

Board Office Use: Legislative File Info.	
File ID Number	20-2023
Introduction Date	10/1/2020
Enactment Number	20-1715
Enactment Date	12/2/2020 er



Memo

To Board of Education

From Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent
Kelly Krag-Arnold, Elizabet Wendt, Office of Charter Schools

Board Meeting Date December 2, 2020

Subject Material Revision to Lodestar: A Lighthouse Community Charter School’s Admissions Preferences – Staff Recommendation

Action Vote

Background

- AB 1505 revised the procedures for making material revisions to charter petitions at the time of renewal. Previously, material revisions could be incorporated directly into the text of the renewal petition. AB 1505 revised the law to require charter schools to submit a separate material revision request to allow authorizing boards to consider the requested changes separately.
- Lodestar submitted a renewal petition on 10/1/20 and an accompanying material revision petition on 10/1/20. The material revision request revises the charter school’s admissions preferences to create a priority for homeless/unsheltered students.
- A public hearing was held for the material revision on 11/18/20. Representatives from the lead petitioning group presented.

Discussion Office of Charter Schools staff and Superintendent recommend approval of this material revision request. We believe this material revision is consistent with the District’s efforts to encourage charter schools to serve a higher proportion of high-needs students.

Fiscal Impact Negligible. The overall number of students admitted to the charter school will not change.

Attachment Staff recommendation



TO: Board of Education

FROM: Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Ed.D., Superintendent
Kelly Krag-Arnold, Elizabeth Wendt, Office of Charter Schools

DATE: December 2, 2020

RE: **Lodestar: A Lighthouse Community Charter School**
Charter Material Revision Request

Legislative File

File ID No.: 20-2023

Introduction Date: 10/1/2020

Enactment No.: 20-1715

Enactment Date: 12/2/2020

By: _____er

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve the material revision to the Lodestar: A Lighthouse Community Charter School (“Lodestar” or the “Charter School”) petition to revise the charter petition’s admissions preferences. The text revision (see Material Revision Charter Petition pg. 122-123) amends the admissions preferences to include preferences for homeless/unsheltered students and reduces the percentage of children of Lighthouse staff and Lighthouse Community Public Schools board members in their priority from 5% to 2.5%. Lodestar is requesting this change to the admissions preferences in an attempt to recruit and accommodate unsheltered students. If adopted, these revisions would take effect when the new charter petition takes effect (July 1, 2021) and would continue through the rest of the charter term (June 30, 2023). These revisions do not alter the likelihood of the petitioners’ ability to implement a sound educational program and the petitioners appear to be demonstrably likely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.

SUMMARY

Staff recommends that the OUSD Board of Education approve the material revision of Lodestar’s admissions preferences. Staff recommends approval based on the following:

- 1) There are approximately 1,064 homeless/unsheltered students in OUSD, including OUSD-authorized charter schools, meaning this admissions preference change prioritizes a large group of vulnerable students in Oakland.
- 2) This change to admissions preferences may help diversify student enrollment at the school, and is in-line with the District’s efforts to encourage charter schools to serve a higher proportion of high-needs students.
- 3) The admissions preference change is compliant with law.

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

- 1) AB 1505 revised the procedures for making material revisions to charter petitions at the time of renewal. Previously, material revisions could be incorporated directly into the text of the renewal

petition. AB 1505 revised the law to require charter schools to submit a separate material revision request to allow authorizing boards to consider the requested changes separately.

- 2) Lodestar submitted a renewal petition and accompanying material revision petition on 10/1/20.
- 3) A public hearing was held on 11/18/20. Representatives from the lead petitioning group presented.
- 4) A decision hearing is to be held on 12/2/20.

STATUTORY BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Education Code §47607(b):

Renewals and material revisions of charters are governed by the standards and criteria described in Section 47605, and shall include, but not be limited to, a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed.

DISCUSSION

Staff conducted an evaluation of the proposed material revision pursuant to the Charter Schools Act. It was determined that the changes made to the admissions preferences were compliant with relevant law and would be of benefit to students and families in the Lodestar school community.

ANALYSIS

When evaluating the strength or weakness of a proposed revision, staff assess the whether the proposed changes are:

- Compliant with relevant law
- Beneficial to students/families
- Reasonably comprehensive and likely to be successfully implemented by petitioner

Strengths	Reference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including an admissions preference for homeless/unsheltered youth is in-line with District’s efforts to encourage charter schools to prioritize access and equity for vulnerable students. • Reducing the percentage of children of Lodestar/Lighthouse staff and board members in the priority from 5% to 2.5% should contribute to the diversity of the student body at Lodestar. 	<p>Appendix I</p> <p>Appendix I</p>
Concerns	Reference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to lottery preferences are only one piece of a comprehensive approach to diversifying student enrollment at a school. 	
Additional Questions	Reference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Oakland Unified School District’s Board of Education **approve**, with text revisions contained herein, the material revision of the Lodestar petition under the California Charter Schools Act. The

factual findings illustrated in this report demonstrate that the material revision to the petition satisfies Education Code Section 47607(b):

Renewals and material revisions of charters are governed by the standards and criteria described in Section 47605, and shall include, but not be limited to, a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed.

APPENDIX I – Required Charter Text Revisions

The renewal charter petition is amended from the filed petition to incorporate the revisions below.

Proposed Changes to Admissions Preferences

Current Renewal Petition Text, pg. 215-126

Students will be given preference in Lodestar random public lottery if their parents desire and they are:

1. Siblings of enrolled and admitted students: to keep families together.
2. Children of Lodestar staff and LCPS board members (not to exceed 5% of the total enrollment): to honor those committed to public education
3. Students who are currently enrolled in or who reside within the elementary school attendance area of the district’s public elementary school(s) in which Lodestar is located
4. Students living in the 94621 or 94603 zip code
5. Students zoned to attend underperforming schools within OUSD in which 70% or more of students qualify for free and reduced lunch: to provide an equitable, high-quality public school option to Oakland students and families.
6. Other prospective students residing within OUSD boundaries: as required by Education Code Section 47605(d)(2)(B) and to serve as a public school option for students and families of Oakland

All other applicants

Proposed Revision, pg. 122-123

Students will be given preference in Lodestar random public lottery if their parents desire and they are:

Priority Number	Admission Priorities
1	Siblings of enrolled and admitted students to keep families together
2	Children of Lodestar staff and LCPS Board Members (not to exceed 2.5% of total enrollment)
3	<p>Students who are homeless/unsheltered during the time of enrollment or who become unsheltered while on the waiting list.</p> <p>(For the purposes of the charter, unsheltered will be defined by MCKINNEY-VENTO DEFINITION OF HOMELESS 42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2) The term “homeless children and youth” — A. means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...; and B. includes — i. children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals; ii. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings...; iii. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and iv. migratory children...who qualify as homeless</p>

	for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).
4	Students who are currently enrolled in or who reside within the elementary school attendance area of the district's public elementary school(s) in which Lodestar is located
5	Students living in the 94621 or 94603 zip code
6	Students zoned to attend underperforming schools within OUSD 4 in which 70% or more of students qualify for free and reduced lunch: to provide an equitable, high-quality public school option to Oakland students and families
7	Other prospective students residing within OUSD boundaries: as required by Education Code Section 47605(d)(2)(B) and to serve as a public school option for students and families of Oakland
8	All other applicants.