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CSBA Sample Board Policy

Philosophy, Goals, Objectives, and Comprehensive Plans

BP 0420.42(a)

CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL

Note: When the term of a charter granted by the Governing Board pursuant to Education Code 47605 is due to expire, the charter school must submit a petition for renewal to the Board in accordance with Education Code 47607.

For a charter that was granted by the State Board of Education (SBE) on appeal after being denied by the district pursuant to Education Code 47605, the renewal petition must first be submitted to the chartering authority designated by SBE in accordance with Education Code 47605. For charters granted by SBE on appeal pursuant to Education Code 47605, as that section read on January 1, 2019, the charter school may continue operating until it is up for renewal, at which point it must submit a renewal petition to the board in the geographic boundaries where the charter school is located, pursuant to Education Code 47605.9.

A petition for the renewal of a charter that was originally granted by the County Board of Education on appeal after being denied by the district must be submitted directly to the County Board as the chartering authority pursuant to 5 CCR 11966.5.

Pursuant to Education Code 47607.4, as added by AB 130 (Ch. 44, Statutes of 2021), notwithstanding the renewal process established in Education Code 47605.9, 47607, 47607.2, or any other law, all charter schools whose term expires on or between January 1, 2022 and June 30, 2025 shall have their term extended by two years.

The Governing Board 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.

(cf. 0420.4 - Charter School Authorization)
(cf. 0420.41 - Charter School Oversight)
(cf. 0420.43 - Charter School Revocation)
(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

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

CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL (continued)

Note: The following **optional** paragraph may be revised to reflect district timelines for the submission of charter renewal petitions. Education Code 47605 requires that the Board grant or deny the renewal petition within 90 days of receiving the petition; see section entitled "Timelines for Board Action" below. However, it is recommended that charter schools submit their petition sufficiently early (e.g., as much as nine months before the term of the charter is due to expire) so that, in the event that the Board denies the renewal, the charter school may be able to appeal to the County Board and then to SBE and, if the school closes, to allow students of the charter school to transfer to another school.

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. (Education Code 47607; 5 CCR 11966.4)

Criteria for Granting or Denying Renewal

Note: Education Code 47607 and 47607.2 authorized different lengths of renewals for high-performing, middle-performing, and low-performing charter schools.

Pursuant to Education Code 47607, charter renewals are subject to the same standards and criteria as initial charter authorizations as specified in Education Code 47605, except that the Board may not deny the renewal of an existing charter school based on a finding that (1) the district has a negative or qualified interim certification, or is under state receivership, and is not positioned to absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school or (2) the charter school is demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school will be located (i.e., the school would substantially undermine or duplicate existing district services or programs). However, these two criteria may be used to deny a proposed expansion of an existing charter school constituting a material revision. See BP/AR 0420.4 - Charter School Authorization for more information regarding the standards and criteria for initial charter authorizations and renewals.

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. (Education Code 47607)

The signature requirement for charter authorization petitions is not applicable to petitions for renewal. (Education Code 47607; 5 CCR 11966.4)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 47607.2, the review of the charter school's academic performance must be based on "verified data" from assessments and other indicators, including in certain instances measures of postsecondary outcomes, approved by SBE. In November 2020, SBE approved a list of valid and reliable

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indicators of academic progress and postsecondary outcomes that may be used to demonstrate a charter school's academic performance. Such indicators are available on the California Department of Education's web site.

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. (Education Code 47607, 47607.2)

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:

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 47607, as amended by AB 130, the criteria described in item #1 below may be achieved for two of the most recent years for which state data is available preceding the renewal decision, rather than for the two consecutive years immediately preceding the renewal, if the two consecutive years immediately preceding the renewal decision include the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school year.

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: (Education Code 47607)
 - (1) 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
 - (2) 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,

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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)

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)
 - (1) Measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year's progress for each year in school
 - (2) 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. (Education Code 47607.2)

Note: Education Code 47607.2, as amended by AB 130, authorizes the Board to deny renewal of a charter if the criteria described in item #3 below apply in two of the most recent years for which state data is available preceding the renewal decision, rather than for two consecutive years immediately preceding the renewal decision, if the two consecutive years immediately preceding the renewal include the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school year.

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: (Education Code 47607.2)

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- (1) 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
 - (2) 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: (Education Code 47607.2)
- (1) 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
 - (2) 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 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. (Education Code 47607)

Note: Charter schools that serve high-risk students may qualify for the state's Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) program, which uses modified methods of measurement for accountability indicators when appropriate. Charter schools that participate in the DASS are subject to the following criteria specified in Education Code 47607.

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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. (Education Code 47607)

Timelines for Board Action

Note: State law does not expressly provide a timeline for a public hearing on the renewal petition or for the Board's final decision on the renewal. However, pursuant to Education Code 47607, renewals are generally subject to the same standards and criteria applicable to initial charter authorizations, as specified in Education Code 47605. The following section reflects the timelines established for initial charter authorizations.

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. (Education Code 47605)

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. (Education Code 47605)

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. (Education Code 47605)

Note: Though 5 CCR 11966.4 provides that an "automatic renewal" results when the Board does not make a written factual finding on which a denial may be based within 60 days of receiving the renewal petition, the timelines specified in Education Code 47605 and described above should be followed, as they supersede the inconsistent regulation. The district should consult legal counsel in the event of a question regarding the timelines.

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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. (Education Code 47604.32; 5 CCR 11962.1)

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. (Education Code 47605, 47607.5)

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. (Education Code 47604.32, 47605)

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

47600-47616.7 Charter Schools Act of 1992

52052 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

11962-11962.1 Definitions

11966.4 Submission of charter renewal petition

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

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

7221-7221j Expanding opportunity through quality charter schools

*Management Resources:*CSBA PUBLICATIONSCharter Schools: A Guide for Governance Teams, rev. June 2021WEB SITESCSBA: <http://www.csba.org>California Charter Authorizing Professionals: <https://calauthorizers.org>California Charter Schools Association: <https://www.ccsa.org>California Department of Education, Charter Schools: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ch>National Association of Charter School Authorizers: <https://www.qualitycharters.org>U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

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Policy Reference UPDATE Service

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