



Board of Education Report

File #: Rep-001-20/21, **Version:** 1

Approval of the LAUSD Policy and Procedures for Charter Schools and District Required Language for Independent Charter Schools

July 9, 2020

Charter Schools Division

Action Proposed:

Adopt the attached LAUSD Policy and Procedures for Charter Schools dated July 9, 2020 and approve the attached District Required Language for independent charter schools dated July 9, 2020. Additionally, amends Board Rule 1008 to reflect this adoption as the policy of the District.

Background:

On October 3, 2019, Governor Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill (AB) 1505, and described it as the most comprehensive updates to the California Charter Schools Act since its inception in 1992. Key changes of AB 1505 include new grounds for denial for new or expanding charter schools, changes to the renewal criteria, amended timelines for authorization, and updated processes for appeals. The District's charter policies have been updated to align with these noteworthy changes, presented herein as the LAUSD Policy and Procedures for Charter Schools. The updated policy document includes the input from various stakeholders, including parents and staff from District and charter schools, community members, and representatives from Labor, charter school organizations, and community organizations. The document also reflects additional updates from other new applicable laws (e.g. Senate Bill 126).

Also included for Board action is the District Required Language ("DRL") which was updated to include new significant provisions in law. The District Required Language (DRL), which is a Board-approved document, is included in every LAUSD-authorized charter petition and contains, in part, required provisions pursuant to the Charter Schools Act and other applicable statutes; recent legislation that applies to charter schools; applicable District policy; as well as procedures and requirements related to health and safety, insurance and indemnification, closure, and school sites/facilities. The DRL importantly provides transparency to all stakeholders including parents, community members, and other entities about the responsibilities of LAUSD as the authorizer and the accountabilities of the charter school as the provider of public school education.

Expected Outcomes:

By adopting the LAUSD Policy and Procedures for Charter Schools, the District ensures a policy is in place to support the implementing of AB 1505, given that most provision commence on July 1, 2020. It further supports clarity of expectations and transparency to LAUSD authorized charter schools and stakeholders. Approval of the District Required Language will facilitate appropriate consistency of key expectations in petitions and practices of all LAUSD-authorized independent charter schools.

Board Options and Consequences:

"Yes" - If the Board adopts the recommendation of approval of the LAUSD Policy and Procedures for Charter Schools, it is expected that the policy would support clear and transparent implementation of AB 1505 LAUSD-authorized charter schools authorized by LAUSD on policies that are subject to oversight and accountability.

Approval of the District Required Language will facilitate consistency throughout all LAUSD-authorized independent charter schools.

“No” - If the Board does not adopt the LAUSD Policy and Procedures for Charter Schools, the implementation of AB 1505 (and other newly passed legislation) would commence without the adoption of a policy by the Board. The District would nonetheless have to comply with the legal requirements provided in AB 1505 and other related legislation, without an approved policy and procedures. If the Board does not approve the updated District Required Language, the currently approved 11-03-17 version would remain a requirement in charter petitions and Staff will continue to hold schools accountable to legislative updates enacted post the approval of the 11-03-17 Board-approved DRL.

Policy Implications:

The LAUSD Policy and Procedures for Charter Schools would be the policy document for all LAUSD-approved charter schools. Board approval of the most recent version of the District Required Language will amend and update charters to the latest version of the District Required Language. The California Department of Education has recently invited input to inform potential regulations in the future. The timing, however, is not determined. Staff will continue to monitor developments and engage, as appropriate. Should updates to the Policy and Procedures be required, staff will provide recommendations for the Board’s consideration and action at the appropriate time.

Budget Impact:

There is no budget impact expected.

Student Impact:

The LAUSD Policy and Procedures for Charter Schools and District Required Language are intended to support clarity of expectations for LAUSD’s authorized independent charter schools, thereby supporting operations at school sites that support all students.

Issues and Analysis:

None

Attachments:

Attachment A - LAUSD Policy and Procedures for Charter Schools

Attachment B - District Required Language for Independent Charter School Petitions (Rev. 07/09/20)

Informatives:

Not Applicable

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

APPROVED & PRESENTED BY:

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