

CHARTER SCHOOL OVERSIGHT

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

A charter school shall be subject to the terms of its charter; any memorandum of understanding between the school and the district Governing Board; the state and federal constitutions; applicable federal laws; state laws that apply to governmental agencies in general; and other legal requirements that are expressly applicable to charter schools, including, but not limited to, requirements that each charter school or the entity managing the charter school:

Governance

1. Comply with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code 54950-54963), California Public Records Act (Government Code 6250-6270), conflict of interest laws (Government Code 1090-1099), and Political Reform Act (Government Code 81000-91014), including the adoption of a conflict of interest code pursuant to Government Code 87300 (Education Code 47604.1)
2. Except as otherwise authorized by Government Code 54954, hold the meetings of its governing body within the physical boundaries of the county in which the charter school is located or, if a nonclassroom-based charter school that does not have a facility or operates one or more resource centers, hold governing body meetings within the physical boundaries of the county in which the greatest number of students enrolled in the charter school reside. In addition, a two-way teleconference location shall be established at the school site and/or resource center, as applicable. (Education Code 47604.1)

Operations

3. Not 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)
4. Be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations (Education Code 47605)

Admission/Enrollment

5. Adhere to all laws establishing the minimum age for public school attendance (Education Code 47610)
6. Serve students who are California residents and who, if over 19 years of age, are continuously enrolled in a public school and making "satisfactory progress" toward a high school diploma as defined in 5 CCR 11965 (Education Code 47612)
7. Serve students with disabilities in the same manner as such students are served in other district schools (Education Code 47646, 56145)

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8. Admit all students who wish to attend the charter school, according to the following criteria and procedures:
 - a. Admission to the charter school shall not be determined according to the student's or parent/guardian's place of residence within the state, except that any existing public school converting partially or entirely to a charter school shall adopt and maintain a policy giving admission preference to students who reside within that school's former attendance area. (Education Code 47605)

If a charter school will be physically located in a public elementary school attendance area in which 50 percent or more of the student enrollment is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, it may also establish an admission preference for students who are currently enrolled in that public elementary school and for students who reside in the public school attendance area. (Education Code 47605.3)
 - b. If the number of students who wish to attend the charter school exceeds the school's capacity, attendance shall be determined by a public random drawing, with preference extended to students currently attending the charter school and students who reside in the district, except as provided for in Education Code 47614.5. (Education Code 47605)
 - c. Other admission preferences may be permitted by the Board of the district on an individual school basis consistent with law. (Education Code 47605)
9. Immediately enroll a homeless student, except where such enrollment would conflict with Education Code 47605(d) (Education Code 48850; 42 USC 11431-11435)
10. Comply with the requirements of Education Code 48850-48859 regarding the enrollment and placement of foster youth (Education Code 48853.5, 48859)
11. Allow a student who is enrolled in the charter school but receiving individual instruction at home or a hospital due to a temporary disability to return to the charter school when well enough to do so, provided the student returns during the school year in which the individual instruction was initiated (Education Code 48207.3)

Nondiscrimination

12. Not discriminate against any student on the basis of the characteristics listed in Education Code 220 (Education Code 47605)
13. Adopt policy that is consistent with the model policy developed by the California Attorney General addressing the charter school's response to immigration enforcement, notify parents/guardians of their children's right to a free public education regardless of immigration status or religious beliefs, prohibit the collection of information or

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documents regarding the immigration status of students or their family members, and fulfill other requirements of Education Code 234.7

14. Post specified information related to the prohibition against discrimination under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in a prominent and conspicuous location on the school web site or on the web site of the charter operator (Education Code 221.61)
15. If the charter school offers competitive athletics, annually post on the school's web site or on the web site of the charter operator the total enrollment of the school classified by gender, the number of students who participate in competitive athletics classified by gender, and the number of boys' and girls' teams classified by sport and by competition level (Education Code 221.9)
16. Provide specified accommodations to pregnant and parenting students, including, but not limited to, the provision of parental leave and reasonable accommodations on campus to a lactating student to express breast milk, breastfeed an infant child, or address other needs related to breastfeeding. The charter school shall notify pregnant and parenting students and parents/guardians of the rights and options available to pregnant and parenting students. (Education Code 222, 222.5, 46015)
17. If a direct-funded charter school, adopt and implement uniform complaint procedures to resolve complaints of unlawful discrimination or alleged violation of a state or federal law or regulation governing educational programs, in accordance with 5 CCR 4600-4670 (5 CCR 4600)

Tuition and Fees

18. Not charge tuition (Education Code 47605)
19. Not charge student fees for any activity that is an integral component of the educational program, except as authorized by those Education Code provisions that explicitly apply to charter schools
20. Not bill, nor take any negative action against, a student or former student for a debt owed to the charter school. The school shall provide an itemized invoice for any amount owed by the parent/guardian on behalf of a student or former student before pursuing payment of the debt and shall provide a receipt to the parent/guardian for each payment made to the school. (Education Code 49014)

School Plans

21. Adopt a local control and accountability plan (LCAP) and update the plan by July 1 each year, in consultation with specified stakeholders and using the template adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE). To the extent practicable, data shall be reported in a manner consistent with how information is reported on the California School Dashboard.

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As part of the LCAP adoption and annual update to the LCAP, the governing body of the charter school shall separately adopt a local control funding formula budget overview for parents/guardians, based on the template developed by the SBE, which includes specified information relating to the school's budget. (Education Code 47604.33, 47606.5, 52064, 52064.1)

22. If the charter school applies for federal and/or state categorical program funding through the state's consolidated application, establish a school site council to develop and annually review a school plan for student achievement, unless the school chooses to use its LCAP for this purpose (Education Code 64000-64001, 65000-65001)
23. Develop a comprehensive safety plan in accordance with Education Code 32282 and review and update the plan by March 1 each year (Education Code 47605)
24. Develop a transportation safety plan that includes procedures to ensure that a student is not left unattended on a school bus, student activity bus, youth bus, or child care motor vehicle and procedures for designating an adult chaperone, other than the driver, to accompany students on a school activity bus. In addition, ensure that each school bus, student activity bus, youth bus, or child care motor vehicle is equipped with a child safety alert system that requires the driver to either manually contact or scan the device, thereby prompting the driver to inspect the entirety of the interior of the vehicle before exiting, unless the student activity bus is exempted by law. (Education Code 39831.3; Vehicle Code 28160)

Curriculum and Instruction

25. Offer at least the number of instructional minutes required by law for the grade levels provided by the charter school (Education Code 47612.5)
26. If the charter school offers a kindergarten program, also offer a transitional kindergarten program to students whose fifth birthday is from September 2 through December 2 (Education Code 48000)
27. If the charter school serves students in grade 9, adopt a fair, objective, and transparent mathematics placement policy with specified components (Education Code 51224.7)
28. If the charter school serves students in any of grades 7-12, provide comprehensive sexual health education and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention education at least once in junior high or middle school and once in high school, beginning in the 2019-2020 school year (Education Code 51931, 51934)
29. If the charter school serves students in any of grades 6-12, identify and implement methods of informing parents/guardians of human trafficking prevention resources by January 1, 2020 (Education Code 49381)

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30. If the charter school provides independent study, meet the requirements of Education Code 51745-51749.6, except that the school may be allowed to offer courses required for graduation solely through independent study as an exception to Education Code 51745(e) (Education Code 47612.5, 51747.3; 5 CCR 11705)
31. Meet all statewide standards and conduct any statewide assessments applicable to noncharter public schools (Education Code 47605, 47612.5, 60605)

High School Graduation

32. Exempt a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant student who transfers between schools after the second year of high school, or a student participating in a newcomer program for newly immigrant students in grades 11-12, from any graduation requirements established by the charter school that exceed state requirements, unless the school determines that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements by the end of the fourth year of high school (Education Code 51225.1, 51225.2)
33. Grant a high school diploma to any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 through 2014-15 school year and met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination (Education Code 51413)
34. Allow a student to wear traditional tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment at school graduation ceremonies, unless the charter school determines that an item is likely to cause a substantial disruption of, or material interference with, the ceremony (Education Code 35183.1)

Student Expression

35. Provide students the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press including, but not limited to, the use of bulletin boards; the distribution of printed materials or petitions; the wearing of buttons, badges, and other insignia; and the right of expression in official publications (Education Code 48907, 48950)

Staffing

36. Require its teachers to hold a certificate, permit, or other document issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) equivalent to that which a teacher in other public schools would be required to hold (Education Code 47605)
37. Not hire any person who has been convicted of a violent or serious felony except as otherwise provided by law, and, if the charter school contracts with an entity for specified services, verify that any employee of that entity who will have contact with students has had a criminal background check (Education Code 44830.1, 45122.1, 45125.1)

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38. Report to the CTC any change in a certificated employee's employment status (dismissal, nonreelection, resignation, suspension, unpaid administrative leave for more than 10 days, retirement, or other decision not to employ or reemploy) as a result of an allegation of misconduct or while an allegation of misconduct is pending (Education Code 44030.5)
39. Meet the requirements of Education Code 47611 regarding the State Teachers' Retirement System (Education Code 47610)
40. Meet the requirements of Government Code 3540-3549.3 related to collective bargaining in public education employment (Education Code 47611.5)

Parent/Guardian Involvement

41. On a regular basis, consult with parents/guardians and teachers regarding the charter school's educational programs (Education Code 47605)
42. Notify parents/guardians of applicant students and currently enrolled students that parental involvement is not a requirement for acceptance to, or continued enrollment at, the charter school (Education Code 47605)

Nutrition

43. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, provide each eligible student with one nutritionally adequate free or reduced-price meal during each school day, except as provided for a charter school that offers nonclassroom-based instruction (Education Code 47613.5)
44. If the charter school participates in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast program, not promote any food or beverage during the school day that does not comply with state nutritional standards pursuant to Education Code 49430-49434, and not participate in a corporate incentive program that offers free or discounted non-nutritious foods or beverages as rewards for students who reach certain academic goals (Education Code 49431.9)
45. If the charter school participates in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast program, notify parents/guardians within 10 days of their child's meal account reaching a negative balance; ensure that a student with unpaid school meal fees is not shamed, treated differently, or served a meal that differs from other students; and prohibit student discipline from resulting in the denial or delay of a nutritionally adequate meal (Education Code 49557.5)
46. If the charter school participates in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast program and is a very high poverty school, as defined, apply to the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide lunch and/or breakfast free of charge to all students under a federal universal service provision (Education Code 49564)

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Student Health

47. If the charter school serves students in grades 7-12, adopt a policy on suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention with specified components, review the policy at least every five years, and, if the school issues student identification cards, print the telephone number of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline on those cards (Education Code 215, 215.5)
48. Notify students and parents/guardians at least twice during the school year on how to initiate access to available student mental health services on campus or in the community (Education Code 49428)
49. Provide annual training on child abuse and neglect reporting requirements to employees and persons working on the charter school's behalf who are mandated reporters, within the first six weeks of each school year or within six weeks of employment (Education Code 44691)
50. If the charter school offers an athletic program, annually provide information sheets about concussions/head injuries and sudden cardiac arrest to athletes and their parents/guardians, which must be signed and returned to the school before the athlete initiates practice or competition. In the event that an athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury, passes out, or faints during or immediately after participation in an athletic activity, the student shall be immediately removed from the activity for the remainder of the day and shall not be permitted to return to the activity until the student is evaluated by a licensed health care provider and receives written clearance to do so. (Education Code 33479-33479.5, 49475)
51. If the charter school offers an interscholastic athletic program, develop and post a written emergency action plan that describes procedures to be followed in the event of sudden cardiac arrest and other medical emergencies, acquire at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) for the school, and make the AED available at on-campus athletic activities or events (Education Code 35179.4, 35179.6)
52. If the charter school chooses to make an opioid antagonist available to persons suffering, or reasonably believed to be suffering, from an opioid overdose, comply with the requirements of Education Code 49414.3, including, but not limited to, providing training to personnel who volunteer to administer the opioid antagonist

Student Conduct/Discipline

53. Adopt a policy on bullying and cyberbullying prevention by December 31, 2019, and annually make CDE's online training module on bullying prevention available to school site certificated employees and other employees who have regular interaction with students (Education Code 234.4, 32283.5)

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54. Prohibit seclusion and behavioral restraint of students as a means of discipline, and only use such methods to control student behavior that poses a clear and present danger of serious physical harm to a student or others that cannot be immediately prevented by a less restrictive response (Education Code 49005-49006.4)

Student and Parent/Guardian Records

55. Not collect or solicit social security numbers or the last four digits of social security numbers from students or their parents/guardians unless otherwise required to do so by state or federal law (Education Code 49076.7)
56. Upon written request, not include the directory information of a student or the personal information of a parent/guardian, as defined, in the minutes of a meeting of the governing body (Education Code 49073.2)
57. If a student subject to compulsory full-time education is expelled or leaves the charter school without graduating or completing the school year for any reason, notify the Superintendent of the school district of the student's last known address within 30 days and, upon request, provide that district with a copy of the student's cumulative record, including a transcript of grades or report card, and health information (Education Code 47605)
58. If the charter school serves high school students, submit to the Student Aid Commission, for use in the Cal Grant program, the grade point average (GPA) of all students in grade 12 and verification of high school graduation or its equivalent for students who graduated in the prior academic year. However, such information shall not be submitted when students opt out or are permitted by the rules of the Student Aid Commission to provide test scores in lieu of the GPA. (Education Code 69432.9, 69432.92)

Facilities

59. Comply with the California Building Standards Code as adopted and enforced by the local building enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the area in which the charter school is located, unless the charter school facility meets either of the following conditions: (Education Code 47610, 47610.5)
- a. The facility complies with the Field Act pursuant to Education Code 17280-17317 and 17365-17374.
 - b. The facility is exclusively owned or controlled by an entity that is not subject to the California Building Standards Code, including, but not limited to, the federal government.

Finance

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60. Promptly respond to all reasonable inquiries from the district, the county office of education, or the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), including, but not limited to, inquiries regarding the charter school's financial records (Education Code 47604.3)
61. Maintain written contemporaneous records that document all student attendance and make these records available for audit and inspection (Education Code 47612.5)
62. Identify and report to the SPI any portion of the charter school's average daily attendance that is generated through nonclassroom-based instruction, including, but not limited to, independent study, home study, work study, and distance and computer-based education (Education Code 47612.5, 47634.2; 5 CCR 11963.2)
63. Annually prepare and submit financial reports to the district Board and the County Superintendent of Schools in accordance with the following reporting cycle:
 - a. By July 1, a preliminary budget for the current fiscal year. For a charter school in its first year of operation, financial statements submitted with the charter petition pursuant to Education Code 47605(g) will satisfy this requirement. (Education Code 47604.33)
 - b. By December 15, an interim financial report for the current fiscal year reflecting changes through October 31. (Education Code 47604.33)
 - c. By March 15, a second interim financial report for the current fiscal year reflecting changes through January 31. (Education Code 47604.33)
 - d. By September 15, a final unaudited report for the full prior year. The report submitted to the Board shall include an annual statement of all the charter school's receipts and expenditures for the preceding fiscal year. (Education Code 42100, 47604.33)
 - e. By December 15, a copy of the charter school's annual, independent financial audit report for the preceding fiscal year, unless the charter school's audit is encompassed in the district's audit. The audit report shall also be submitted to the State Controller and CDE. (Education Code 47605)
64. If the charter school receives state facilities funding pursuant to the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act (Education Code 17070.10-17079.30), annually report a detailed list of all expenditures of state funds and of the school's matching funds for completed projects, and submit an audit of completed facilities projects within one year of project completion (Education Code 41024)

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Accountability

65. Annually adopt a school accountability report card (Education Code 47612; California Constitution, Article 16, Section 8.5)

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