

Charter School Oversight

The Governing Board recognizes its ongoing responsibility to ensure that any charter school authorized by the Board 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 for each charter school. (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)

Whenever a charter school operates as or is operated by a nonprofit public benefit corporation as authorized by Education Code 47604, the Superintendent may recommend and the Board may appoint a district representative, who may be the district's charter school contact, on the corporation's board of directors.

Waivers

If the charter school wishes to request a general waiver of any state law or regulation, 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 apply for the waiver.

(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 charter school may be charged for the actual costs of the reporting services, but shall not be required to purchase payroll processing services from the district as a condition for creating and submitting these reports. (Education Code 47611.3)

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 for charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed. (Education Code 47607)

If an approved charter school proposes to expand operations to one or more additional sites within the district's boundaries, 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.

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 shall include, at a minimum, a consideration of whether the school is meeting its Academic Performance Index growth targets established pursuant to Education Code 52052 and is making "adequate yearly progress" (AYP) pursuant to 20 USC 6311, as applicable.

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; an annual update, aligned to the template adopted by the SBE, of school goals, actions, and related expenditures; 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 actual costs of supervisory oversight up to three percent of the charter school's revenue. (Education Code 47613)

(cf. 7160 - Charter School Facilities)

Technical Assistance/Intervention

If a charter school receiving federal Title I funding fails to make AYP, as defined pursuant to 20 USC 6311, for two or more consecutive years, the school shall be identified for program improvement and shall implement improvement strategies in accordance with 20 USC 6316.

(cf. 0520.2 - Title I Program Improvement Schools)

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

In accordance with law, the Board may deny a charter's renewal petition or may revoke a charter based on the charter school's poor performance, especially with regards 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 maintain processes 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)

School Closure

In the event that the Board revokes or denies renewal of a charter or the school closes for any other 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, if 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 C:ODE

220 Nondiscrimination
17280-17317 Field Act
17365-17374 Field Act, fitness for occupancy
35330 Field trips and excursions; student fees
38080-38086 School meals
42100 Annual statement of receipts and expenditures
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
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)
48907 Students' exercise of free expression; rules and regulations
48950 Student speech and other communication
49061 Student records
49110 Authority to issue work permits
49475 Health and safety, concussions and head injuries
51745-51749.3 Independent study
52051.5-52052 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

CORPORATIONS CODE

5110-6910 Nonprofit public benefit corporations

GOVERNMENT CODE

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

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

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures
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

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

Policy FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: May 27, 2015 Fresno, California