

Key Points of Information CHARTER SCHOOLS-SUPPORT



Public School Defenders Hub 2023

1

- 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

2

- “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,” said [Myrna Castrejón](#), CCSA President and CEO.
- The purpose: Offer Basic Values: Opportunity not found in other programs offered in the district, choice for students to attend a school whose offerings/pedagogy matches with their needs, and the charter has the ability to offer transparency and accountability for the parents, community and tax payer, and on their own, has facilities that are safe and designed for students served

3

- Unique educational opportunities being offered:
- Review demographics of students served and how all students will be served (EC 47605.9):
 - How the students match the students across district (use statistics)
 - How the students in special needs and marginalized categories are better served: special education, non-english native speakers, poverty, lowest performing
 - How the learning theories/pedagogy defined will meet and exceed their students compared to like students in the district
 - Link theories to exact outcomes
 - Who are on their board of education: what unique qualities and expertise they provide to ensure success of the children enrolled at the charter school

4

Acknowledge the following challenges will not impact the district:

- Students served in the charter will have limited to no negative fiscal and or community impact on school district finances
- How the charter will serve all students in the community, not just a specific demographics, or if specific (i.e. lowest performing, poor, special education) how that will benefit all in the district - in fact how they will better serve high needs students
- How this charter will NOT duplicate programs with capacity in the district

5

- Ensure the charter school will not segregate nor encourage only the middle-class, better educated, ethnic majority with English primary language families will be the main parents enrolling their children in this charter - and point out how exactly the charter organizers/administrators will ensure this is not the outcome desired nor will happen

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Ensure the charter will be organized, administered, and lead by not for profits agencies and organizations

- Point out the administrative and educational strengths of those who will lead the school
- Point out the agencies, rental facilities, vendors are not tied to the organizers (i.e. they should be well-established experienced entities in public education spaces with no financial, personal, or professional ties to board members)
- Point to their fiscal strength - grants, donations, etc. starting from the planning stages, their budget is realistic and have reserves
- Confirm none of these vendors and resources the school needs to run the educational programs have any connections to private businesses, wall street investors, nor organizations with political and or religious affiliations, or any direct connection (business, political, or personal) to anyone in leadership (head of school, board members, key employees)

6

7

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Source Citations

- What is a Charter School (Education Code: 47610)
- What are unique educational opportunities offered by the charter: (Education Code 47605.9)
- Charter School impacts: (Education Code 47605(c)(7))