a charter school fails to improve outcomes for three or more student subgroups identified in Education Code 52052, or for all of the student subgroups if the school has fewer than three, in regard to one or more state or school priorities identified in the charter, the district: (Education Code 47607.3)

1. Shall provide technical assistance to the charter school using an evaluation rubric adopted by the SBE pursuant to Education Code 52064.5
2. May request that the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), with SBE approval, assign the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence to provide advice and assistance to the charter school pursuant to Education Code 52074

If a charter school receiving federal Title 1 funding has been identified for program improvement, it shall implement improvement strategies in accordance with its existing school improvement plan.

(cf. 0520.2- Title I Program Improvement Schools)

In accordance with the law, the Board may deny a charter school's renewal petition or may revoke a charter based on the charter school's poor performance, especially with regard to the academic achievement of all numerically significant subgroups of students served by the charter school.

(cf. 0420.42 – Charter School Renewal)
(cf. 0420.43 – Charter School Revocation)

Complaints

Each charter school shall establish and maintain policies and procedures to enable any person to file a complaint, in accordance with the uniform complaint procedures as specified in 5 CCR 4600-4687, alleging the school's noncompliance with Education Code 47606.5 or 47607.3. (Education Code 52075)

(cf. 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures)

A complainant who is not satisfied with the decision may appeal the decision to the SPI. (Education Code 52075)

If the charter school finds merit in the complaint or the SPI finds merit in an appeal, a remedy shall be provided to all affected students and parents/guardians. (Education Code 52075)

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (continued)

School Closure

In the event that the Board revokes or denies renewal of a charter or the school ceases operation for any reason, the Superintendent or designee shall, when applicable in accordance with the charter and/or a memorandum of understanding, provide assistance to facilitate the transfer of the charter school's former students and to finalize financial reporting and close-out.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide notification to the California Department of Education, within 10 calendar days of the Board's action if, renewal of the charter school is denied, the charter is revoked, or the charter school will cease operation for any reason.

Such notification shall include, but not be limited to, a description of the circumstances of the closure, the effective date of the closure, and the location of student and personnel records. (Education Code 47604.32; 5 CCR 11962.1)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

215 Suicide prevention policy

220 Nondiscrimination

221.9 Sex equity in competitive athletics

222 Lactation accommodations for students

17280-17317 Field Act

17365-17374 Field Act, fitness for occupancy

35330 Field trips and excursions; student fees

38080-38086 School meals

39831.3 Transpiration safety plan

39843 Disciplinary action against bus driver; report to Department of Motor Vehicles

42100 Annual statement of receipts and expenditures

44030.5 Reporting change in employment status due to alleged misconduct

44237 Criminal record summary

44691 Information on detection of child abuse

44830.1 Certificated employees, conviction of a violent or serious felony

45122.1 Classified employees, conviction of a violent or serious felony

47600-47616.7 Charter Schools Act of 1992

47634.2 Nonclassroom-based instruction

47640-47647 Special education funding for charter schools

48000 Minimum age of admission for kindergarten; transitional kindergarten

48010-48011 Minimum age of admission (first grade)

48850-48859 Educational placement of foster youth and homeless students

48907 Students' exercise of free expression; rules and regulations

48950 Student speech and other communication

49011 Student Fees

49061 Student records

49110 Authority of issue work permits

49414 Epinephrine auto-injectors

49475 Health and safety, concussion and head injuries

51224.7 Mathematics placement policy

Legal Reference continued: (see next page)

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (continued)

Legal Reference continued:

51225.6 Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation

51745-51749.3 Independent study

52.51.5-52052 Academic performance index, applicability to charter schools

52060-52077 Local control and accountability plans

52075 Uniform complaint procedures

56026 Special education

56145-56146 Special education services in charter schools

60600-60649 Assessment of academic achievement

60850-60859 High school exit examination

69432.9 Cal Grant program; notification of grade point average

CORPORATIONS CODE

5110-6910 Nonprofit public benefit corporations

GOVERNMENT CODE

1090-1099 Prohibitions applicable to specified officers

3540-3549.3 Educational Employment Relations Act

81000-91014 Political Reform Act of 1974

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

104420 Tobacco Use Prevention Education grant program

104559 Tobacco-free schools

LABOR CODE

1198.5 Personnel records related to performance and grievance

PENAL CODE

667.5 Definition of violent felony

1192.7 Definition of serious felony

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article 9, Section 5 Common school system

Article 16, Section 8.5 Public finance; school accountability report card

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures

11700.1-11705 Independent study

11960-11969 Charter schools

15497.5 Local control and accountability plan template

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24

101 et seq. California Building Standards Code

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6311 State plan

7221-7221j Charter schools

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

11431-11435 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

200.1-200.78 Accountability

COURT DECISIONS

Ridgecrest Charter School v. Sierra Sands Unified School District, (2005) 130 Cal.App.4th 986

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

89 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 166 (2006)

80 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 52 (1997)

78 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 297 (1995)

CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DECISIONS

Student v. Horizon Instructional Systems Charter School, (2012) OAH Case No. 2011060763

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (continued)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Charter Schools: A Guide for Governance Teams, rev. 2016

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Every Student Succeeds Act 2016-17 School Year Transition Plan, April 2016

California School Accounting Manual

Sample Copy of a Memorandum of Understanding

Pupil Fees, Deposits, and Other Charges, Fiscal Management Advisory 12-02, April 24, 2013

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GUIDANCE

Charter Schools Program: Title V, Part B of the ESEA, April 2011

WEB SITES

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

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

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

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

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

Philosophy, Goals, Objectives, and Comprehensive Plans

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools shall be subject to the terms of their charters, any memorandum of understanding with their chartering authority, and other legal requirements that are expressly applicable to charter schools, including, but not limited to, requirements that each charter school:

1. Be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations (Education Code 47605)
2. Not discriminate against any student on the basis of the characteristics listed in Education Code 220 (Education Code 47605)
3. Not charge tuition (Education Code 47605)
4. Not charge student fees for any activity that is an integral component of the educational program, except as authorized by those Education Code provisions that explicitly apply to charter schools
5. Adhere to all laws establishing the minimum age for public school attendance (Education Code 47610)
6. Serve students who are California residents and who, if over 19 years of age, are continuously enrolled in a public school and making "satisfactory progress" toward a high school diploma as defined in 5 CCR 11965 (Education Code 47612)
7. Serve students with disabilities in the same manner as such students are served in other district schools (Education Code 47646, 56145)
8. Admit all students who wish to attend the school, according to the following criteria and procedures:
 - a. Admission to the charter school shall not be determined according to the student's or parent/guardian's place of residence within the state, except that any existing public school converting partially or entirely to a charter school shall adopt and maintain a policy giving admission preference to students who reside within the school's former attendance area. (Education Code 47605)

If a charter school will be physically located in a public elementary school attendance area in which 50 percent or more of the student enrollment is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, it may also establish an admission preference for

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (continued)

- students who are currently enrolled in the public elementary school and for students who reside in the public school attendance area. (Education Code 47605.3)
- b. If the number of students who wish to attend the charter school exceeds the school's capacity, attendance shall be determined by a public random drawing, with preference extended to students currently attending the charter school and students who reside in the district, except as provided for in Education Code 47614.5. (Education Code 47605)
 - c. Other admission preferences may be permitted by the Governing Board of the district on an individual school basis consistent with law. (Education Code 47605)
9. Immediately enroll a homeless student, except where such enrollment would conflict with Education Code 47605(d) (Education Code 48850; 42 USC 11431-11435)
 10. Comply with the requirements of Education Code 48850-48859 regarding the enrollment and placement of foster youth (Education Code 48853.5, 48859)
 11. If the school offers a kindergarten program: (Education Code 48000)
 - a. Offer a transitional kindergarten (TK) program to students whose fifth birthday is from September 2 through December 2
 - b. Ensure that any credentialed teacher first assigned to teach a TK class after July 1, 2015 meets the qualifications specified in Education Code 48000 by August 1, 2020
 12. Require its teachers to hold a certificate, permit, or other document issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) equivalent to that which a teacher in other public schools would be required to hold (Education Code 47605)
 13. Provide annual training on child abuse and neglect reporting requirements to employees and persons working on the school's behalf who are mandated reporters, within the first six weeks of each school year or within six weeks of employment (Education Code 44691)
 14. Not hire any person who has been convicted of a violent or serious felony except as otherwise provided by law, and, if the school contracts with an entity for specified services, verify that any employee of that entity who will have contact with students has had a criminal background check (Education Code 44830.1, 45122.1, 45125.1)

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (continued)

15. Report to the CTC any change in a certificated employee's employment status (dismissal, nonreelection, resignation, suspension, unpaid administrative leave for more than 10 days, retirement, or other decision not to employ or reemploy) as a result of an allegation of misconduct or while an allegation of misconduct is pending (Education Code 44030.5)
16. Meet the requirements of Education Code 47611 regarding the State Teachers' Retirement System (Education Code 47610)
17. Meet the requirements of Government Code 3540-3549.3 related to collective bargaining in public education employment (Education Code 47611.5)
18. If the school serves students in grades 7-12, adopt a policy on suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention with specified components (Education Code 215)
19. If the school serves students in grade 9, adopt a fair, objective, and transparent mathematics placement policy, with specified components (Education Code 51224.7)
20. Meet all statewide standards and conduct any statewide assessments applicable to noncharter public schools (Education Code 47605, 47612.5, 60605)
21. Grant a high school diploma to any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 school year through the 2014-15 school year and met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination (Education Code 51413)
22. Offer at least the number of instructional minutes required by law for the grade levels provided by the charter school (Education Code 47612.5)
23. If the school provides independent study, meet the requirements of Education Code 51745-51749.3, except that the school may be allowed to offer courses required for graduation solely through independent study as an exception to Education Code 51745(e) (Education Code 47612.5, 51747.3; 5 CCR 11705)
24. Identify and report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) any portion of its average daily attendance that is generated through nonclassroom-based instruction, including, but not limited to, independent study, home study, work study, and distance and computer-based education (Education Code 47612.5, 47634.2; 5 CCR 11963.2)
25. If the school offers competitive athletics, annually post on the school's web site or on the web site of the charter operator the total enrollment of the school classified by gender, the number of students who participate in competitive athletics classified by gender, and the number of boys' and girls' teams classified by sport and by competition level (Education Code 221.9)

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (continued)

26. If the school offers an athletic program, annually provide information sheets about concussions/head injuries and sudden cardiac arrest to athletes and their parents/guardians, which must be signed and returned to the school before the athlete initiates practice or competition. In the event that an athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury, passes out, or faints during or immediately after participation in an athletic activity, he/she shall be immediately removed from the activity for the remainder of the day and shall not be permitted to return to the activity until he/she is evaluated by a licensed health care provider and receives written clearance to do so (Education Code 33479-33479.5, 49475)
27. On a regular basis, consult with parents/guardians and teachers regarding the school's educational programs (Education Code 47605)
28. Notify parents/guardians of applicant students and currently enrolled students that parental involvement is not a requirement for acceptance to, or continued enrollment at, the charter school (Education Code 47605)
29. Provide students the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press including, but not limited to, the use of bulletin boards; the distribution of printed materials or petitions; the wearing of buttons, badges, and other insignia; and the right of expression in official publications (Education Code 48907, 48950)
30. Adopt policy that is consistent with the model policy developed by the California Attorney General addressing the school's response to immigration enforcement, notify parents/guardians of their children's right to a free public education regardless of immigration status or religious beliefs, prohibit the collection of information or documents regarding the immigration status of students or their family members, and fulfill other requirements of Education Code 234.7
31. Not collect or solicit social security numbers of the last four digits of social security numbers from students or their parents/guardians unless otherwise required to do so by state or federal law (Education Code 49076.7)
32. Maintain written contemporaneous records that document all student attendance and make these records available for audit and inspection (Education Code 47612.5)
33. If a student subject to compulsory full-time education is expelled or leaves the charter school without graduating or completing the school year for any reason, notify the Superintendent of the school district of the student's last known address within 30 days and, upon request, provide that district with a copy of the student's cumulative record,

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (continued)

- including a transcript of grades or report card, and health information (Education Code 47605)
34. If the school serves high school students, submit to the Student Aid Commission, for use in the Cal Grant program, the grade point average (GPA) of all students in grade 12 and verification of high school graduation or its equivalent for students who graduated in the prior academic year. However, such information shall not be submitted when students opt out or are permitted by the rules of the Student Aid Commission to provide test scores in lieu of the GPA. (Education Code 69432.9, 69432.92)
 35. Develop a transportation safety plan that includes procedures to ensure that a student is not left unattended on a school bus, student activity bus, or child care motor vehicle and procedures and standards for designating an adult chaperone, other than the driver, to accompany students on a school activity bus (Education Code 39831.3)
 36. Comply with the California Building Standards Code as adopted and enforced by the local building enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the area in which the charter school is located, unless the charter school facility meets either of the following conditions: (Education Code 47610, 47610.5)
 - a. The facility complies with the Field Act pursuant to Education Code 17280-17317 and 17365-17374.
 - b. The facility is exclusively owned or controlled by an entity that is not subject to the California Building Standards Code, including, but not limited to, the federal government.
 37. Provide reasonable accommodations on campus to a lactating student to express breast milk, breastfeed an infant child, or address other needs related to breastfeeding (Education Code 222)
 38. Ensure the availability and proper use of emergency epinephrine auto-injectors by: (Education Code 49414)
 - a. Providing school nurses or other voluntary, trained personnel with at least one regular and one junior device for elementary schools and, for secondary schools, one regular device if there are no students who require a junior device
 - b. Distributing a notice at least once per school year to all staff requesting volunteers and describing the training that volunteers will receive

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (continued)

- c. Providing defense and indemnification to volunteers for any and all civil liability from such administration
39. If the school chooses to make an opioid antagonist available to persons suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from an opioid overdose, comply with the requirements of Education Code 49414.3, including, but not limited to, providing training to personnel who volunteer to administer the opioid antagonist
40. If the school participates in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast program, not promote any food or beverage during the school day that does not comply with state nutritional standards pursuant to Education Code 49430-49434, and not participate in a corporate incentive program that offers free or discounted non-nutritious foods or beverages as rewards for students who reach certain academic goals (Education Code 49431.9)
41. If the school participates in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast program, notify parents/guardians within 10 days of their child's meal account reaching a negative balance; ensure that a student with unpaid school meal fees is not shamed, treated differently, or served a meal that differs from other students; and prohibit student discipline from resulting in the denial or delay of a nutritionally adequate meal (Education Code 49557.5)
42. If the school participates in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast program and is a very high poverty school, as defined, apply to the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide lunch and/or breakfast free of charge to all students under a federal universal service provision (Education Code 49564)
43. Promptly respond to all reasonable inquiries from the district, the county office of education, or the SPI, including, but not limited to, inquiries regarding the school's financial records (Education Code 47604.3)
44. Annually prepare and submit financial reports to the district Governing Board and the County Superintendent of Schools in accordance with the following reporting cycle:
 - a. By July 1, a preliminary budget for the current fiscal year. For a charter school in its first year of operation, financial statements submitted with the charter petition pursuant to Education Code 47605(g) will satisfy this requirement. (Education Code 47604.33)
 - b. By July 1, an update of the school's goals and the actions to achieve those goals as identified in the charter, developed using the local control and accountability plan

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (continued)

template adopted by the State Board of Education. This report shall include a review of the progress toward the goals, an assessment of the effectiveness of the specific actions toward achieving the goals, a description of changes the school will make to the specific actions as a result of the review and assessment, and a listing and description of expenditures for the fiscal year implementing the specific actions. (Education Code 47604.33, 47606.5, 52064)

Charter schools are encouraged to post this information prominently on their school website and Natomas Unified School District will provide a link to the charter school LCAP on the District website.

When conducting this review, the governing body of the school may consider qualitative information including, but not limited to, findings that result from any school quality reviews conducted pursuant to Education Code 52052 or any other reviews. To the extent practicable, data shall be reported in a manner consistent with how information is reported on a school accountability report card. The update shall be developed in consultation with teachers, principals, administrators, other school personnel, parents/guardians and students. (Education Code 47606.5)

- c. By September 15, a final unaudited report for the full prior year. The report submitted to the Board shall include an annual statement of all the charter school's receipts and expenditures for the preceding fiscal year. (Education Code 42100, 47604.33)
 - d. By December 15, an interim financial report for the current fiscal year reflecting changes through October 31. (Education Code 47604.33)
 - e. By December 15, a copy of the charter school's annual, independent financial audit report for the preceding fiscal year, unless the charter school's audit is encompassed in the district's audit. The audit report shall also be submitted to the State Controller and the California Department of Education. (Education Code 47605)
 - f. By March 15, a second interim financial report for the current fiscal year reflecting changes through January 31. (Education Code 47604.33)
45. Post specified information related to the prohibition against discrimination under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in a prominent and conspicuous location on the school web site or on the web site of the charter operator (Education Code 221.61)

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT (continued)

46. If a direct-funded charter school, adopt and implement uniform complaint procedures to resolve complaints of unlawful discrimination or alleged violation of a state or federal law or regulation governing educational programs, in accordance with 5 CCR 4600-4670 (5 CCR 4600)
47. Annually adopt a school accountability report card (Education Code 47612; California Constitution, Article XVI, Section 8.5)

In addition, charter schools shall comply with the state and federal constitutions, applicable federal laws, and state laws that apply to governmental agencies in general, such as the Brown Act requirements in Government Code 54950-54963 and the conflict of interest laws in Government Code 1090-1099 and 87100-91014.

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