

Authorization of County Charter Schools

The Board of Education believes that charter schools provide opportunities to both implement school-level alternative programs and support innovations that may improve student learning. Charter schools approved by the Board shall operate, as appropriate, under the provisions of their charters, applicable state and federal laws and the general oversight of the Board of Education and Superintendent.

A petition to establish a charter school shall be submitted directly to the County Board in either of the following circumstances:

1. When the petition seeks to establish a charter program that will serve students who would otherwise receive direct education and related services from the county office of education (COE) (Education Code 47605.5)
2. When the petition seeks to establish a charter program that will serve as a countywide charter, to provide instructional services that are not generally provided by the COE (Education Code 47605.6)

The County Board may also consider a charter school petition that was previously denied by the governing board of a school district, in accordance with BP 0420.44 - Appeals of District Decisions Regarding Charter Schools.

All meetings of the County Board at which the granting of a charter petition is to be discussed shall be subject to the state open meeting laws (the Brown Act). (Education Code 47608)

The County Board shall request and consider recommendations of the County Superintendent of Schools or designee regarding the completeness of a charter petition, any concerns that should be addressed by petitioners, any proposed arrangement to provide COE services to the charter school, and the development of memoranda of understanding (MOUs) to clarify financial and operational arrangements.