

Overview of OCS and Prior Committee Topics

*OUSD Office of Charter Schools
Charter Matters Committee
February 23, 2023*



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

Agenda

- Introduce OUSD Office of Charter Schools
- Review previous topics from first half of 2022-23 Charter Matters Committee
- Discuss future goals and topics for the 2023 Charter Matters Committee

OUSD Office of Charter Schools (OCS)

Kelly Krag-Arnold,
Director

Madison Thomas, Deputy
Director

Marwa Doost, Compliance
Specialist

Minh Co, Accounting
Manager

Guadalupe Nuño,
Community Liaison

Analytics Specialist, [now hiring](#)

Mission

OCS provides meaningful, transparent, and proactive oversight of OUSD-authorized charter schools. We seek to serve as a knowledgeable link between OUSD and the Oakland charter community, and our authorizing practices increase collaboration and accountability in the Oakland education landscape.

Values

Equity: We have a shared responsibility to develop policies and practices that intentionally center and incentivize access and opportunity for all.

Objectivity: We ensure our work is unbiased, neutral, and always centers educational access and opportunity for Oakland students.

Transparency: We strive for our data, actions, and decision-making to be clear and accessible to all.

Expertise: We stay up to date with all laws and regulations related to charter schools so that OUSD can be an effective and strategic authorizer.

Collaboration: We lead with empathy and accuracy by seeking intentional relationships and collaboration with OUSD, charter, and community stakeholders.

2022-23 Charter Matters Committee: Previous Topics

1. Charter renewals under AB 1505
2. New charter petitions under AB 1505
3. Charter school oversight
4. Proposition 39 overview and update
5. Committee vision workshop
6. School safety listening session

Background From Prior AB 1505 Information Sessions

- AB 1505 updated charter law and included many substantial changes, most of which went into effect on July 1, 2020. While AB 1505 has been in place, OUSD has received one new charter petition request (in 2020-21) and 6 charter schools went through renewal with OUSD in the fall of 2020. 9 charter schools are anticipated to come up for renewal before the OUSD Board in fall 2023/spring 2024.
- There have been no changes to state law since the last renewal cycle. However, renewals in fall 2023/spring 2024 will be the first renewal cycle since the gap in state testing data due to Covid.

Please see:

- *August 2022 [item](#) outlining renewals under AB 1505*
- *September 2022 [item](#) outlining new petitions under AB 1505*

Review: AB 1505 and New Petitions

- Education Code allows a board to deny a new petition if specific findings are made. Most new petition requirements did not change.
- AB 1505 added two additional findings that may be used to deny a new charter petition:
 1. Community impact: “The charter school is demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school is proposing to locate”
 2. Fiscal impact: “The school district is not positioned to absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school”
- Petitions must now also contain a description of how the petitioner will achieve a balance of English learners and students with disabilities, along with the previously required description of achieving a racial and ethnic balance that is reflective of the district.

Review: AB 1505 and Renewals

- Charters to submit renewal petitions starting Sept 15. Initial public hearing is held within 60 days and OUSD Board must vote within 90 days (staff report and recommendation published 15 days prior to decision hearing).
- In typical renewal years, schools are assigned to one of three renewal tiers based on the previous two years of Dashboard data. This year all schools are essentially “middle” tier because there was no 2021 Dashboard.
- If the OUSD Board denies a renewal petition, a petitioner has 30 days to submit an appeal to the County. If both the District and the County deny a renewal petition, the petitioner can appeal to the State Board of Education. SBE can only overturn County or District denials if they find that there was an abuse of discretion in denying the petition.

Review: Charter School Oversight

Charter school governing boards and leadership are expected to be the primary leaders in oversight for their school(s). However, authorizers have the responsibility to act as an additional layer of oversight to ensure all students and families have access to a high quality education.

OCS strives to develop oversight procedures and priorities which are transparent, meaningful, and proactive, with the health, safety, and academic achievements of students at the center. In addition to the required responsibilities, OCS carries out additional oversight duties to ensure all charter schools in Oakland are serving students equitably and effectively. Our oversight priorities are: **programmatic quality, equitable enrollment, operations and governance, and fiscal management**

Please see:

- September 2022 [item](#) outlining OCS's oversight procedures

Review: Prop 39

- Prop 39 is a state law which requires school districts to make available enough facilities for charter schools to serve all of their students who live in Oakland, in conditions reasonably equivalent to those in which students would be served if they were attending other public schools in the district.
- 8 charter schools applied for space for 2023-24 for a total ADA of 1,964.
- After withdrawals, in-lieus, and counter-projections, OUSD sent preliminary offers to 4 schools for a total ADA of 856.
- Final Offers are due to charter schools no later than April 1 (OUSD Board to vote on March 22). Schools have until May 1 to accept or decline their Final Offer.

Please see:

- *November 2022 [item](#) outlining Prop 39 and the 2023-24 applicants*

Other Prior Items

- Last year's Charter Matters Committee held a listening session regarding school safety, with an emphasis on co-located campuses and campuses that are located in close proximity.
- Dr. Carmella Franco engaged last year's Committee in an initial conversation about Committee members' vision and goals for this committee.

Committee Discussion: Future Meetings

1. Does this current committee like to proceed with either of the items from slide 10 in future meetings? If yes, how so?
2. Are there any other particular topics this committee would like to focus on this year?
3. What would this committee like to accomplish this year?