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# Memo

**To** Charter Committee

**From** Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent  
Sonali Murarka, Director-Office of Charter Schools  
Kelly Krag-Arnold, Policy Specialist-Office of Charter Schools

**Board Meeting Date** September 8, 2020

**Subject** Criteria for 6-year or 7-year Renewals for Charter Schools

**Action** Discussion

**Background** Assembly Bill No. 1505 (“AB 1505”) was approved by the Legislature on September 10, 2019 and signed into law by the Governor on October 3, 2019. The law is now in effect.

One of the changes under AB 1505 is that charter schools placed by the State into the “High” renewal tier, based on State Dashboard indicators, are eligible for a renewal term of up to 7 years rather than the typical 5 years. AB 1505 does not discuss any criteria or parameters for how renewal terms of longer than 5 years should be considered or determined.

At the Charter Committee Meeting on June 26, 2020, staff and the Charter Committee members of the Board engaged in a discussion around the new charter law (AB 1505) and the implications for OUSD. At that time it was not known whether any OUSD charters up for renewal would be in the High tier. Now that the tiers have been released by the State, we know the following 3 OUSD charter schools are in the High tier for this round of renewal or the next round of renewal:

- American Indian Charter School (up for renewal in Fall 2020)
- American Indian Charter School II (up for renewal in Fall 2021)
- Oakland Charter High School (up for renewal in Fall 2021)

**Discussion** The initial thinking from the Office of Charter Schools is to leverage the long-term lease criteria as a starting point for thinking about longer-term renewals, as many stakeholders were engaged in the development of that criteria. While the long-term lease criteria is intended for a different outcome (facilities leases, versus charter

renewal), the underlying principles are the same in terms of the values we want to promote with OUSD charter schools: equity and access, quality, operational sustainability, and community partnership.

Staff have not yet had the opportunity to engage with stakeholders around this criteria, but thought it appropriate to bring forward the potential criteria as a discussion point with the Charter Committee. We are planning for additional engagement in the upcoming month.

For the Board's discussion at the Committee meeting, some questions to consider:

- Does the criteria cover the areas the Board feels is important for charter schools to focus on?
- Do the benchmarks strike the right balance of being challenging but also a realistic target to strive for?
- Which stakeholders would be important for staff to engage for further feedback?

Once criteria has been finalized, it will be included in the Charter Renewal Handbook and implemented during charter renewals this October-December.

**Fiscal Impact**

N/A

**Attachment**

Proposed Criteria for 6-year or 7-year Renewal Terms for High Tier Charter Schools

## Proposed Criteria for 6-Year or 7-Year Renewal Term for High-Tier Schools

*Last updated September 3, 2020*

Under state law, charter schools in the high renewal tier may be renewed for a term of five, six, or seven years. A renewal term of five years is the default for charter schools in the high renewal tier. Extremely strong school-wide performance on the state dashboard is required but not sufficient for a charter school to be considered for a 6- or 7-year renewal term. Renewal terms of over five years are reserved for exceptional charter schools with a demonstrated commitment not only to high performance, but also to equity and access, operational sustainability, and partnership as part of Oakland’s community of schools.

Recommendations for extended renewal terms for high tier schools require meeting all of the criteria outlined below. However, the length of the renewal term for schools in the high tier is determined by the OUSD Board.

	<b>6 Years</b>	<b>7 Years</b>
<b>Equity and Access</b>	School enrolls new students at multiple grade levels.	School enrolls new students at most grade levels and takes students mid-year, if seats become available.
	At least 75% in-District students in most recent year.	At least 90% in-District students in most recent year.
	Percent of students with disabilities at school has been no more than 3 percentage points below OUSD average in each of the previous two years.	Percent of students with disabilities at school has been no more than 1 percentage point below OUSD average in each of the previous two years.
	Percent of English learners at school has been no more than 10 percentage points below OUSD average in each of the previous two years. <sup>1</sup>	Percent of English learners at school has been no more than 7 percentage points below OUSD average in each of the previous two years. <sup>1</sup>
	Percent of socioeconomically disadvantaged students at school has been no more than 10 percentage points below OUSD average in each of the previous two years.	Percent of socioeconomically disadvantaged students at school has been no more than 7 percentage points below OUSD average in each of the previous two years.
<b>Quality</b>	Student group performance: majority of high-needs student groups are blue, green, or yellow on the State Dashboard in the previous two years, with no red indicators.	Student group performance: majority of high-needs student groups are blue or green on the State Dashboard in the previous two years, with no red indicators.

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<sup>1</sup> An exception will be considered for schools that serve a diverse student population and have demonstrated efforts to increase the number of English learner students at the school.

	Each of the five domains from the School Quality Rubric <sup>2</sup> from the renewal site visit must have an average score at or above 3.0.	Each of the five domains from the SQR from the renewal site visit must have an average score at or above 3.2.
<b>Operational Sustainability</b>	4 or fewer notices of concern in previous four years and none involving student safety/welfare. All notices of concern have been resolved in a timely manner.	4 or fewer notices of concern in previous four years and none involving student safety/welfare. All notices of concern have been resolved in a timely manner.
	Strong fiscal health for previous 4 years (including fund balance, reserve, debt ratio, deficit spending, audit reports).	Strong fiscal health for previous 4 years (including fund balance, reserve, debt ratio, deficit spending, audit reports).
	Stable enrollment <sup>3</sup> for each of the previous 4 years.	Stable enrollment for each of the previous 4 years.
<b>Community Partnership</b>	Positive previous history of collaboration and partnership with the District (e.g. facilities practices and usage, enrollment practices, data sharing).	Positive previous history of collaboration and partnership with the District (e.g. facilities practices and usage, enrollment practices, data sharing).
	Charter petition confirms that the school enrolls students through Oakland Enrolls (common charter application system).	Charter petition confirms that the school enrolls students through Oakland Enrolls (common charter application system).
	Participation in CORE data collaborative.	Participation in CORE data collaborative.

<sup>2</sup> The School Quality Rubric (SQR) is located on the OCS website: <https://www.ousdcharters.net/renewing-charter-schools.html>. If all five domains are not scored, only the scored domains will be considered.

<sup>3</sup> Stable enrollment is defined as total enrollment being no more than 10% below (and not above) the school's maximum enrollment as specified in the petition.