



Charter Schools and the Role of the County Board

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FRAMING



- Overview of Charter Schools
 - Charter Schools in SB County
 - The Role of the County Board
 - Acting as an Appellate Body
 - State Board of Education
- Authorized Charter Schools -
Olive Grove



Overview of Charter Schools





What is a Charter School?

Charter schools are public schools providing instruction in any grade between TK–12. They are created or organized by teachers, parents, community leaders or a community-based organization.

All charter schools are governed by a charter and authorized by a local school district, a county office of education, or the State Board of Education (SBE).



Charter School Fundamentals

Authorizers

- Districts
- County Office of Education
- State Board of Education (no longer authorizing new charters)

Funding Models

- **Independently Funded:** Receive funding directly from the state
- **Locally Funded "Dependent Charters":** Receive funding directly from authorizer

Governance Structure

- **Independently Governed:** Independent board with full autonomy
- **Locally Governed:** District or COE board serves as charter board

Types of Charter Schools

Traditional Start-up Charters

Initiated by educators, parents or community members.

Conversion Charters

Existing public schools converted into charter schools.

Countywide Charters

Authorized by the County Office of Education to serve students across multiple districts.

Classroom Based Charters

Offer traditional, in-person instruction in a classroom setting.

Non-classroom Based Charters

Alternative learning environments, such as online learning and may not have a traditional classroom setting.

Combination

Offer a blend of classroom-based and non-classroom-based instruction.

Charter Schools in Santa Barbara County



Charter Schools in Santa Barbara County

Santa Barbara County School District Superintendents & Charter School Leaders

Additional Santa Barbara County Charter School:

- California Connections Academy - Central



Ballard School District
Pam Rennick
Appointed: 2021
1 school, TK-6
Enrollment: 107
ballardschool.org



Cuyama Joint Unified School District
Alfonso Gamino
Appointed: 2020
2 schools, TK-12
Enrollment: 314
cuyamaunified.org



Montecito Union School District
Anthony Ranil
Appointed: 2017
1 school, TK-6
Enrollment: 345
montecitou.org



Solvang School District
Sierra Loughridge
Appointed: 2022
1 school, TK-8
Enrollment: 221
solvangschool.org



Orcutt Academy Charter School
Dr. Holly Edds
Appointed: 2020
2 schools, TK-12
Enrollment: 778
orcuttacademy.orcuttschools.net



Blochman Union School District
Doug Brown
Appointed: 2013
1 school, TK-8
Enrollment: 192
blochmanusd.org



Goleta Union School District
Dr. Mary Kahn
Appointed: 2024
9 schools, TK-8
Enrollment: 3,408
gusd.us



Orcutt Union School District
Dr. Holly Edds
Appointed: 2020
11 schools, TK-12
Enrollment: 4,764
orcuttschools.net



Vista del Mar Union School District
Bree Valla
Appointed: 2022
1 school, TK-8
Enrollment: 61
vistadelmarunion.com



Peabody Charter School
Demian Barnett
Appointed: 2012
1 school, TK-6
Enrollment: 776
peabodycharter.org



Buellton Union School District
Dr. Adam Bailey
Appointed: 2025
2 schools, TK-8
Enrollment: 545
bueltonusd.org



Guadalupe Union School District
Dr. Emilio Handall
Appointed: 2018
2 schools, TK-8
Enrollment: 1,306
guadusd.org



Santa Barbara Unified School District
Dr. Hilda Maldonado
Appointed: 2020
21 schools, TK-12
Enrollment: 13,573
sbunified.org



Adelante Charter School
Javier Bolivar
Appointed: 2021
1 school, TK-8
Enrollment: 306
adelantecharter.org



Santa Barbara Charter School
Laura Donner
Appointed: 2014
1 school, TK-8
Enrollment: 290
sbcharter.org



Carpinteria Unified School District
Diana Rigby
Appointed: 2017
6 schools, TK-12
Enrollment: 1,920
cusd.net



Hope School District
Dr. Anne Hubbard
Appointed: 2016
3 schools, TK-6
Enrollment: 871
hopesdk6.org



Santa Maria-Bonita School District
Dr. Darren McDuffie
Appointed: 2022
21 schools, TK-8
Enrollment: 17,105
smbdsd.org



Family Partnership Charter School
Stephanie Eggert
Appointed: 2021
1 school, K-12
Enrollment: 400
fpcharter.org



Santa Ynez Valley Charter School
Dr. John Dewey
Appointed: 2018
1 school, TK-8
Enrollment: 170
syvcs.org



Cold Spring School District
Dr. Amy Alzina
Appointed: 2017
1 school, TK-6
Enrollment: 178
coldspringschool.net



Lompoc Unified School District
Dr. Clara Finneran
Appointed: 2023
18 schools, TK-12
Enrollment: 9,413
lusd.org



Santa Maria Joint Union High School District
Antonio Garcia
Appointed: 2020
4 schools, 9-12
Enrollment: 8,985
smjuhsd.org



Manzanita Public Charter School
Suzanne Nicastro
Appointed: 2014
1 school, TK-6
Enrollment: 458
manzanitacharterschool.com



Trivium Charter School
Trisha Jones
Appointed: 2011
3 schools, TK-12
Enrollment: 806
triviumcharter.org



College School District
Maurene Donner
Appointed: 2018
2 schools, TK-8
Enrollment: 358
collegeschooldistrict.org



Los Olivos School District
Ray Vazquez
Appointed: 2020
1 school, TK-8
Enrollment: 151
losolivosschool.org



Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District
Dr. Kimberly Sheehan
Appointed: 2024
1 school, 9-12
Enrollment: 882
syvuhsd.org



Olive Grove Charter School
Meg Rydman
Appointed: 2020
4 schools, TK-12
Enrollment: 361
olivegrovecharter.org



County Superintendent of Schools
Susan Salcido
Appointed: 2017

Updated as of
7/30/25

Charter Schools in Santa Barbara County

| Authorizer | Charter | Current Term Expiration Date |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Blochman Union Elementary | Family Partnership | June 30, 2028 |
| Blochman Union Elementary | Trivium Charter | June 30, 2028 |
| Blochman Union Elementary | Trivium Charter School Adventure | June 30, 2028 |
| Blochman Union Elementary | Trivium Charter School Voyage | June 30, 2028 |
| College Elementary | Santa Ynez Valley Charter | June 30, 2028 |
| Cuyama Joint Unified | California Online Public Schools Central Coast | June 30, 2027 |
| Lompoc Unified | Manzanita Public Charter | June 30, 2028 |
| Orcutt Union Elementary | Orcutt Academy Charter | June 30, 2026 |
| Santa Barbara Unified | Adelante | June 30, 2027 |
| Santa Barbara Unified | Peabody Charter | June 30, 2025 |
| Santa Barbara Unified | Santa Barbara Charter | June 30, 2026 |
| State Board of Education | Olive Grove - Buellton | June 30, 2026 |
| State Board of Education | Olive Grove - Lompoc | June 30, 2026 |
| State Board of Education | Olive Grove - Orcutt/Santa Maria | June 30, 2026 |
| State Board of Education | Olive Grove - Santa Barbara | June 30, 2026 |



The Role of the County Board



County Board Authority

Legal Foundation

California Education Code Sections 47600-47664 grant county boards of education authority in charter school governance.

Dual Authority

County boards exercise both appellate jurisdiction over district charter denials and direct authorization authority for countywide charter petitions that serve broader populations, and charter schools that are approved on appeal.

Oversight Role

If a charter school is authorized by a county board, they maintain ongoing oversight responsibilities including financial monitoring, academic performance review, and compliance with charter terms and state requirements.



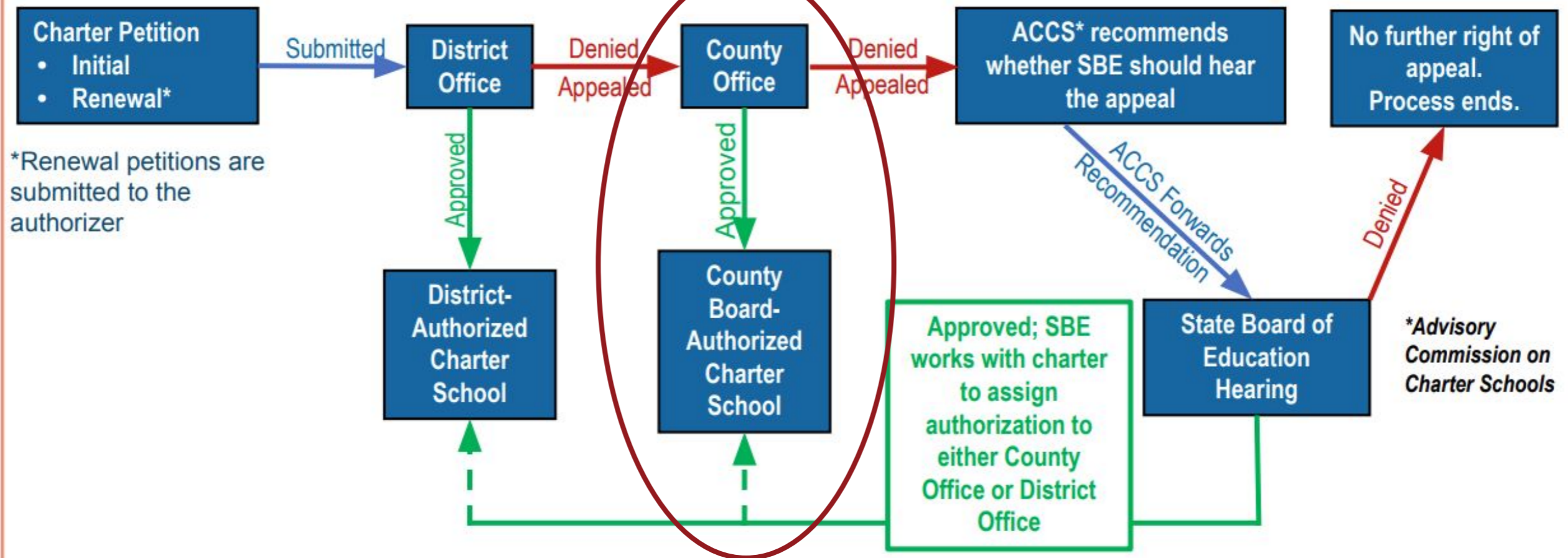
Acting as an Appellate Body

The Appeal Process



Charter Schools Appeal Process

(EC Section 47605)



*Renewal petitions are submitted to the authorizer

*Advisory Commission on Charter Schools

Appeal Process Overview

County Board of Education

De Novo Review Standard

- Initial and renewal petitions that have been denied by a district.

Authorizer

- If approved, the County Office of Education becomes the authorizer.



State Board of Education

Abuse of Discretion Review Standard

- Ruling for initial and renewal petitions denied at the district and/or county level

De Novo Review Standard

- SBE Authorized charters denied for renewal at the district level

Authorizer

- If denial is reversed, the SBE in consult with petitioner decide the Authorizer - District or COE

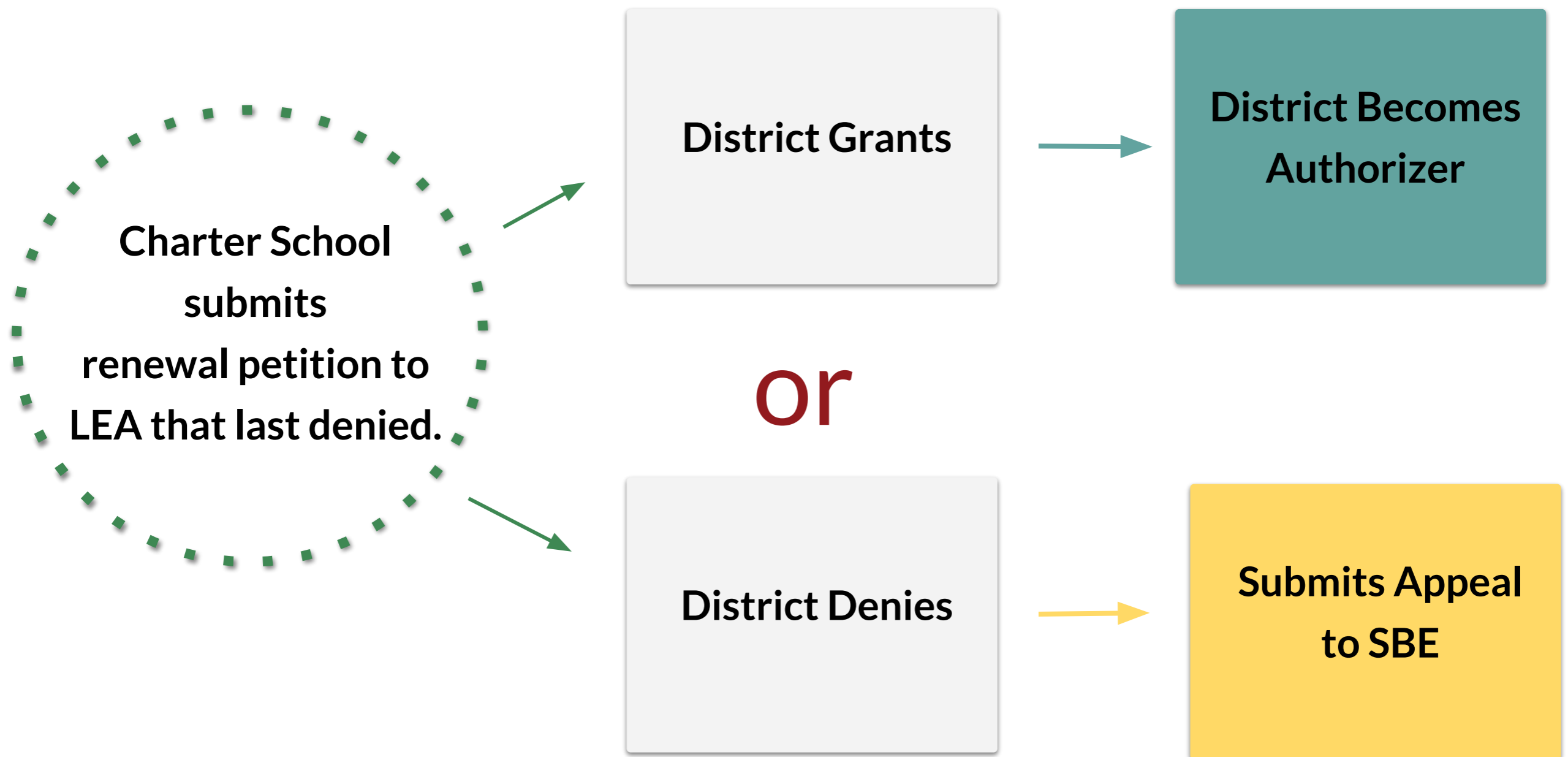
State Board of Education (SBE) Authorized Charter Schools

Olive Grove



- Operate 4 SBE Authorized Charters
- Non-classroom based charter
 - Independent Study model
- Serve TK-12 students
- 4 locations
 - Lompoc (125)
 - Buellton (34) - Petition Santa Ynez Valley Union High School
 - Santa Maria (153)
 - Santa Barbara (74)
- Charter term ends: June 30, 2026

State Board of Education - Authorized Charters



Charter School Renewal and Denial: Middle Performance Tier

Middle Tier Qualification

Schools not qualifying for high or low performance tiers are automatically placed in middle tier with no default renewal recommendation.

Renewal Terms

Middle tier schools can be renewed for up to 5 years, subject to thorough performance review and denial criteria assessment.

Academic Performance Denial Standards

After reviewing academic performance, middle tier school petitions can be denied if the school has failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward standards that provide student benefit, closure is in the best interest of students, and academic performance received greater decision weight.

01

Governance & Fiscal Concerns

School demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement programs due to substantial fiscal or governance factors that compromise operational effectiveness.

02

Access Violations

School not serving **all** pupils who wish to attend, violating open enrollment requirements and equitable access mandates.

03

Corrective Action Process

Required 30-day notice, opportunity to cure violations, and corrective action plan. Denial permitted if plan unsuccessful or violations too severe for viable correction.

Appeal Process: SBE Authorized Charters



if

SBE Grants Appeal

SBE in consultation with
petitioner decides new
authorizer

or

SBE Denies Appeal

Charter school closes

Thank you

