

CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL

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. The County Board shall only consider renewal petitions of charters originally authorized by the County Board or renewal petitions that have been denied by a district board and for which the charter school has submitted an appeal to the County Board.

No charter school that submits a renewal petition shall 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)

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 County Board and in accordance with the standards and criteria in Education Code 47605 for material revisions. (Education Code 47607)

Submission of Renewal Petition

A charter school seeking renewal of its charter is encouraged to submit its petition for renewal to the Board by February 1, and no later than March 1 to allow the County Board's deliberations and decisions 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 of all County Board approved charters shall generally be governed by the same standards and criteria that apply to charter authorization petitions as set forth in Education Code 47605.

Charter renewal shall not be denied based on the fiscal impact of the charter school on the county office of education or a finding that the charter school is unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school is located, as described in Education Code 47605. However, the County Board may use either of these bases to deny a proposed expansion constituting a material revision. (Education Code 47607)

The signature requirement for new petitions is not applicable to petitions for renewal. (Education Code 47607)

The County Board shall consider the performance of the charter school on the state and local indicators included in the California School Dashboard. If the Dashboard indicators are not yet available for the most recently completed academic year before renewal, the County 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 County Board shall only consider data from sources approved by SBE. (Education Code 47607, 47607.2)

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 decision, or for two of the three years immediately preceding the renewal for any renewal submitted in the 2020-21 or 2021-22 school year, the charter school achieved either of the following: (Education Code 47607)
 - 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. (Education Code 47607)

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: (Education Code 47607.2)
 - 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 County Board may deny a charter renewal petition upon making written factual findings that the charter school has failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the students of the school, that the closure of the charter school is in the best interest of students, and that the County Board's decision provided greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance. (Education Code 47607.2)

2. Denial/Two-Year Renewal

- a. The County Board shall generally not renew a charter if, for two consecutive years immediately preceding the renewal decision, or for two of the three years immediately preceding the renewal for any renewal submitted in the 2020-21 or 2021-22 school year, either of the following applies: (Education Code 47607.2)
 - 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, a charter school that meets one of these criteria may be granted a two-year renewal if the County Board makes written factual findings, setting forth specific facts to support the findings, for both of the following: (Education Code 47607.2)

- 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 County 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. The County Board may deny renewal of a charter school for such reasons only after it has provided at least 30 days' notice to the charter school of the alleged violation and provided the charter school with a reasonable opportunity to cure the violation, including a corrective action plan proposed by the charter school. The County 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. (Education Code 47607)

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 County 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 County 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 County 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. (Education Code 47607)

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 and obtain public input. A petition is deemed received on the day the petitioner submits a petition to the COE office, along with a signed certification that the petitioner deems the petition to be complete. (Education Code 47605, 47605.6)

Governance

Board Policy 0420.6

The County Board shall either grant or deny the petition within 90 days of receiving the petition, or within 120 days with the consent of both the petitioner and the County Board. (Education Code 47605, 47605.6)

At least 15 days before the public hearing at which the County Board will grant or deny the charter, the County Board shall publish all staff recommendations, including the 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. (Education Code 47605, 47605.6)

The County Board shall notify CDE within 10 calendar days of granting or denying the renewal of the charter. (Education Code 47604.32; 5 CCR 11962.1)

If the County Board denies the petition for the renewal, the charter school may appeal to SBE, except that the County Board's denial of the renewal of a countywide charter is final and may not be appealed to SBE. (Education Code 47607, 47607.5; 5 CCR 11966.5)

If the petitioner appeals to SBE and requests a documentary record, including transcripts of the public hearing at which the County Board denied the renewal, the documentary record shall be provided no later than 10 business days after the request. (Education Code 47605)

School Closure

If a charter is not renewed and the charter school ceases operation the charter school shall implement the school closure procedures specified in the charter in accordance with Education Code 47605 and 5 CCR 11962. (Education Code 47603.32)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

47600-47616.7 Charter Schools Act of 1992

52052 Alternative accountability system; definition of numerically significant student subgroup

56145-56146 Special education services in charter schools

60600-60649 Assessment of academic achievement CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11960-11969 Charter schools UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

7223-7225 Charter schools

Policy

HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Eureka, California