Charter School Renewal

Adopted: 10/21/2025 **| Last Revised:** n/a **| Last Reviewed**: n/a

The Board of Education believes that the ongoing operation of a charter school should be dependent on the school's effectiveness in achieving its mission and goals for student learning and other student outcomes. Whenever a charter school submits a petition for renewal of its charter, the Board shall review the petition thoroughly and in a timely manner, consistent with the timelines set out in the Education Code. The Board shall consider renewal petitions only of charters originally authorized by the Board itself or by the State Board of Education (SBE) on appeal after initial denial by the Board.

The Board shall deny the renewal petition of any charter school operated as or by a for-profit corporation, a for-profit educational management organization, or a for-profit charter management organization.

When a charter school, concurrently with its renewal petition, proposes to expand operations to one or more additional sites or grade levels, the charter school shall request a material revision to its charter. The material revision may be made only with the approval of the Board and in accordance with the standards and criteria in Education Code 47605 for material revisions.

The Board recommends that a charter school submit its petition for renewal to the Board sufficiently early before the expiration of the term of the charter to allow the Board's deliberations and decision on the renewal petition to be completed with minimal disruption to the charter school's educational program in the renewal year.

The petition for renewal shall include a reasonably comprehensive description of how the charter school has met all new charter school requirements enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed.

Criteria for Granting or Denying Renewal

Renewals shall be governed by the same standards and criteria that apply to new charter petitions as set forth in Education Code 47605. However, a charter renewal shall not be denied based on the fiscal impact of the charter school on the district or a finding that the charter school is demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school is located, as described in Education Code 47605.

The signature requirement for charter authorization petitions is not applicable to petitions for renewal.

In determining whether to grant a charter renewal, the Board shall review both schoolwide performance and the performance of numerically significant student subgroups on the state and local indicators included in the California School Dashboard, giving greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance. If the Dashboard indicators are not yet available for the most recently completed academic year before renewal, the Board shall consider verifiable data provided by the charter school related to the Dashboard indicators, such as data from the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or any successor system, for the most recent academic year. The Board shall only consider data from sources adopted by SBE.

Following the Board's review, a renewal of the charter petition may be granted in accordance with a three-tiered system based on school performance, as follows:

1. Renewal of Five to Seven Years

    a. A charter school that is not eligible for technical assistance pursuant to Education Code 47607.3 shall be granted renewal for a period of five to seven years when, for two consecutive years immediately preceding the renewal, or for two of the most recent years for which state data is available preceding the renewal if the two consecutive years immediately preceding the renewal decision include the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school year, the charter school achieved either of the following:

        i. Received the two highest performance levels schoolwide on all the state indicators included in the Dashboard for which the charter school receives performance levels, provided the charter school has schoolwide performance levels on at least two measurements of academic performance per year in each of the two years

        ii. For all measurements of academic performance, received performance levels schoolwide that are the same or higher than the state average and, for a majority of numerically significant student subgroups performing statewide below the state average in each respective year, received performance levels that are higher than the state average, provided that the charter school has performance levels on at least two measurements of academic performance for at least two subgroups

    b. If the charter school satisfies the above criteria, it shall only be required to update the renewal petition to include a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed and, as necessary, to reflect the current program offered by the charter school.

2. Renewal of Five Years

    a. A renewal shall be granted for five years if clear and convincing evidence, demonstrated by verified data, shows either of the following:

        i. Measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year's progress for each year in school

        ii. Strong postsecondary outcomes, as defined by college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers

    b. For any such charter school, the Board may deny the renewal petition only upon making written factual findings that the charter school failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to students at the school, that the closure of the charter school is in the best interest of students, and that the Board's decision provided greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance.

3. Denial/Two-Year Renewal

    a. The Board shall generally not renew a charter if, for two consecutive years immediately preceding the renewal decision, or for two of the most recent years for which state data is available immediately preceding the renewal if the two consecutive years immediately preceding the renewal decision include the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school year, either of the following applies:

i. The charter school has received the two lowest performance levels schoolwide on all the state indicators included in the Dashboard for which it receives performance levels, provided the charter school has schoolwide performance levels on at least two measurements of academic performance per year in each of the two years

ii. For all measurements of academic performance, the charter school has received performance levels schoolwide that are the same or lower than the state average and, for a majority of numerically significant student subgroups performing statewide below the state average in each respective year, received performance levels that are lower than the state average, provided that the charter school has performance levels on at least two measurements of academic performance for at least two subgroups

b. However, the Board may grant a two-year renewal to any such charter school if the Board makes written factual findings, setting forth specific facts to support the findings, that:

i. The charter school is taking meaningful steps to address the underlying cause(s) of low performance, and those steps are reflected, or will be reflected, in a written plan adopted by the governing body of the charter school.

ii. There is clear and convincing evidence, demonstrated by verified data, showing achievement of the criteria specified in item #2a above

In addition to all the grounds stated above for denial of a charter renewal, the Board may deny renewal of a charter upon a finding that the school is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition due to substantial fiscal or governance factors or a finding that the school is not serving all students who wish to attend. When denying a charter renewal for either of these reasons, the Board shall provide the charter school with at least 30 days' notice of the alleged violation and a reasonable opportunity to cure the violation, including the submission of a proposed corrective action plan. The Board may deny the renewal for these reasons only upon a finding that either the corrective action proposed by the charter school has been unsuccessful or that the violations are sufficiently severe and pervasive as to render a corrective action plan unviable. Any finding that a school is not serving all students who wish to attend shall specifically identify the evidence supporting the finding.

A charter school that qualifies for the state's Dashboard Alternative School Status shall not be subject to any of the above criteria. Instead, in determining whether to grant a charter renewal for such a charter school, the Board shall consider, in addition to the charter school's performance on the state and local indicators included in the Dashboard, the charter school's performance on alternative metrics applicable to the charter school based on the student population served. The Board shall meet with the charter school during the first year of the charter school's term to mutually agree to discuss alternative metrics to be considered and shall notify the charter school of the alternative metrics to be used within 30 days of this meeting. The Board may deny a charter renewal only upon making written findings, setting forth specific facts to support the findings, that the closure of the charter school is in the best interest of students.

Timelines for Board Action

Within 60 days of receiving the renewal petition, the Board shall hold a public hearing to review documentation submitted by the charter school, determine the level of support for the petition, and obtain public input. A petition is deemed received on the day the petitioner submits a petition to the district office, along with a signed certification that the petitioner deems the petition to be complete.

The Board shall either grant or deny the charter renewal within 90 days of receiving the petition. The date may be extended by an additional 30 days if both the petitioner and the Board agree to the extension.

At least 15 days before the public hearing at which the Board will grant or deny the charter petition, the Board shall publish all staff recommendations and recommended findings regarding the petition. During the public hearing, petitioners shall have equal time and opportunity to present evidence and testimony to respond to the staff recommendations and findings.

If the Board fails to make a written factual finding when required for denial of the petition pursuant to the section "Criteria for Granting or Denying Renewal" above within the required time period, the absence of a written factual finding shall be deemed an approval of the renewal petition.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide notification to the California Department of Education, within 10 calendar days of the Board's action, whenever a renewal of the charter is granted or denied.

If the Board denies a renewal petition, the charter school may submit its application for renewal to the County Board of Education within 30 days of the Board's written factual findings supporting the denial.

School Closure

If a charter is not renewed and the charter school ceases operation, the school closure procedures specified in the charter in accordance with Education Code 47605 and 5 CCR 11962 shall be implemented.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:

STATE

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

5 CCR 11962-11962.1 Definitions

5 CCR 11966.4 Submission of charter renewal petition

5 CCR 11966.5 Charter petitions that have not been renewed; submission to county board of education

EDUCATION CODE

47600-47616.7 Charter Schools Act of 1992

52052 Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups

56145-56146 Special education services in charter schools

60600-60649 Assessment of academic achievement

FEDERAL

UNITED STATES CODES

20 USC 7221-7221j Expanding opportunity through quality charter schools

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

CSBA PUBLICATION

Charter Schools: A Guide for Governance Teams, rev. 2021

WEBSITES

CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.csba.org/

California Charter Authorizing Professionals https://calauthorizers.org/

California Charter Schools Association http://www.ccsa.org/

California Department of Education, Charter Schools https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ch/

National Association of Charter School Authorizers http://www.qualitycharters.org/

U.S. Department of Education http://www.ed.gov/

CSBA http://www.csba.org/

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