

CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION

Petition Signatures

A petition for the establishment of a start-up charter school must be signed by either of the following: (Education Code 47605)

1. A number of parents/guardians equivalent to at least one-half of the number of students that the charter school estimates will enroll in the school for its first year of operation
2. A number of teachers equivalent to at least one-half of the total number of teachers that the charter school estimates will be employed at the school during its first year of operation

A petition that proposes to convert an existing public school to a charter school must be signed by at least 50 percent of the permanent status teachers currently employed at the school. (Education Code 47605)

Any petition circulated to collect signatures shall include a prominent statement explaining that a parent/guardian's signature means that the parent/guardian is meaningfully interested in having a child attend the charter school or, a teacher's signature means that the teacher is meaningfully interested in teaching at the charter school. (Education Code 47605)

Staff Advisory Committee

The Superintendent or designee may establish a staff advisory committee to evaluate the completeness of a charter petition based on the requirements in Education Code 47605 and to identify any concerns that should be addressed by the petitioners.

Components of Charter Petition

All charter petitions shall comply with the applicable requirements of Education Code 47605, other state and federal laws, and District policies.

The charter petition shall include affirmations that the charter school will be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and operations; will not charge tuition; and will not discriminate against a student on the basis of characteristics listed in Education Code 220. The petition shall also contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of: (Education Code 47605)

1. The educational program of the school, designed, among other things, to identify those whom the school is attempting to educate, what it means to be an "educated person" in the 21st century, and how learning best occurs. The goals identified in that program shall include the objective of enabling students to become self-motivated, competent, and lifelong learners.

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2. The charter school's annual goals for all students and for each numerically significant subgroup of students identified pursuant to Education Code 52052, including ethnic subgroups, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (SED) students, English Learners (ELs), Students with Disabilities (SWDs), Foster Youth, and Homeless students. These goals shall be aligned with the state priorities listed in Education Code 52060 that apply to the grade levels served. The petition also shall describe specific annual actions to achieve those goals. The petition may identify additional priorities established for the proposed school, goals aligned with those priorities, and specific annual actions to achieve those goals.

If the proposed charter school will serve high school students, the petition shall describe the manner in which the school will inform parents/guardians about the transferability of courses to other public high schools and the eligibility of courses to meet college entrance requirements. Courses offered by the charter school that are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges may be considered transferable, and courses approved by the University of California or the California State University as creditable under the "A-G" admissions criteria may be considered to meet college entrance requirements.

3. The measurable student outcomes identified for use by the charter school.

Student outcomes means the extent to which all students of the school demonstrate that they have attained the skills, knowledge, and attitudes specified as goals in the school's educational program, including outcomes that address increases in student academic achievement both schoolwide and for each numerically significant subgroup of students served by the charter school. The student outcomes shall align with the state priorities identified in Education Code 52060 that apply for the grade levels by the charter school.

4. The method by which student progress in meeting the identified student outcomes is to be measured. To the extent practicable, the method for measuring student outcomes for state priorities shall be consistent with the way information is reported on a school accountability report card.
5. The governance structure of the charter school, including, but not limited to, the process to be followed by the school to ensure parent/guardian involvement.
6. The qualifications to be met by individuals to be employed by the charter school.
7. The procedures that the charter school will follow to ensure the health and safety of students and staff, including the following requirements:
 - a. Each charter school employee shall furnish the school with a criminal record summary as described in Education Code 44237.

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- b. The charter school shall develop a school safety plan which includes the topics listed in Education Code 32282(a)(2)(A)-(J).
 - c. The charter school's safety plan shall be reviewed and updated by March 1 each year.
8. The means by which the charter school will achieve a balance of racial and ethnic students, special education students, and English Learner (EL) students, including redesignated fluent English proficient students, that is reflective of the general population residing within the District's territorial jurisdiction.
 9. The charter school's student admission policy. The petition shall, in accordance with Education Code 47605(e), specify procedures for determining enrollment when the number of applicants exceeds the school's capacity, including requirements for the use of a public random drawing, admission preferences, and priority order of preferences as required by law and subject to Governing Board approval.
 10. The manner in which annual, independent financial audits shall be conducted, which shall employ generally accepted accounting principles, and the manner in which audit exceptions and deficiencies shall be resolved to the Board of Trustees' satisfaction.
 11. The procedures by which students can be suspended or expelled for disciplinary reasons or otherwise involuntarily removed for any reason, including an explanation of how the charter school will comply with federal and state constitutional procedural and substantive due process requirements as specified in Education Code 47605.

Such procedures shall contain a clear statement that no student shall be involuntarily removed by the charter school for any reason unless written notice of the intent to remove the student is given to the student's parents/guardian at least five schooldays before the effective date of the removal. In the case of a homeless student or Foster Youth, the notice shall be given to the student's educational rights holder. Additionally, a Foster Youth's attorney and county social worker, and an Indian child's tribal social worker, and if applicable, the county social worker, shall be given such notice.

The notice shall inform the student, the student's parent/guardian, and any other specified individual, as applicable, of the right to initiate a hearing as described in Education Code 47605, before the effective date of the removal. The notice shall be provided in the student's parent/guardian's, or other applicable person's language, and, if such a hearing is initiated, shall include the student's right to remain enrolled in the charter school until a final decision is made by the charter school.

In addition, the procedures shall contain a statement pertaining to the provision of homework assignments to suspended students as specified in Education Code 47606.2.

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Such procedures shall also include processes by which the charter school will notify the Superintendent of the District, of the student's last known address and, upon request, provide the student's cumulative record to the District, when a student is expelled or leaves the charter school without graduating or completing the school year for any reason. In addition, the procedures shall describe the means by which the District can contact the charter school if the student is subsequently expelled or leaves the school District without graduating or completing the school year for any reason.

Involuntarily removed means disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include suspensions. (Education Code 47605)

12. The manner by which staff members of the charter school will be covered by the State Teachers' Retirement System, the Public Employees' Retirement System, or federal social security.
13. The public school attendance alternatives for students residing within the District who choose to not attend the charter school.
14. A description of the rights of any District employee upon leaving District employment to work in the charter school and of any rights of return to the District after employment at the charter school.
15. The procedures to be followed by the charter school and the Board to resolve disputes relating to charter provisions.
16. A declaration as to whether the charter school will be deemed the exclusive public school employer of the school's employees for purposes of collective bargaining under Government Code 3540-3549.3.
17. Consistent with 5 CCR 11962, the procedures to be used if the charter school closes, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Designation of a responsible entity to conduct closure-related activities
 - b. Notification to parents/guardians, the Board, the county office of education, the special education local plan area in which the charter school participates, the retirement systems in which the school's employees participate, and the California Department of Education, providing at least the following information:
 - (1) The effective date of the closure
 - (2) The name(s) and contact information of the person(s) to whom reasonable inquiries may be made regarding the closure

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- (3) The students' districts of residence
 - (4) The manner in which parents/guardians may obtain copies of student records, including specific information on completed courses and credits that meet graduation requirements
- c. Provision of a list of students at each grade level, the classes they have completed, and their districts of residence to the responsible entity designated in accordance with Item #17a above
 - d. Transfer and maintenance of all student records, all state assessment results, and any special education records to the custody of the responsible entity designated in accordance with Item #17a above, except for records and/or assessment results that the charter may require to be transferred to a different entity
 - e. Transfer and maintenance of personnel records in accordance with applicable law
 - f. Completion of an independent final audit within six months after the closure of the charter school that may function as the annual audit, which includes an assessment of the disposition of any restricted funds received by or due to the school and an accounting of all financial assets and liabilities pursuant to 5 CCR 11962
 - g. Disposal of any net assets remaining after all liabilities of the charter school have been paid or otherwise addressed pursuant to 5 CCR 11962h
 - h. Completion and filing of any annual reports required pursuant to Education Code 47604.33
 - i. Identification of funding for the activities identified in Item #17a-g above

Charter school petitioners shall provide information to the Board regarding the proposed operation and potential effects of the school, including, but not limited to: (Education Code 47605)

- 1. The facilities to be used by the charter school, including where the school intends to locate
(cf. 7160 - Charter School Facilities)
- 2. The manner in which administrative services of the charter school are to be provided
- 3. Potential civil liability effects, if any, upon the charter school and District
- 4. Financial statements that include a proposed first-year operational budget, including start-up costs and cash-flow and financial projections for the first three years of operation

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5. If the charter school is to be operated by or as a nonprofit public benefit corporation, the names and relevant qualifications of all persons whom the petitioner nominates to serve on the governing body of the charter school

Location of Charter School

Unless otherwise exempted by law, the charter petition shall identify a single charter school that will operate within the geographic boundaries of the District. A charter school may propose to operate at multiple sites within the District as long as each location is identified in the petition. (Education Code 47605, 47605.1)

A charter school may establish a resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility within jurisdiction of the school district where the charter school is physically located if both of the following conditions are met: (Education Code 47605.1)

1. The facility is used exclusively for the educational support of students who are enrolled in nonclassroom-based independent study of the charter school.
2. The charter school provides its primary educational services in, and a majority of the students it serves are residents of, the county in which the school is authorized.

STATE

5 CCR 11700-11705

5 CCR 11960-11969.10

Corp. Code 5110-6910

Ed. Code 1240

Ed. Code 17078.52-17078.66

Ed. Code 17280-17317

Ed. Code 17365-17374

Ed. Code 200

Ed. Code 220

Ed. Code 32280-32289.5

Ed. Code 33126

Ed. Code 41365

Ed. Code 42131

Ed. Code 42238.02-42238.52

Ed. Code 44237

Ed. Code 44830.1

DESCRIPTION

Independent study

Charter schools

Nonprofit public benefit corporations

County superintendent of schools; duties

Charter schools facility funding; state bond proceeds

Field Act; approval of plans and supervision of construction

Field Act; fitness for occupancy; liability of board members

Equal rights and opportunities in state educational institutions

Prohibition of discrimination

School safety plans

School accountability report card

Charter school revolving loan fund

Interim certification

Funding for charter districts

Criminal record summary

Certificated employees; conviction of a violent or serious felony

CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION (continued)**STATE** (continued)

Ed. Code 45122.1	Classified employees; conviction of a violent or serious felony
Ed. Code 46201	Instructional minutes
Ed. Code 47600-47616.7	Charter Schools Act of 1992
Ed. Code 47640-47647	Special education funding for charter schools
Ed. Code 47650-47655	Funding of charter schools
Ed. Code 49011	Student fees
Ed. Code 51744-51749	Independent study
Ed. Code 52052	Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups
Ed. Code 52060-52077	Local control and accountability plan
Ed. Code 56026	Special education
Ed. Code 56145-56146	Special education services in charter schools
Gov. Code 1090-1099	Prohibitions applicable to specified officers
Gov. Code 3540-3549.3	Educational Employment Relations Act
Gov. Code 54950-54963	The Ralph M. Brown Act
Gov. Code 7920.000 - 7930.215	California Public Records Act
Gov. Code 81000-91014	Political Reform Act of 1974
Welfare and Institutions Code 224.1	Indian child; definition

FEDERAL

20 USC 7223-72257221-7221j

DESCRIPTION

Charter schools

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

Attorney General Opinion

DESCRIPTION

101 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 92 (2018)

Attorney General Opinion

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

Attorney General Opinion

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

Attorney General Opinion

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

California Charter Authorizing Professionals Publication

Sample Copy of a Memorandum of Understanding Resource, September 2022

Court Decision

CSBA'S Education Legal Alliance v. California State Board of Education, Case No. 34-2018-80002834

CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION (continued)**MANAGEMENT RESOURCES** (continued)

Court Decision	Napa Unified School District v. California State Board of Education, Case No. 34-2022-80004051
Court Decision	Ridgecrest Charter School v. Sierra Sands Unified School District, (2005) 130 Cal.App.4th 986
CSBA Publication	Charter Schools: A Guide for Governance Teams, rev. February 2016/2021
CSBA Publication	Uncharted Waters: Recommendations for Prioritizing Student Achievement and Effective Governance in California's Charter Schools, September 2018
CSBA Publication	Charter Schools and Board Member Responsibilities, Education Insights Legal Update Webcast, March 2016
CSBA Publication	Charter Schools in Focus, Issue 1: Managing the Petition Review Process, Governance Brief, November 2016
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Charter Schools Program: Title V, Part B of the ESEA, Nonregulatory Guidance, January 2014
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Dear Colleague Letter: Guidance Regarding the Oversight of Charter Schools Program and Regulatory Requirements, August 2016
U.S. Department of Education Publication	Guidance on the Voluntary Use of Race to Achieve Diversity and Avoid Racial Isolation in Elementary and Secondary Schools, December 2011
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	National Association of Charter School Authorizers
Website	California Charter Schools Association

CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZATION (continued)**MANAGEMENT RESOURCES** (continued)

Website	California Department of Education, Charter Schools
Website	CSBA
Website	U.S. Department of Education

CROSS REFERENCES-CODES**DESCRIPTION** (continued)

0420.41	Charter School Oversight
0420.41-E(1)	Charter School Oversight
0420.42	Charter School Renewal
0420.43	Charter School Revocation
0430	Comprehensive Local Plan For Special Education
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0510	School Accountability Report Card
2230	Representative And Deliberative Groups
4116	Probationary/Permanent Status
6146.3	Reciprocity Of Academic Credit
6158	Independent Study
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6178	Career Technical Education
6184	Continuation Education
7160	Charter School Facilities
9320	Meetings And Notices