

PHILOSOPHY, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

Charter School Oversight

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

A charter school shall be subject to the terms of its charter; any memorandum of understanding between the school and the District Governing Board; the state and federal constitutions; applicable federal laws; state laws that apply to governmental agencies in general; and other legal requirements that are expressly applicable to charter schools, including, but not limited to, the following requirements.

Governance

1. Comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code 54950-54963), California Public Records Act (Government Code 7920.000- 7930.215), conflict of interest laws (Government Code 1090-1099), and Political Reform Act (Government Code 81000-91014), including the adoption of a conflict of interest code pursuant to Government Code 87300 (Education Code 47604.1)
2. Except as otherwise authorized by Government Code 54954, hold the meetings of its governing body within the physical boundaries of the county in which the charter school is located or, if a nonclassroom-based charter school that does not have a facility or operates one or more resource centers, hold governing body meetings within the physical boundaries of the county in which the greatest number of students enrolled in the charter school reside. In addition, a two-way teleconference location shall be established at the school site and/or resource center, as applicable. (Education Code 47604.1)
3. The charter school's executive director or any of the charter school's employees shall not serve as a member of the county board of education in the county where the charter school is located (Education Code 1006; Government Code 1099)

Operations

4. Not be operated as, or be operated by, a for-profit corporation, a for-profit educational management organization, or a for-profit charter management organization (Education Code 47604)
5. Be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations (Education Code 47605)

Admission/Enrollment

6. Adhere to all laws establishing the minimum age for public school attendance (Education Code 47610)

7. 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)
8. Serve students with disabilities in the same manner as such students are served in other district schools (Education Code 47646, 56145)
9. Admit all students who wish to attend the charter 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 that 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 students who are currently enrolled in that 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 Board of the District on an individual school basis consistent with law. Preferences shall not result in limited enrollment access for students with disabilities, academically low-achieving students, English learners, neglected or delinquent students, students experiencing homelessness, foster youth, students who are economically disadvantaged, or on the basis of nationality, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Mandatory parental volunteer hours shall not be the basis of a preference or a criterion for admission or continued enrollment. (Education Code 47605)
10. Not discourage a student from enrolling or seeking to enroll in the charter school, nor encourage a current student from disenrolling, for any reason, including, but not limited to, the student's academic performance, nationality, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation or because the student is a student with disabilities, academically low achieving, an English learner, neglected or delinquent, experiencing homelessness, economically disadvantaged, or a foster youth. The charter school shall not request or require a student's records to be submitted before enrollment. The charter school shall post on its website the California Department of Education's (CDE) notice of these requirements and shall provide the notice

to parents/guardians or students age 18 and older when the parent/guardian or student inquires about enrollment, before conducting an enrollment lottery, and before disenrollment of a student. (Education Code 47605)

11. Comply with the requirements of Education Code 48850-48859 regarding enrollment, identification, and placement of students experiencing homelessness and unaccompanied youth (Education Code 48850, 48851, 48852.5, 48852.6; 42 USC 11431-11435)
12. Comply with the requirements of Education Code 48850-48859 regarding the enrollment and placement of foster youth (Education Code 48853.5, 48859)
13. Allow a student who is enrolled in the charter school but receiving individual instruction at home or a hospital due to a temporary disability to return to the charter school when well enough to do so, provided the student returns during the school year in which the individual instruction was initiated (Education Code 48207.3)

Nondiscrimination

14. Not discriminate against any student on the basis of the characteristics listed in Education Code 220 (Education Code 47605)
15. Adopt policy that is consistent with the model policy developed by the California Attorney General addressing the charter 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
16. 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 website or on the website of the charter operator (Education Code 221.61)
17. If the charter school offers competitive athletics, annually post on the school's website or on the website 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)
18. Provide specified accommodations to pregnant and parenting students, including, but not limited to, the provision of parental leave and reasonable accommodations on campus to a lactating student to express breast milk, breastfeed an infant child, or address other needs related to breastfeeding. The charter school shall notify pregnant and parenting students and parents/guardians of the rights and options available to pregnant and parenting students. (Education Code 222, 222.5, 46015)

19. 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)

Tuition and Fees

20. Not charge tuition (Education Code 47605)
21. 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 (Education Code 49010, 49011)

Not bill, nor take any negative action against, a student or former student for a debt owed to the charter school. The school shall provide an itemized invoice for any amount owed by the parent/guardian on behalf of a student or former student before pursuing payment of the debt and shall provide a receipt to the parent/guardian for each payment made to the school. (Education Code 49014)

School Plans

22. Adopt a local control and accountability plan (LCAP) and update the plan by July 1 each year, after holding a public hearing, consulting with specified stakeholders, and using the template adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE). As part of the LCAP adoption and annual update to the LCAP, the governing body of the charter school shall separately adopt a local control funding formula budget overview for parents/guardians and as appropriate, an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Addendum, based on the templates developed by SBE (Education Code 47604.33, 47606.5, 52064, 52064.1, 52064.3)
23. If the charter school applies for federal and/or state categorical program funding through the state's consolidated application, establish a school site council to develop and annually review a school plan for student achievement, unless the school chooses to use its LCAP for this purpose (Education Code 64000-64001, 65000-65001)
24. Develop a comprehensive safety plan in accordance with Education Code 32282 and review and update the plan by March 1 each year (Education Code 47605)
25. Develop a transportation safety plan that includes procedures to ensure that a student is not left unattended on a school bus, student activity bus, youth bus, or child care motor vehicle and procedures for designating an adult chaperone, other than the driver, to accompany students on a school activity bus. In addition, ensure that each school bus, student activity bus, youth bus, or child care motor vehicle is equipped with a child safety alert system that requires the driver to either manually contact or scan the device, thereby prompting the driver to inspect the entirety of the interior of the vehicle before exiting, unless the student activity bus is exempted by law. (Education Code 39831.3; Vehicle Code 28160)

Curriculum and Instruction

26. Offer at least the number of instructional minutes required by law for the grade levels provided by the charter school (Education Code 47612.5)
27. If the charter school serves students in grade 9, adopt a fair, objective, and transparent mathematics placement policy with specified components (Education Code 51224.7)
28. If the charter school serves students in any of grades 7-12, provide comprehensive sexual health education and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention education at least once in junior high or middle school and once in high school (Education Code 51931, 51934)
29. If the charter school serves students in any of grades 6-12, identify and implement methods of informing parents/guardians of human trafficking prevention resources (Education Code 49381)
30. If the charter school serves students in middle or high school and offers one or more courses in health education, include in those courses instruction in mental health, as specified (Education Code 51925-51929)
31. If the charter school serves students in grade 12, comply with the requirements for student completion and submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and California Dream Act Application (Education Code 51225.7, 51225.8)
32. If the charter school is planning to hold a college or career fair, the charter school shall notify each apprenticeship program in the same county as the charter school with the planned date, time, and location of the fair (Labor Code 3074.2)
33. If the charter school provides independent study, meet the requirements of Education Code 51745-51749.6, except that the school may 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)
34. Develop a plan for offering independent study to affected students pursuant to Education Code 46393 if the governing body of the charter school submits an affidavit pursuant to Education Code 46392 necessitated by an emergency condition that resulted in a school closure (Education Code 46392, 46393)
35. Accept and provide full or partial credit for coursework satisfactorily completed by a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a student participating in a newcomer program while attending another school (Education Code 51225.2)

36. Meet all statewide standards and conduct any statewide assessments applicable to noncharter public schools (Education Code 47605, 47612.5, 60605)

Special Education

37. Provide assistive technology devices in a student's home or other settings if the individualized education program team determines that such access is necessary. The charter school shall also provide an assistive technology device or comparable device to a student who enrolls in another local educational agency, for two months after the student leaves the charter school or until alternative arrangements can be made, whichever occurs first (Education Code 56040.3)
38. If the charter school is an independent member of a special education local plan area and has a master contract with a nonpublic, nonsectarian school:
 - a. Pay the full amount of the tuition or fees for students with disabilities enrolled in programs or services provided pursuant to that contract (Education Code 56365)
 - b. Conduct at least one onsite visit to the nonpublic, nonsectarian school prior to a student's placement and at least once each school year (Education Code 56366.1)

High School Graduation

39. Exempt a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant student who transfers between schools after the second year of high school, or a student participating in a newcomer program for newly immigrant students in grades 11-12, from any of the charter school's graduation requirements that exceed state requirements, unless the charter school determines that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements by the end of the fourth year of high school (Education Code 51225.1, 51225.2)
40. In accordance with Education Code 51225.31, exempt an eligible student with disabilities from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the charter school board that are in addition to the statewide course requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3, and award such student a high school diploma (Education Code 51225.31)
41. Grant a high school diploma to any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 through 2014-15 school year and met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination (Education Code 51413)
42. Require students to meet the state minimum course requirements for graduation as specified in Education Code 51225.3, as well as any additional graduation requirements required by the governing body (Education Code 51225.3)

Student Expression

43. Allow a student to wear traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment at school graduation ceremonies, unless the charter school determines that an item is likely to cause a substantial disruption of, or material interference with, the ceremony (Education Code 35183.1)
44. 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)

Staffing

45. Require its teachers to hold a certificate, permit, or other document issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) as required for the teacher's certificated assignment. Teachers employed by the charter school during the 2019-20 school year shall have until July 1, 2025 to obtain the required certificate required. (Education Code 47605, 47605.4)
46. If the charter school offers TK, require credentialed teachers first assigned to a TK class to meet one of three specified criteria establishing qualification for the position by August 1, 2023, and to maintain adult to student ratios as specified in Education Code 48000 (Education Code 48000)
47. Review potential misassignments and vacant positions in the charter school, including data from CTC, respond to the County Superintendent of Schools when necessary to show that an employee is legally authorized for an assignment, and correct any misassignments if notified by the County Superintendent that an assignment is not legally authorized (Education Code 44258.9)
48. Not hire any person who has been convicted of a violent or serious felony except as otherwise provided by law, and, if the charter school contracts with an entity for specified services, verify that any employee of that entity who interacts with students outside of the immediate supervision and control of the student's parent/guardian or a school employee has a valid criminal records summary, unless an exception applies (Education Code 44830.1, 45122.1, 45125.1)
49. Report to 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)
50. If the charter school chooses to make the state teachers' retirement plan and/or the public employees retirement system available to its employees, meet the requirements of Education Code 47611 (Education Code 47610)

51. Meet the requirements of Government Code 3540-3549.3 related to collective bargaining in public education employment (Education Code 47611.5)
52. If the charter school employs security officers and/or security officers work on the charter school campus, provide the latest course of training developed by the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services of the Department of Consumer Affairs in consultation with the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, as specified (Education Code 38001.5; Business and Professions Code 7583.45)

Parent/Guardian Involvement

53. On a regular basis, consult with parents/guardians and teachers regarding the charter school's educational programs (Education Code 47605)
54. 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)
55. If 15 percent or more of the students at the charter school speak a single primary language other than English, provide all notices, reports, statements, or records sent to parents/guardians in English and in the primary language (Education Code 48985)

Nutrition

56. Provide breakfast and/or lunch free of charge during each school day to students requesting a meal regardless of the student's free or reduced-price meal eligibility. If the charter school participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) and is a high poverty school, as defined, the charter school shall apply to operate a federal universal meal service provision, and upon approval, apply such service. (Education Code 49501.5, 49564.3)
57. If the charter school participates in the NSLP or SBP, 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)

Student Health

58. Adopt a policy on suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention for grades 7-12, and an age-appropriate policy for grades K-6, and review the policy at least every five years (Education Code 215)
59. Each charter school that serves students in any of grades 6-12 shall create and prominently display an age appropriate and culturally relevant poster that identifies approaches and resources about student mental health. (Education Code 49428.5)

60. If the charter school serves grades 7-12 and issues student identification cards, print the telephone numbers of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the National Domestic Violence Hotline on the identification cards (Education Code 215.5)
61. Notify students and parents/guardians at least twice during the school year on how to initiate access to available student mental health services on campus or in the community (Education Code 49428)
62. Provide annual training on child abuse and neglect reporting requirements to employees and persons working on the charter 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)
63. If the charter 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, the student shall be immediately removed from the activity for the remainder of the day and shall not be permitted to return to the activity until the student is evaluated by a licensed health care provider and receives written clearance to do so. (Education Code 33479-33479.5, 49475)
64. If the charter school offers an interscholastic athletic program, develop and post a written emergency action plan that describes procedures to be followed in the event of sudden cardiac arrest and other medical emergencies, acquire at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) for the school, and make the AED available at on-campus athletic activities or events (Education Code 35179.4, 35179.6)
65. If the charter school sponsors or hosts an on-campus event in or around a swimming pool that is not part of an interscholastic athletic program, provide for the presence of at least one adult with a valid certification of cardiopulmonary resuscitation training throughout the duration of the event (Education Code 35179.6)
66. Provide school nurses or other voluntary, trained personnel with emergency epinephrine auto-injectors of the type required pursuant to Education Code 49414 (Education Code 49414)
67. 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

Student Conduct/Discipline

68. Adopt a policy on bullying and cyberbullying prevention, post specified information on bullying and harassment prevention on the charter school's website, and annually make CDE's online training module on bullying prevention available to school site certificated employees and other employees who have regular interaction with students (Education Code 234.4, 234.6, 32283.5)
69. Adopt and display a written policy on sexual harassment, include the policy as part of any orientation for new and continuing students, and post a poster notifying students of the policy (Education Code 231.5, 231.6)
70. Prohibit seclusion and behavioral restraint of students as a means of discipline, and only use such methods to control student behavior that poses a clear and present danger of serious physical harm to a student or others that cannot be immediately prevented by a less restrictive response (Education Code 49005-49006.4)
71. Neither recommend for expulsion a student in grades K-12 nor suspend a student in grades K-8 for disrupting school activities or otherwise willfully defying the authority of school personnel in the performance of their duties (Education Code 48901.1)
72. Upon request, provide a student who is suspended for two or more days with the homework assigned during the period of suspension (Education Code 47606.2, 48913.5)

Student and Parent/Guardian Records

73. Not collect or solicit social security numbers or 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)
74. Upon written request, not include the directory information of a student or the personal information of a parent/guardian, as defined, in the minutes of a meeting of the governing body (Education Code 49073.2)
75. 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, including a transcript of grades or report card, and health information (Education Code 47605)
76. If the charter school serves high school students, submit to the Student Aid Commission (CSAC), 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 CSAC to provide test scores in lieu of the GPA. (Education Code 69432.9, 69432.92)

77. Upon receipt of government-issued documentation of a change of name or gender or, if such documentation is not available, upon request in accordance with the procedure in Education Code 49070, update, and reissue if requested, a former student's records to include the student's updated legal name or gender. (Education Code 49062.5, 49070)

Facilities

78. 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
79. If the charter school serves students in any of grades 6-12, stock the school's restrooms at all times with an adequate supply of menstrual products available and accessible free of cost in all women's restrooms, all-gender restrooms, and in at least one men's restroom (Education Code 35292.6)

Finance

80. Promptly respond to all reasonable inquiries from the District, the county office of education, or the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), including, but not limited to, inquiries regarding the charter school's financial records (Education Code 47604.3)
81. Maintain written contemporaneous records that document all student attendance and make these records available for audit and inspection (Education Code 47612.5)
82. Identify and report to the SPI any portion of the charter school's 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)
83. Annually prepare and submit financial reports to the Board and the County Superintendent 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 December 15, an interim financial report for the current fiscal year reflecting changes through October 31 (Education Code 47604.33)
 - c. By March 15, a second interim financial report for the current fiscal year reflecting changes through January 31 (Education Code 47604.33)
 - d. 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)
 - 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 CDE. (Education Code 47605)
84. If the charter school receives state facilities funding pursuant to the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act (Education Code 17070.10-17079.30), annually report a detailed list of all expenditures of state funds, and of the school's matching funds for completed projects, and submit an audit of completed facilities projects within one year of project completion (Education Code 41024)

Accountability

85. Annually adopt a school accountability report card (Education Code 33126, 47612; California Constitution, Article 16, Section 8.5)

Exhibit approved: 10/22/13

Exhibit revised: 2/13/18; 2/2/2024