

Key Points of Information

CHARTER SCHOOLS-OPPOSE



Public School Defenders Hub 2023

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- Education Code is written, and has been interpreted to provide, that a charter school **MUST** be approved **UNLESS** there are defined flaws and or negative impacts for the students enrolled or on the district's financial and or facilities

Definition of Charter Schools:

- A charter school is a semi-autonomous public school that has been granted more freedom in their teaching methodology and curriculum in return for a higher accountability for their student's achievements. Charter schools are exempt from most education codes

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- Point out how the proposed charter would not meet the standards of the charter school association
- Look to the district's analysis of why the Charter School should not be approved (that will explain in detail and tie each objection to Education Codes)
 - Find out district personnel who analyzed and wrote up the brief of why the district professional staff is recommending a 'denial'- and reach out to see when this analysis will be available to the public

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Focus in on these denial factors when you read the district staff report

- school presents unsound educational program for pupils enrolled
- Demonstrate unlikely to successfully implement the program
- Petition does not have enough qualified signatures as in subdivision(a)
- Does not contain affirmation of each of the conditions in subdivision (a)
- Does not contain comprehensive descriptions of: annual goals (LCAP), pupil outcomes, pupil pupil progress, governance structure
- Fiscally unsound

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Denial factors:

- Looking to educate not all students or only a subset:
- They have not proven how they will achieve a balance in enrolling and serving English learners, Special Education, racial and ethnic balance
- Educational Standards: what they are offering is not unique nor has well-researched and respected pedagogy - the district offers programs/tutoring/resources beyond the charter - this is how they will be utilizing LCAP reporting, etc.
- Fiscal: they do not have the funds raised to open a school district/charter (as a charter school is in essence must run a district & school) - they cannot rely on revenue streams (income) from others and the state and federal funding has qualifications for receiving additional 'bonus' funds that do not match with their fiscal narrative (i.e. they have over-estimated revenue from state/federals)
- Fiscal Impact on the district and community - if the charter will not serve the interest of the entire community and or will put the district in fiscal distress (either by pulling enrollment and or district is on 'watch' by the state)

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- Point out that Educational opportunity defined in the petition are already offered in the district, there is a choice for students to attend schools in the district whose offerings/pedagogy matches with their needs, and the charter has not demonstrated its ability to offer transparency and accountability for the parents, community and tax payer, and on their own, have not identified facilities that are safe and designed for students served and can pay for these resources

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Potential considerations to deny a petition:

- Programing/curriculum not exceeding standards or tied to proven research based pedagogy
- Students served will create segregation (i.e. all hispanic, all white, all single demographics)
- Fiscally unsound, create financial burden of district to oversee the charter because of its likelihood to fail

Summary:

- California's charter public schools were established to give teachers the agency and professional space to create new schools focused around a clear vision and mission to serve students in their communities with their unique needs in mind and multiple and creative paths to success
- A charter school is a semi-autonomous public school that has been granted more freedom in their teaching methodology and curriculum in return for a higher accountability for their student's achievements
- Charters are to provide excellent additional 'tools' in the public education 'tool belts' - this is not one that will succeed to meet the goals of 'why charters exist'

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Source Citations

- Education Code for Charter Schools Approvals (Education Code 47605)
- What is a Charter School: (Education Code: 47610)
- AB 1505, chaptered in Education Code sections 47605 and 47605.1
- Definition of non-unique/not providing programs/services not already offered: (Education Code 47605.9)