

Education for Foster and Mobile Youth Policy (Full Board Policy)

Board Policy #: 1752

Adopted: February 16, 2022

Amended: September 6, 2022, June 22, 2023, February 28, 2024; June 26, 2024

Introduction

The Board of Directors of Altus Schools Southern CA hereby adopts this Educational for Foster and Mobile Youth Policy to apply to apply to Altus Schools East County, Altus Schools North County, Altus Schools South Bay, Audeo Charter School II, Audeo Valley Charter School, and Mirus Secondary School, hereafter collectively referred to as (“Charter School”). The Charter School recognizes that Foster and Mobile Youth may face significant barriers to achieving academic success due to their family circumstances, disruption to their educational program, and their emotional, social, and other health needs. To enable such students to achieve state and charter school academic standards, the Charter School shall provide them with full access to the Charter School’s educational program and implement strategies identified as required by law and necessary for the improvement of the academic achievement of foster youth in the Charter School’s local control and accountability plan (“LCAP”).

Definitions

- *“Foster youth”* means any of the following:
 1. A child who has been removed from their home pursuant to Section 309 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code (“WIC”).
 2. A child who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to WIC section 309300 or 602 (whether or not the child has been removed from the child’s home by juvenile court).
 3. A nonminor under the transition jurisdiction of the juvenile court, as described in WIC section 450, who satisfies all of the following criteria:
 - a. The nonminor has attained 18 years of age while under an order of foster care placement by the juvenile court.
 - b. The nonminor is in foster care under the placement and care responsibility of the county welfare department, county probation department, Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization.
 - c. The nonminor is participating in a transitional independent living case plan.
 4. A dependent child of the court of an Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization who is the subject of a petition filed in the tribal court.³
 5. A child who is the subject of a voluntary placement agreement, as defined in WIC section 11400.

- *“Former juvenile court school student”* means a student who, upon completion of the student’s second year of high school, transfers from a juvenile court school to the

³ The Charter School shall not require an Indian tribe or tribal court representative to certify that any student is a dependent of an Indian tribe, consortium of tribes, or tribal organization.

Charter School.

- *“Child of a military family”* refers to a student who resides in the household of an active-duty military member.
- *“Currently Migratory Child”* refers to a child who, within the last 12-months, has moved with a parent, guardian, or other person having custody to the Charter School from another Local Educational Agency (“LEA”), either within California or from another state, so that the child or a member of the child’s immediate family might secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity, and whose parents or guardians have been informed of the child’s eligibility for migrant education services. *“Currently Migratory Child”* includes a child who, without the parent/guardian, has continued to migrate annually to secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity.
- *“Newcomer pupil”* is a person aged 3 to 21 years, who was not born in any of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and has not been attending one or more schools in any one or more of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, for more than three (3) full academic years.
- *“Educational Rights Holder” (“ERH”)* means a parent, guardian, responsible adult appointed by a court to make educational decisions for a minor pursuant to WIC sections 319, 361 or 726, or a person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student pursuant to Education Code section 56055.
- *“School of origin”* means the school that the foster youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the foster youth was last enrolled. If the school the foster youth attended when permanently housed is different from the school in which the student was last enrolled, or if there is some other school that the foster youth attended within the immediately preceding 15 months, the Charter School liaison for foster youth, in consultation with and with the agreement of the foster youth and the ERH for the youth, shall determine, in the best interests of the foster youth, the school that shall be deemed the school of origin. For a foster youth who is an individual with exceptional needs as defined in Education Code section 56026, “school” as used in the definition of “school of origin” includes a placement in a nonpublic, nonsectarian school as defined in Education Code section 56034, subject to the requirements of Education Code section 56325.
- *“Best interests”* means that, in making educational and school placement decisions for a foster youth, consideration is given to, among other factors, the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational program and the foster youth’s access to academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all Charter School students.

- *“Partial coursework satisfactorily completed”* includes any portion of an individual course, even if the pupil did not complete the entire course.

Within this Policy, foster youth, former juvenile court school students, a child of a military family, a currently migratory child, and a newcomer pupil will be referred to collectively as “Foster and Mobile Youth.”

Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison

In order to help facilitate the enrollment, placement, and transfer of Foster and Mobile Youth to the Charter School, the Governing Board shall designate a Foster and Mobile Youth liaison. The Governing Board designates the following position as the Charter School’s liaison for Foster and Mobile Youth:

Ana Maria Rojas
Equity and Inclusion Administrator
arojas@altusschools.net
858-678-4818

The Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison shall be responsible for the following:

1. Ensure and facilitate the proper educational placement, enrollment in the Charter School, and checkout from the Charter School foster youth.
2. Ensure proper transfer of credits, records, and grades when foster youth transfer to or from the Charter School.
3. When a foster youth is enrolling in the Charter School, the Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison shall contact the school last attended by the student within two (2) business days to obtain all academic and other records. The last school attended by the foster youth shall provide all required records to the new school regardless of any outstanding fees, fines, textbooks, or other items or moneys owed to the school last attended. When a foster youth is transferring to a new school, the Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison shall provide the student’s records to the new school within two (2) business days of receiving the new school’s request, regardless of any outstanding fees, fines, textbooks, or other items or moneys owed to the Charter School.
4. When required by law, notify the foster youth’s ERH, attorney, county social worker, and the appropriate representative of the county child welfare agency, and an Indian child’s ERH, tribal social worker and if applicable, county social worker of the student’s expulsion or involuntary removal, and, at least ten (10) calendar days preceding the date of the following:

- a. An expulsion hearing for a discretionary act under the Charter School's charter.
 - b. Any meeting to extend a suspension until an expulsion decision is rendered if the decision to recommend expulsion is a discretionary act under the Charter School's charter. The foster youth's ERH, attorney, county social worker, an Indian child's ERH, tribal social worker and if applicable, county social worker, and the agency representative will be invited to participate.
 - c. A manifestation determination meeting prior to a change in the foster youth's placement if the change in placement is due to an act for which the recommendation for expulsion is discretionary and the student is a student with a disability under state and federal special education laws. The foster youth's ERH, attorney, county social worker, an Indian child's ERH, tribal social worker and if applicable, county social worker, and the agency representative will be invited to participate.
5. As needed, make appropriate referrals to ensure that students in foster care receive necessary special education services and services under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
 6. As needed, ensure that students in foster care receive appropriate school-based services, such as counseling and health services, supplemental instruction, and after-school services.
 7. Develop protocols and procedures for creating awareness for Charter School staff, including but not limited to Administrator of Instructional Services, School Coordinator and Student Services Coordinator of the requirements for the proper enrollment, placement, and transfer of foster youth.
 8. Collaborate with the county placing agency, social services, probation officers, juvenile court officers, and other appropriate agencies to help coordinate services for the Charter School's foster youth.
 9. Monitor the educational progress of foster youth and provide reports to the Equity and Inclusion Officer or designee and the Governing Board based on indicators identified in the Charter School's local control and accountability plan.

This Policy does not grant the Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison authority that supersedes the authority granted under state and federal law to a parent or legal guardian retaining educational rights, a responsible person appointed by the court to represent the child pursuant to WIC sections 319, 361 or 726, a surrogate parent, or a foster parent exercising authority under Education Code section 56055. The role of the Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison is advisory with respect to placement options and determination of the school of origin.

School Stability and Enrollment

The Charter School will work with foster youth and their ERH to ensure that each foster youth is placed in the least restrictive educational programs and has access to the academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all students, including, but not limited to, interscholastic sports. All decisions regarding a foster youth's education and placement will be based on the best interest of the child and shall consider, among other factors, educational stability and the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational setting necessary to achieve academic progress.

Foster youth, currently migratory children, and children of military families have the right to remain in their school of origin if it is in their best interest. The Charter School will immediately enroll a foster youth, a currently migratory child, or child of a military family seeking reenrollment in the Charter School as their school of origin.

A foster youth, currently migratory child, or child of a military family who seeks to transfer to the Charter School will be immediately enrolled (subject to the Charter School's capacity, if the Charter School is not the student's school of origin, and pursuant to the procedures stated in the Charter School's charter and Board policy) even if the student has outstanding fees, fines, textbooks, or other items or monies due to the school last attended or is unable to meet normal enrollment documentation or school uniform requirements (e.g. producing medical records or academic records from a previous school).

At the initial detention or placement, or any subsequent change in placement, a foster youth may continue in their school of origin for the duration of the court's jurisdiction. A currently migratory child or child of a military family may continue in their school of origin as long as the student meets the definition of a currently migratory child or child of a military family as described above. Foster youth, currently migratory children, and children of military families have the right to remain in their school of origin following the termination of the court's jurisdiction or termination of the child's status as a currently migratory child or child of a military family, as follows:

1. For students in kindergarten through eighth grade, inclusive, the student will be allowed to continue in the school of origin through the duration of the academic year in which the student's status changed.
2. For students enrolled in high school, the student will be allowed to continue in the school of origin through graduation.

If the foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family is transitioning between school grade levels, the youth shall be allowed to continue in the district of origin in the same attendance area to provide the youth the benefit of matriculating with their peers in accordance with the established feeder patterns of school districts. A student who is transitioning to a middle school or high school shall be allowed to enroll in the school designated for matriculation in another school district.

The Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison may, in consultation with and with the agreement of the foster youth and the ERH for the foster youth, recommend that the foster youth's right to attend the school of origin be waived and the student be enrolled in any district school that the student

would otherwise be eligible to attend as a resident of the school district or in the Charter School consistent with current enrollment procedures. All decisions shall be made in accordance with the foster youth's best interests.

Prior to making any recommendation to move a foster youth from their school of origin, the Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison shall provide the foster youth and the foster youth's ERH with a written explanation of the basis for the recommendation and how the recommendation serves the foster youth's best interests.

If any dispute arises regarding a foster youth's request to remain in the Charter School as the foster youth's school of origin, the foster youth have the right to remain in the Charter School pending resolution of the dispute. The dispute shall be resolved in accordance with the existing Charter School dispute resolution process.

If the Charter School operates an intersession program, Charter School shall grant priority access to foster youths. Notwithstanding any other law, if the foster youth will be moving during an intersession period, the pupil's educational rights holder, or Indian custodian in the case of an Indian child, shall determine which school the pupil attends for the intersession period, if applicable. "Intersession program" means an expanded learning program offered by the Charter School on non-school days, including, but not limited to, summer school. "Indian custodian" is as the term is defined in Section 1903 of Title 25 of the United States Code.

Transportation

The Charter School shall not be responsible for providing transportation to allow a foster youth to attend school, unless there is an agreement with a local child welfare agency that the Charter School assumes part or all of the transportation costs in accordance with Section 6312(c)(5) of Title 20 of the United States Code, or unless required by federal law. The Charter School is not prohibited from providing transportation, at its discretion, to allow a foster youth to attend school.

In accordance with Section 6312(c)(5) of Title 20 of the United States Code, the Charter School shall collaborate with local child welfare agencies to develop and implement clear written procedures to address the transportation needs of foster youth to maintain them in their school of origin, when it is in the best interest of the youth.

For any student who has an individualized education program ("IEP"), the student's IEP team will determine if the student requires special education transportation as a related service regardless of the student's status.

Effect of Absences on Grades

The grades of a foster youth shall not be lowered for any absence from the Charter School that is due to either of the following circumstances:

- a. A decision by a court or placement agency to change the student's placement, in which

case the student's grades shall be calculated as of the date the student left school.

- b. A verified court appearance or related court-ordered activity.

Transfer of Coursework and Credits

The Charter School shall accept coursework satisfactorily completed by a Foster and Mobile Youth while attending another public school⁴, a juvenile court school, a charter school, a school in a country other than the United States, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency even if the student did not complete the entire course and shall issue that student full or partial credit for the coursework completed. The credits accepted pursuant to this paragraph shall be applied for enrollment purposes to the same or equivalent course, if applicable, as the coursework completed in the prior public school, juvenile court school, charter school, school in a country other than the United States, or nonpublic, nonsectarian school. For purposes of the official transcript, the credits accepted pursuant to this paragraph shall be added to the credits earned from the same or equivalent course for purposes of calculating the total credits earned for the course but shall separately identify the school and local educational agency in which the credits were earned.

If a Foster and Mobile Youth transfers in or out of Charter School, Charter School shall issue the full and partial credits on an official transcript for the pupil and shall ensure the transcript includes all of the following:

- a. All full and partial credits and grades earned based on any measure of full or partial coursework being satisfactorily completed, including a determination of the days of enrollment or seat time, or both, if applicable, at a school of that local educational agency or a prior local educational agency, or any other public school, juvenile court school, charter school, school in a country other than the United States, or nonpublic, nonsectarian school.
- b. The credits and grades for each school and local educational agency listed separately so it is clear where they were earned.
- c. A complete record of the pupil's seat time, including both period attendance and days of enrollment.

If Charter School has knowledge that the transcript from the transferring local educational agency may not include certain credits or grades for the pupil, it shall contact the prior local educational agency within two business days to request that the prior local educational agency issue full or partial credits pursuant to this paragraph. The prior local educational agency shall issue appropriate credits and provide all academic and other records to Charter School within two business days of the request.

⁴ For purposes of coursework completed by a student who is a child of a military family, "public school" includes schools operated by the United States Department of Defense.

If the Foster and Mobile Youth did not complete the entire course, the student shall be issued partial credit for the coursework completed and shall not be required to retake the portion of the course that the student completed at another school unless the Charter School, in consultation with the student's ERH, finds that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. Whenever partial credit is issued to a Foster and Mobile Youth in any particular course, the student shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that the student may continue and complete the entire course.

In no event shall the Charter School prevent a Foster and Mobile Youth from taking or retaking a course to meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the California State University or the University of California.

Applicability of Graduation Requirements

To obtain a high school diploma from the Charter School, a student must complete all courses required by the Charter School and fulfill any additional graduation requirements prescribed by the Board. However, Foster and Mobile Youth who transfer to the Charter School any time after the completion of their second year of high school, and newcomer pupils who are in their third or fourth year of high school, shall be exempt from any of the Charter School's graduation requirements that are in excess of the California minimum graduation requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3 ("additional graduation requirements") unless the Charter School makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements by the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

To determine whether a Foster and Mobile Youth is in their third or fourth year of high school, either the number of credits the student has earned to the date of transfer, the length of the student's school enrollment, or, for students with significant gaps in school attendance, the student's age as compared to the average age of students in the third or fourth year of high school, may be used, whichever will qualify the student for the exemption. For a newcomer pupil, enrollment in grade 11 or 12, based on the average age of students in the third or fourth year of high school, may be used to determine whether the student is in their third or fourth year of high school.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the date that a student who may qualify for exemption under the above requirements transfers into the Charter School, the Charter School shall notify the student, the ERH, and where applicable, the student's social worker or probation officer, of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for the exemption. If the Charter School fails to provide timely notice of the availability of the exemption, the Foster and Mobile Youth shall be eligible for the exemption from the additional graduation requirements once notified, even if that notification occurs after the termination of the court's jurisdiction over the student, if the Foster and Mobile Youth otherwise qualifies for the exemption.

If a student is exempted from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements pursuant to this Policy and completes the statewide coursework requirements specified in Educational Code section 51225.3 before the end of their fourth year of high school and that student would

otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the Charter School, the Charter School shall not require or request that the student graduate before the end of their fourth year of high school.

The Equity and Inclusion Administrator or designee shall notify a Foster and Mobile Youth and their ERH if the Charter School grants an exemption from the additional graduation requirements, and shall consult with the Foster and Mobile Youth and their ERH. The consultation shall include all of the following:

1. Discussion regarding how any of the requirements that are waived may affect the pupil's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
2. Discussion and information about other options available to the pupil, including, but not limited to, a fifth year of high school, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
3. Consideration of the pupil's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption.

A Foster and Mobile Youth who would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the Charter School shall not be required to accept the exemption from additional graduation requirements or be denied enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses for which the student is otherwise eligible, including courses necessary to attend an institution of higher education, regardless of whether those courses are required for statewide graduation requirements.

If a Foster and Mobile Youth who was eligible for an exemption and 1) was not properly notified of the availability of the exemption, or 2) previously declined the exemption pursuant to this Policy, the Charter School shall exempt the student within thirty (30) days of the exemption request, if an exemption is requested by the youth and the youth at one time qualified for the exemption, even if the pupil is no longer a Foster and Mobile Youth or the court's jurisdiction of the pupil has terminated. Likewise, if the youth is exempted, the Charter School may not revoke the exemption.

If a Foster and Mobile Youth is exempted from additional graduation requirements pursuant to this section, the exemption shall continue to apply after the termination of the court's jurisdiction over the student or after the termination of circumstances which make the Student eligible while he or she is enrolled in school or if the student transfers to another school, including a charter school, or school district.

The Charter School shall not require or request a Foster and Mobile Youth to transfer schools in order to qualify for an exemption from additional graduation requirements, and no Foster and Mobile Youth or any person acting on behalf of a Foster and Mobile Youth may request a transfer solely to qualify for an exemption from the Charter School's additional graduation requirements.

Upon making a finding that a Foster and Mobile Youth is reasonably able to complete the

Charter School's additional graduation requirements within the student's fifth year of high school, the Equity and Inclusion Officer or designee shall:

1. Consult with the student and the student's ERH of the student's option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements, consistent with the laws regarding continuous enrollment and satisfactory progress for Charter School students over age 19.
2. Consult with the student and the student's ERH how remaining in school for a fifth year will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
3. Consult with and provide information to the student about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
4. Upon agreement with the student or if the student is under 18 years of age, the ERH, permit the student to stay in school for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's graduation requirements.
5. For a student identified as a foster youth, consult with the student, and the student's ERH, regarding the student's option to remain in the school of origin.

Through January 1, 2028, upon making a finding that a Foster and Mobile Youth is not reasonably able to complete the Charter School's additional graduation requirements but is reasonably able to complete state coursework requirements specified in Education Code Section 51225.3 within the student's fifth year of high school, the Deputy Superintendent School Services or designee shall exempt the pupil from Charter School's graduation requirements and provide pupil the option of remaining in school for a fifth (5th) year to complete the statewide coursework requirements. Charter School shall consult with the Foster and Mobile Youth and the ERH regarding all of the following:

1. The pupil's option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements.
2. How waiving the local educational requirements and remaining in school for a fifth year may affect the pupil's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to an institution of higher education.
3. Whether any other options are available to the pupil, including, but not limited to, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
4. The pupil's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed

decision on whether to accept the exemption and option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements.

If a Foster and Mobile Youth is not eligible for an exemption in the year in which the pupil transfers between schools, or for a newcomer pupil, is not eligible for an exemption in the student's third year of high school, because Charter School makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete Charter School's additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school, then Charter School shall do the following:

- 1) Within the first 30 calendar days of the *following* academic year, Charter School shall reevaluate eligibility;
- 2) Provide written notice to the pupil, the ERH, and the pupil's social worker or probation officer, if applicable, whether the pupil qualifies for an exemption, based on the course completion status of the pupil at the time of reevaluation, to determine if the pupil continues to be reasonably able to complete Charter School's additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school.
- 3) If, given their course completion status at that time the reevaluation is conducted, the pupil is not reasonably able to complete Charter School additional graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school, the Charter School shall provide written notice to the pupil and ERH of the pupil's options to:
 - iii. Receive an exemption from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board body of Charter School that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified in Section 51225.3, or
 - iv. Stay in school for a fifth year to complete the Charter School's additional graduation requirements.

The pupil (if not a minor) or the ERH shall have sole discretion whether to accept the exemption, based on the pupil's best educational interests.

If a juvenile court youth satisfies the requirements for high school graduation while enrolled at a juvenile court school but has elected to decline the issuance of the diploma for the purpose of taking additional coursework, the Charter School will not prevent the juvenile court youth from enrolling in the Charter School and pursuing additional coursework if requested by the youth or by the youth's ERH.

Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities

A student who is in foster care whose residence changes pursuant to a court order or decision of a child welfare worker shall be immediately deemed to meet all residency requirements for participation in interscholastic sports or other extracurricular activities.

Waiver of Fees for Afterschool Programs

The Charter School shall not charge any student who the Charter School knows is currently in foster care any family fees associated with an After-School Education and Safety (“ASES”) Program operated by the Charter School.

Student Records

When the Charter School receives a transfer request and/or student records request for the educational information and records of a foster youth from a new LEA, the Charter School shall provide these student records within two (2) business days. The Charter School shall compile the complete educational record of the student, including but not limited to a determination of seat time, full or partial credits earned, current classes and grades, immunization, and other records, and, if applicable, a copy of the student’s special education records including assessments, IEPs, and/or 504 plans. All requests for student records will be shared with the Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison, who shall be aware of the specific educational record-keeping needs of Foster and Mobile Youth.

In accordance with the Charter School’s Educational Records and Student Information Policy, under limited circumstances, the Charter School may disclose student records or personally identifiable information contained in those records to certain requesting parties including but not limited to a foster family agency and state and local authorities within a juvenile justice system, without parental consent.

Complaints of Noncompliance

Complaints of noncompliance with this Policy shall be governed by the Charter School’s Uniform Complaint Procedures. A copy of the Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures is available upon request.

Reporting Requirements

Charter School shall report to the California Department of Education (“CDE”) annually on the number of pupils who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from the Charter School’s graduation requirements that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements. This data shall be reported for pupils graduating in the fourth year and fifth year cohorts, and shall be disaggregated by cohort, pupil category, race, and disability status. The CDE shall make this data publicly available on an annual basis aligned with other reporting timelines for the California dashboard graduation data. For purposes of this subdivision, “pupil category” means the categories of pupils identified in the “Definitions” section of this Policy, above.

Educational Equity and Immigration Status Policy (Full Board Policy)

Board Policy #: 1754

Adopted: February 16, 2022

Amended: June 22, 2023, February 28, 2024, June 26, 2024

The Board of Directors of Altus Schools Southern CA hereby adopts this Educational Equity and Immigration Status Policy to apply to Altus Schools East County, Altus Schools North County, Altus Schools South Bay, Audeo Charter School II, Audeo Valley Charter School, and Mirus Secondary School, hereafter collectively referred to as (“Charter School”). The Charter School recognizes and honors the attainment of education for the betterment of the individual and the community and is committed to fostering a positive school environment in which students, educators, and staff feel safe, welcomed, supported, and connected.

Charter School will provide a safe, secure, and peaceful learning environment for all students and staff. Charter School defines sensitive or safe locations to include its schools, official activities of its schools, including those occurring in public places and adjacent areas, and all of Charter School property, included but not limited to, facilities owned, controlled by, or leased by Charter School. Where outside contractors or service providers (particularly school resource officers) are regularly present at sensitive or safe locations or have access to student information, Charter School shall seek commitments from those parties not to facilitate immigration enforcement at any of the Charter School’s sensitive or safe locations unless required by law.

Information about children’s rights to a free education regardless of immigration status or religious beliefs and the Attorney General’s *Know Your Rights* handout will be provided to students and parents upon enrollment to Charter School.

All notices provided to parents pursuant to AB 699 shall be language-accessible in compliance with state and federal laws. Enrollment, registration, and uniform complaint procedures information provided on the Charter School website shall be language-accessible in compliance with state and federal laws.

Responding to Hate Crimes and Bullying

Charter School has adopted and publicized a *Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy* and provides annual notice of same to families. The Policy expressly prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on the actual or perceived characteristics set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code, including immigration status, and Section 220 of AB 699, and disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, immigration or citizenship status, religion, religious affiliation, creed, color, citizenship, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance, or regulation. The Policy is inclusive of instances that occur on any area of the school campus, at school-sponsored events and activities, regardless of location, through school-owned technology, and through other electronic means. In accordance with the *Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy* and

its *Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures*, Charter School will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of unlawful harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or bullying that constitute a hate crime or are otherwise based on actual or perceived characteristics listed above, and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted.

Charter School advises students that hateful and/or demeaning behavior is inappropriate and unacceptable in our society and at Charter School and encourages students to practice compassion and respect each other. Charter School educates students to accept all student peers regardless of protected characteristics (including but not limited to actual or perceived religion, immigration status, or citizenship) and about the negative impact of bullying other students based on these protected characteristics.

Charter School shall train teachers, staff, and personnel to ensure that they are aware of their legal duty to take reasonable steps to eliminate a hostile environment and respond to any incidents of harassment based on the actual or perceived characteristics noted above.

Charter School shall inform students who are victims of hate crimes of their right to report such crimes. Complete copies of the *Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures* and the *Title IX, Harassment, Discrimination, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy* are available for review at the administration office.

Gathering and Managing Student and Family Information

School has adopted an *Educational Records and Student Information Policy* to apply to all educational records and student information maintained by Charter School and provides annual notice of same to all families. Appropriate personnel shall receive training regarding those policies and procedures.

Additionally, Charter School shall observe the following:

- Except as required by state or federal law or as required to administer a state or federally supported education program, Charter School officials and employees will not collect information or documents regarding citizenship or immigration status of pupils or their family members.
- If Charter School possesses information that could indicate immigration status, citizenship status, or national origin information, Charter School will not use the acquired information to discriminate against any student or families or bar children from enrolling in or attending school.
- If parents or guardians choose not to provide information that could indicate their or their children's immigration status, citizenship status, or national origin, Charter School will not use such actions as a basis to discriminate against any students or families or bar children from enrolling or attending school.
- Charter School will not allow school resources or data to be used to create a registry based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, or national origin.

- Charter School will not inquire specifically about a student's citizenship or immigration status or the citizenship or immigration status of a student's parents or guardians; nor shall personnel seek or require, to the exclusion of other permissible documentation or information, documentation or information that may indicate a student's immigration status, such as a green card, voter registration, a passport, or citizenship papers.

Admissions and Enrollment

As a charter school, Charter School is open to all students who wish to attend, regardless of residency. Notwithstanding this and where permitted by law, Charter School shall accept alternative means to establish residency, age, or other eligibility criteria for enrollment or programs, and those alternative means shall include among them documentation or information that are available to persons regardless of immigration status, citizenship status, or national origin, and that do not reveal information related to citizenship or immigration status.

Charter School will accept the following list of documents as reasonable evidence of residency:

- Property tax payment receipts
- Rental property contract, lease, or payment receipts
- Utility service contract, statements, or payment receipts
- Pay stubs
- Voter registration
- Correspondence from a government agency
- Declaration of residency executed by the parent or legal guardian of the student
- Note: documents, information, or proof relating to citizenship or immigration status of students will never be requested for the enrollment process.

However, please note: (1) that parents and guardians are not required to provide each and every document listed and that (2) in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Charter School will immediately enroll a homeless child or youth even if he or she is unable to provide proof of residency or age or other documentation normally required for enrollment.

Charter School will accept the following list of documents as reasonable evidence of age:

- Certified copy of birth record
- Statement by the local registrar or county recorder certifying date of birth
- Baptism certificate
- Passport
- When none of the foregoing is obtainable, an affidavit of the parent, guardian, or custodian, or any other appropriate means of proving the child's age.

Documents, information, or proof relating to citizenship or immigration status of students will never be requested for the enrollment process. Where any law requires submission of national origin related information to satisfy the requirements of a special program, Charter School personnel will solicit that documentation or information separately from the enrollment process.

Social Security Information:

Charter School will not collect entire social security numbers or cards or a statement that the parent or guardian does not possess a Social Security number for the purposes of enrollment, and failure to provide this information will not bar a student from enrolling or attending Charter School. However, the last four digits of an adult household member's Social Security number may be solicited and/or collected if required to establish eligibility for federal benefit programs such as free or reduced-price meals. This Social Security information will only be collected for the limited purpose of establishing eligibility for federal benefit programs and will not affect student enrollment. If no adult household member has a Social Security number, the student still can qualify for free or reduced- price meals, if the family meets the income eligibility requirements.

Sharing Student and Family Information

Charter School will avoid the disclosure of information that might indicate a student's or family's citizenship or immigration status if the disclosure is not authorized by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Charter School requires written parental or guardian consent for release of student information unless the information is relevant for a legitimate education interest or includes directory information only.

Neither exception permits disclosing information to immigration authorities for immigration-enforcement purposes; no student information shall be disclosed to immigration authorities for immigration-enforcement purposes without a court order or judicial subpoena. A copy of the complete *Education Records and Student Information Policy* is available for review in the administration office.

Charter School's request for written parental or guardian consent for release of student information must include:

- (a) The signature and date of the parent, guardian, or eligible student providing consent;
- (b) A description of the records to be disclosed;
- (c) The reason for the release of information;
- (d) The parties or class of parties receiving the information; and
- (e) If requested by the parents, guardians, or eligible student, a copy of the records to be released.

The parent, guardian, or eligible student is not required to sign the consent form. If the parent, guardian or eligible student refuses to provide written consent for the release of student information that this not otherwise subject to release, Charter School shall not release the information. Charter School will permanently keep the consent notice with the record file.

Charter School personnel shall take the following steps upon receiving an information request related to a student's or family's immigration or citizenship status:

- (a) Notify a designated Charter School official about the information request.

- (b) Provide students and families with appropriate notice and a description of the immigration officer's request.
- (c) Document any verbal or written request for information by immigration authorities.
- (d) Unless prohibited, provide students and parents/guardians with any documents issued by the immigration-enforcement officer.

Charter School will not release information to third parties for immigration-enforcement purposes, except as required by law or court order. Except for investigations of child abuse, child neglect, or child dependency, or when the subpoena served on the local educational agency prohibits disclosure, Charter School shall provide parental or guardian notification of any court orders, warrants, or subpoenas before responding to such requests.

Responding to Immigration Enforcement on Campus

No visitor – which include immigration-enforcement officers – shall enter or remain on school grounds of the Charter School during school hours without having registered with the principal or designee. If there are no exigent circumstances necessitating immediate action, and if the immigration officer does not possess a judicial warrant or court order that provides a basis for the visit, the officer must provide the following information to the principal or designee:

1. Name, address, and occupation;
2. Age, if less than 21;
3. Purpose of entering school grounds;
4. Proof of identity; and
5. Any other information as required by law

Charter School requires that any visitor, including immigration enforcement officers, must not interrupt students and faculty during class time for immigration enforcement or other purposes, and must instead wait until a designated break period prior to or following a class period to carry out their judicial warrant or court order. A complete copy of the Charter School *Visitor and Volunteer Policy* is available for review in the administration office.

Charter School has posted signs at the entrance of its school grounds to notify outsiders of the hours and requirements for registration.

Procedures for Responding to On-Campus Immigration Enforcement

As early as possible, Charter School personnel will notify the Superintendent or designated administrator of any request by an immigration-enforcement officer for student access or access to school grounds for purposes related to immigration enforcement, or any requests for review of school documents (including for the services of lawful subpoenas, petitions, complaints, warrants, etc).

In addition, Charter School personnel will take the following steps in response to an officer present on the school campus specifically for immigration-enforcement purposes:

1. Advise the officer that before proceeding with his or her request, and absent exigent circumstances, school personnel must first receive notification and direction from the Deputy Superintendent School Services .

2. Ask to see, and make a copy of or note, the officer's credentials (name and badge number). Also ask for and copy or note the phone number of the officer's supervisor.
3. Ask the officer his/her reason for being on school grounds and document it.
4. Ask the officer to produce documentation that authorizes school access.
5. Make a copy of all documents provided by the officer. Retain one copy of the documents for the school records.
6. If officer declares that exigent circumstances exist and demands immediate access to the campus, Charter School personnel should comply with the officer's orders and immediately contact the Deputy Superintendent School Services .
7. If the officer does not declare that exigent circumstances exist, respond according to the requirements of the officer's documentation. If the immigration-enforcement officer has:
 - a. An ICE warrant, Charter School personnel shall inform the agent that he or she cannot consent to any request without first consulting with the Charter School's counsel or other designated agency official
 - b. A federal judicial warrant, such as a search-and-seizure warrant or an arrest warrant; prompt compliance is usually legally required. If feasible, consult with the Charter School's legal counsel or designated administrator before providing the agent access to the person or materials specified in the warrant
 - c. Subpoena for production of documents or other evidence
 - i. Immediate compliance is not required. Therefore, Charter School personnel shall inform the Charter School's legal counsel or other designated official of the subpoena, and await further instructions on how to proceed
8. While Charter School personnel should not consent to access by an immigration-enforcement officer, except as described below, he/she should not attempt to physically impede the officer, even if the officer appears to be exceeding authorization given under a warrant or document. If an officer enters the premises without consent, Charter School personnel shall document his or her actions while on campus
9. After the encounter with the officer, the Charter School shall promptly take written notes of all interactions with the officer. The notes shall include the following items:
 - a. List or copy of the officer's credentials and contact information;
 - b. Identity of all school personnel who communicated with the officer;
 - c. Details of the officer's request;
 - d. Whether the officer presented a warrant or subpoena to accompany his/her request, what was requested in the warrant/subpoena, and whether the warrant/subpoena was signed by a judge;
 - e. Charter School personnel's response to the officer's request;

- f. Any further action taken by the agent; and
 - g. Photo or copy of any documents presented by the agent
10. Charter School personnel shall provide a copy of those note, and associated documents collected form the officer, to the Charter School’s legal counsel or other designated agency official.
 11. In turn, Charter School’s legal counsel or other designated official] shall submit a timely report to the Charter School Board of Directors regarding the officer’s requests and actions and Charter School’s response(s).
 12. E-mail the Charter School Board of Directors and Bureau of Children’s Justice in the California Department of Justice, at BCJ@doj.ca.gov, regarding any attempt by a law-enforcement officer to access a school site or a student for immigration-enforcement purposes

Charter School personnel shall immediately notify the student’s parents or guardians if a law-enforcement officer requests or gains access to a student for immigration-enforcement purposes, unless such access was in compliance with a judicial warrant or subpoena that restricts the disclosure of the information to the parent or guardian.

Charter School personnel shall receive consent from the student’s parent or guardian before a student can be interviewed or searched by any officer seeking to enforce the civil immigration laws at the school, unless the officer presents a valid, effective warrant signed by a judge, or presents a valid, effective court order.

Responding to the Detention or Deportation of a Student’s Family Member

Charter School shall encourage that families and students have and know their emergency phone numbers and know where to find important documentation, including birth certificates, passports, Social Security cards, doctors’ contact information, medication lists, lists of allergies, etc., which will allow them to be prepared in the event that a family member is detained or deported.

Charter School shall permit students and families to update students’ emergency contact information as needed throughout the school year and provide alternative contacts if no parent or guardian is available. Charter School shall ensure that families may include the information of an identified trusted adult guardian as a secondary emergency contact in case a student’s parent or guardian is detained. Charter School shall communicate to families that information provided within the emergency cards will only be used in response to specified emergency situations, and not for any other purpose.

In the event a student’s parent/guardian has been detained or deported by federal immigration authorities, Charter School shall use the student’s emergency card contact information and release the student to the person(s) designated as emergency contacts. Alternatively, Charter

School shall release the student into the custody of any individual who presents a Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit on behalf of the student.

Charter School shall only contact Child Protective Services if the [local educational agency] personnel are unsuccessful in arranging for the timely care of the child through the emergency contact information that the school has, a Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit, or other information or instructions conveyed by the parent or guardian.

Family Safety Plan

To the extent possible, Charter School will facilitate a family's development of a *Family Safety Plan* to be stored at a location known by the student. Such a plan may identify a trusted adult who can care for the student if no parent or guardian can do so. Students should know that the trusted adult is the person who the student should contact if his or her parents and/or guardians are detained or deported, and how to reach the trusted adult.

Additional Resources

In the event that a student's family member is detained, Charter School may refer the student and his or her family members to other resources, including, but not limited to:

- (1) ICE Detainee Locator
 - (<https://locator.ice.gov/odls/homePage.do>)
- (2) Legal Assistance
 - There are several legal aid organizations that may be able to provide legal assistance to secure the release of a student's detained parent, or to help arrange for the student to visit the parent
 - A list of California organizations accredited by Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) to represent immigrants before the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR)
- (3) Consulate or Embassy.
 - The consulate or embassy of the parent's or guardian's country of origin may be able to offer additional information and assistance

Charter School will also ensure that the attorneys who they refer students to are licensed and in good standing with the State bar of California, by checking online at <http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Attorneys>