

To: The Yuba County Board of Education

From: The Yuba County Office of Education, Educational Services Division

Subject: Staff Report Regarding the CORE Yuba Charter New Petition

Date: July 28, 2026

The Yuba County Office of Education oversees charter schools on behalf of the Yuba County Board of Education. For petition review, the designated Yuba County Office of Education charter school contact leads a review committee to prepare a staff report containing findings of fact, as required by California Education Code (EC) § 47605.6(b). This report provides details of the review and findings of fact related to the submitted petition.

I. SUMMARY

The review committee evaluated the CORE Yuba Charter petition against the statutory criteria in Education Code § 47605.6. The committee found that the petition satisfies all foundational legal requirements, including verified meaningfully interested teacher signatures, required statutory affirmations, and an exclusive public employer declaration.

The review further determined that the petitioner presents a viable countywide benefit justification, supported by evidence of regional student mobility, rural access barriers, and the need for flexible instructional delivery across dispersed communities. The petition demonstrates that a countywide structure is necessary to provide equitable access to instructional support, Career Technical Education pathways, and rapid response services for students residing throughout Yuba County and its contiguous counties.

Based on these findings, staff concludes that the petition reflects a sound educational program and demonstrates petitioner capacity consistent with effective charter school operation.

II. BACKGROUND

Lead petitioner Chris Mahurin, Superintendent of CORE Charter, is seeking approval

from the Yuba County Board of Education for CORE Yuba Charter, a proposed non-classroom-based countywide benefit program intended to serve students in grades 9-12 throughout Yuba and contiguous counties. The petition, submitted on April 29, 2026, requests a charter term from July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2032. CORE Charter Schools has operated its high school program for more than two decades at its Marysville location under the authorization of Camptonville Elementary School District. Because this site is located outside the geographic boundaries of its authorizing district, CORE Charter remains subject to the location restrictions established under AB 1507. While the petition does not explicitly identify the proposed charter as a remedy, or include plans for the continued operation of the existing program under a separate authorization, the continued operation of an out-of-district site under the existing charter remains an outstanding compliance consideration and provides important context for the current request.

The petition outlines an expansion of CORE's established personalized learning model, known for individualized instructional planning, flexible scheduling, and alternative education approaches. CORE Yuba Charter would offer a comprehensive high school program integrating academic coursework, Career Technical Education pathways, and dual-enrollment opportunities aligned with regional workforce and postsecondary needs. Pursuant to Education Code 47605.6(a)(1)(B), the petition includes signatures from ten meaningfully interested teachers. The petitioner intended this to be more than half of the twelve teachers the Charter School anticipates employing in its first year to serve an estimated 250 students. The petition asserts that Yuba County's rural geography, transportation barriers, and dispersed student population require a countywide structure to ensure equitable access and consistent instructional support. CORE proposes to continue operating from its Marysville site at 321 16th Street and may establish additional instructional support locations, including potential services near or on Beale Air Force Base, to better serve military-connected families. Instruction would be delivered through a flex-based model combining home-based study, online coursework, community-based learning, and limited on-site support. The petition also highlights CORE's WASC accreditation, experienced leadership, and history of sound fiscal and governance practices as the foundation for implementing the proposed program.

III. LEGAL STANDARDS

Timeline

In compliance with EC § 47605.6(b), the Yuba County Board of Education held a Public Hearing on June 10, 2026, to consider the level of support for the petition from teachers, other employees, and parents. EC § 47605.6(b) also requires that the Yuba County Board of Education conduct a second public hearing and render its decision on the request within 90 days of receipt of a petition certified complete, unless there is a mutually agreed-upon 30-day extension. The determination hearing is scheduled for August 12, 2026. The authorizing board is required to publish all staff recommendations, including recommended findings, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the determination hearing.

Petition Submission Requirements

Under California Education Code § 47605.6, an authorizer must evaluate a countywide charter petition to determine whether it meets all statutory requirements before approval. A petition is deemed received for purposes of commencing the statutory review timeline when the petitioner submits the petition to the county office of education with a signed certification that the petition is complete. The submitted petition must include required affirmations and signatures of meaningfully interested teachers or parents, and demonstrate that the proposed charter school will provide educational services to a pupil population that will benefit from those services and that cannot be served as well by a charter school operating in only one district. Furthermore, the petition must provide reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all sixteen (16) required elements outlined in the statute.

Granting or Denying the Request

Once the petition has been accepted as complete and the statutory review timeline has begun, the authorizer must evaluate the petition against the criteria established in Education Code § 47605.6(b)(1)–(7).

Under this section, a county board of education may grant a countywide charter only if it determines that:

- Granting the charter is consistent with sound educational practice.
- The petition provides reasonable justification for why the charter could not be established by petition to a single school district under § 47605.

The county board must deny the petition if it finds any of the following:

1. The proposed charter school presents an unsound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled.
2. The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.

3. The petition lacks the required number of valid signatures under subdivision (a).
4. The petition does not include affirmations of all required conditions under subdivision (e).
5. The petition fails to provide reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all sixteen required elements.
6. The petition omits a declaration regarding whether the charter school will be the exclusive public school employer under the Educational Employment Relations Act.
7. Any other basis that the county board finds justifies the denial of the petition.

IV: FINDINGS OF FACT: REVIEW COMMITTEE ANALYSIS

COUNTYWIDE BENEFIT JUSTIFICATION EC § 47605.6(b)
Did the submission include a reasonable justification for why the Charter could not be established by petition to a school district pursuant to Section 47605?
Yes

Analysis of the Justification

The petition provides a reasonable and well-supported justification for countywide authorization. The Petitioner affirms that affected districts were notified in writing of the intent to submit a countywide petition. The Petitioner's rationale centers on ensuring equitable access and responsiveness to student needs across the county. Key elements include:

- **Regional mobility and rural access:** The charter addresses student transiency and geographic dispersion within the county, ensuring continuity of educational services for mobile and rural populations.
- **Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway access:** Countywide authorization supports broader participation in CTE programs that may not be feasible within a single district's boundaries. Examples provided in the submitted petition include, but are not limited to
 - **Agriculture and Natural Resources** prepares students for careers in sustainable farming, environmental stewardship, and resource management.

- **Health Science and Medical Technology** supports entry into healthcare professions through foundational science and clinical skills.
- **Transportation and Aviation** offers exposure to automotive technology, logistics, and flight-related careers.
- **Information and Communication Technologies** develops digital literacy and technical skills for the IT and cybersecurity fields.
- **Arts, Media, and Design** fosters creative and technical competencies in the visual and performing arts.
- **Education and Child Development** prepares students for careers in teaching and early childhood.
- **Business and Entrepreneurship** cultivate financial literacy, management, and innovation skills.
- **Rapid response to identified needs:** The charter’s structure allows flexible establishment of resource centers to meet with students promptly as needs arise, enhancing responsiveness and service delivery.
- **Consistency and equity in educational services:** Countywide oversight promotes uniform quality and equitable access to high-quality education across diverse communities covering a large geographic footprint.

Although not a formal justification under statute, the school notes that when a single countywide authorizer provides oversight, student-generated funding is directed toward student support rather than toward meeting duplicative compliance requirements for multiple authorizers.

While portions of pages 10-11 of the justification are largely redundant, these four substantive points collectively provide a strong and reasonable justification for countywide establishment.

EVALUATION BASED ON EC § 47605.6(c)	
1. Educational Program	
Does the petition present a sound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled?	
Yes	

2. Capacity to Implement
Are the petitioners likely to successfully implement the program as described in the petition?
Yes
3. Signature Threshold
Does the petition include signatures from at least one-half of the number of parents or guardians of pupils the school expects to enroll in its first year who are meaningfully interested in enrolling their children?
-OR-
Does the petition include signatures from at least one-half of the teachers the school expects to employ in its first year?
Yes
4. Required Affirmations
Does the petition include all required affirmations that the school will be nonsectarian, tuition-free, nondiscriminatory, and open to all pupils who wish to attend, consistent with lawful admissions preferences?
Yes
5. Reasonably Comprehensive Descriptions
Does the Petition meet the standards and criteria described in Section 47605.6(b)(5), including but not limited to a reasonably comprehensive description of all required elements?
Yes
6. Exclusive Public Employer Declaration

Does the petition declare whether the charter school will be the exclusive public employer for purposes of collective bargaining?
Yes
7. Any Other Basis for Denial
Is there any other basis that the county board of education would find justifies the denial of the petition?
No

Analysis of the Educational Program

Following comprehensive evaluation of the petition, staff confirms that the educational program presents a highly structured, standards-aligned personalized learning model for grades 9–12 that fully meets statutory requirements under EC § 47605.6(b)(5)(A) and EC § 51747 et seq.:

- **Master Schedule & Instructional Design:** Demonstrates a complete center schedule across 13 learning spaces/labs. Incorporates dedicated flex periods for one-on-one personalized learning support, core academics, Yuba College dual-enrollment courses, world languages, and 7 distinct 2-year CTE pathways.
- **Independent Study Governance & Master Agreement:** Board Policy 600 establishes full statutory compliance with independent study mandates, ensuring voluntary enrollment, contiguous county residency verification, apportionment claimed strictly on certificated time-value of work product, and annual Master Agreements executed prior to attendance reporting. The Master Agreement includes required UC/CSU A-G credit expectations, weekly reporting protocols, CHYA opt-out procedures, transportation disclaimers, and mandatory state assessment participation agreements.
- **Attendance & Intervention Protocols:** The Compact Violation / Missing Assignment Report policy provides a rigorous, 3-tiered intervention process for unexcused missed assignments (5+), missed center classes, or unresponsive communication. Interventions mandate Student Study Team (SST) / IEP meetings, written warnings, and a compliant 5-day written notice of involuntary withdrawal with appeal rights for a 3rd occurrence.

- **Graduation Requirements & Course Catalog:** Board Policy 500 requires 220 total credits for high school graduation and explicitly incorporates new state mandates including 5 credits of Ethnic Studies (graduating class of 2029–30) and 5 credits of Personal Finance per AB 2927 (graduating class of 2030–31). It also provides a non-diploma Certificate of Completion (COC) pathway for eligible special education students and retroactive diploma provisions under EC § 51413. Additionally, it outlines a comprehensive UC/CSU A-G course catalog, 2-year CTE industry pathways, and a 2.0 GPA requirement for work permits.
- **Assessment Framework:** Establishes a complete 2027–2028 assessment matrix combining local diagnostic/interim assessments with state summative assessments.

Analysis of the Petitioners' Capacity to Implement

The petitioners demonstrate strong operational, instructional, and fiscal capacity to execute the proposed program. CORE Charter Schools has successfully operated a high school program for over two decades with active WASC accreditation, sound fiscal management, established administrative infrastructure, and experienced leadership.

Analysis of the Signature Threshold

Page 5 of the petition states:

“Pursuant to Education Code § 47605.6(a)(1)(B), this charter has been signed by ten meaningfully interested teachers, which is more than half of the twelve teachers that the Charter School estimates will be employed at the school during its first year of operation, to serve approximately 250 students.”

Appendix P includes the required statement and signatures of meaningfully interested teachers. During its review, the Yuba County Office of Education staff used the California Credential Commission search to verify that ten of the twelve signatories hold valid credentials authorizing instruction in high school subject areas. This verification confirms that the petition meets the statutory threshold of signatures from more than fifty (50) percent of the proposed first-year teaching staff.

Analysis of the Required Affirmations

The petition review verified all required statutory affirmations, including but not limited to nonsectarian, tuition-free, nondiscriminatory, open to all pupils affirmations and the exclusive public employer declaration for collective bargaining are explicitly included.

Analysis of Reasonably Comprehensive Descriptions

The following section summarizes the review of the petition; only elements in which the Yuba County Office of Education staff identified major or minor findings are detailed below. Minor findings need not constitute a denial and may, at the discretion of the authorizing board, be addressed in an MOU incorporated into a determination for approval.

Element A (1): Educational Program

Targeted Student Population

The petition identifies the communities to be served, including socioeconomically disadvantaged and mobile families, but lacks a comprehensive demographic analysis or data-supported description of academic needs.

Instructional Design and Curriculum

The petition provides limited detail on instructional methods, professional development, and technology integration. Greater specificity regarding research-based strategies and teacher capacity-building would strengthen implementation readiness.

Attendance and Independent Study Procedures

While required policies are referenced and included in the Appendix, the petition does not fully demonstrate how attendance accounting will meet audit standards for independent study. Clarification of daily attendance and work-completion procedures would strengthen the petition.

Element B (2): Measurable Student Outcomes

Schoolwide Performance Targets

Although the petition includes goals for attendance, dropout, and graduation, it does not specify numeric targets or rates. The use of general “increase/decrease” language limits the ability to measure progress against state benchmarks. Staff also notes a potential misalignment between the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Element 2, which may hinder effective monitoring. WASC accreditation processes could further complicate progress monitoring if a cohesive plan is not articulated.

Monitoring & LCAP Alignment

Staff notes a potential misalignment between the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Element 2 tables, which may hinder effective progress monitoring due to a high volume of uncoordinated goals and metrics. Additionally, integrating WASC accreditation monitoring requires a unified progress monitoring framework.

Analysis of the Exclusive Public Employer Declaration

This condition was met on page 6 of the petition under *Affirmations and Declarations*.

Any Other Basis for Denial

The Yuba County Office of Education's review of the CORE Yuba Charter petition did not identify any additional findings beyond those presented in this staff analysis. However, the authorizing Board retains full discretion under Education Code § 47605.6 to determine whether the petition meets the standards for approval and may identify any additional basis for denial. The Yuba County Board of Education retains the full authority to deny, as outlined in Section V. below.

V. CHARTER PETITION REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS OF FACT

Under California law, a county board of education **may** grant the establishment of a countywide benefit **only if** it is satisfied that granting the charter is consistent with sound educational practice and that the charter school has a reasonable justification for not being established by petition to a school district pursuant to Section 47605.

The county board of education **shall deny** a new charter petition if it finds one or more of the following:

The county board **must deny** the petition **if it finds** any of the following:

1. The proposed charter school presents an unsound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled.
2. The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.
3. The petition lacks the required number of valid signatures under subdivision (a).
4. The petition does not include affirmations of all required conditions under subdivision (e).
5. The petition fails to provide reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all sixteen required elements.
6. The petition omits a declaration regarding whether the charter school will be the exclusive public school employer under the Educational Employment Relations Act.

7. Any other basis that the county board finds justifies the denial of the petition.

This report provides two options to support the Yuba County Board of Education in its determination whether to approve or to deny the CORE Yuba Charter School Petition.

Option 1: Approval [Recommended]

Should the Yuba County Board of Education **approve the charter** for a five-year term from July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2032, written findings of fact need not be adopted.

The Yuba County Board of Education **must affirm** that it is satisfied that:

1. Granting the charter is consistent with sound educational practice, and
2. The petition provides reasonable justification for why the charter could not be established by petition to a single school district under § 47605.

Conditions of Approval

Minimal concerns identified during the staff review shall be addressed by directing YCOE staff to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CORE Yuba Charter and the Yuba County Board of Education. The Board Resolution shall require CORE to execute an MOU, to be incorporated into the approved charter, that includes all provisions listed below, as well as any additional conditions or requirements identified by the Yuba County Board of Education, and to adopt a Board Resolution Conditionally Approving the Charter Renewal for the applicable renewal term; and, alternatively, to adopt Option 2, denial based on ‘any other reason for denial’ should the required conditions not be satisfied.

The MOU and/or any addendum thereto shall address all of the following requirements, on terms acceptable to the County Superintendent or designee:

1. **Oversight Terms:** Expectations regarding annual oversight activities, reporting timelines, and associated statutory oversight fees.
2. **Demographic Monitoring:** Provisions to track and report student demographic representation relative to Yuba County and contiguous service areas.
3. **Quantitative Benchmark Outcomes:** Refinement of Element 2 performance targets to establish explicit numeric annual benchmark rates for CAASPP, attendance, graduation, and dropout metrics.

4. **Facility Notification Protocol:** Advance 60-day written notification to YCOE prior to establishing or opening any new instructional support location in Yuba County.

The signed MOU shall be returned to the Yuba County Board of Education no later than May 15, 2027, or such later deadline as may be agreed to by the County Superintendent or designee, for Board approval and signature.

[OR]

Option 2: Denial

The Yuba County Board of Education **must deny the request** for CORE Yuba Charter School if it makes one or more of the statutory findings under EC § 47605.6(b). Yuba County Office of Education staff recommend the Board of Education identify specific findings from the following list and adopt this Staff Report inclusive of findings of fact.

1. The proposed charter school presents an unsound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled.
2. The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.
3. The petition lacks the required number of valid signatures under subdivision (a).
4. The petition does not include affirmations of all required conditions under subdivision (e).
5. The petition fails to provide reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all sixteen required elements.
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