



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

AB 1505 and Charter Renewal

An Introduction to Charter Renewal Under AB 1505



OUSD Office of Charter Schools

Charter Matters Committee

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Agenda



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Community Schools, Thriving Students

- Summary of charter renewal under AB 1505
 - Background
 - Timeline
 - Renewal tiers and conditions
 - Data and verified data
 - Appeals
- OUSD Renewal Petition Review Process
 - Background and process
 - OUSD renewal criteria
 - Evidence and data
- Topics for further Board and Committee consideration and next steps



Summary of Renewal Process Under AB 1505

Background

- AB 1505 updated charter law and included many substantial changes, most of which went into effect on July 1, 2020. 6 charter schools went through renewal with OUSD in the fall of 2020 with this new law in place, and 9 charter schools are anticipated to come up for renewal before the OUSD Board in the 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 absence of state testing data due to Covid.
- This deck summarizes the following:
 - The changes to the renewal process under AB 1505
 - Updates to the renewal process since the last post-AB 1505 renewal cycle in fall 2020
 - Areas for further exploration in preparing for renewals in fall 2023/spring 2024

Charter Renewal Timeline

1. Renewal tiers are determined by the State: each charter school is categorized as high, middle, or low tier
2. Renewal request submission: per BP, after Sept 15
 - a. Review by OUSD staff
 - b. Renewal site visit
 - c. OCS staff report
3. Initial public hearing: within 60 days of submission
4. Decision hearing and OUSD board vote: within 90 days of submission
 - a. Staff report and recommendations published 15 days prior to decision hearing

Renewal Tiers

Three tier system based on state dashboard data from two years immediately preceding renewal. Default is middle tier unless school meets criteria specific to either the high or low tier.

High Tier (5-7 year renewal)

- Green or Blue schoolwide on all indicators, OR
- Schoolwide academic indicators are same or higher than state average, and academic indicators for certain underperforming student groups are higher than state average for that student group.

Low Tier (denial or 2 year renewal)

- Red or Orange schoolwide on all indicators, OR
- Schoolwide academic indicators are same or lower than state average, and academic indicators for certain underperforming student groups are lower than state average for that student group.

Renewal Conditions: High Tier

- May be renewed for 5, 6, or 7 years.
- Only required to update the petition to include reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirements, and as necessary to reflect the current program offered by the school.
- Shall not deny for academic reasons

Renewal Conditions: Middle Tier

- May renew for 5 years or may deny only upon making written findings that:
 - The charter school has failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the students of the school, AND
 - The closure is in the best interest of the students, AND
 - The decision provided greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance.
- Shall consider schoolwide performance and performance of all student groups on both state and local indicators included in the State Dashboard, providing greater weight to performance on academic indicators.
- Shall also consider clear and convincing evidence, demonstrated by verified data, showing either:
 - The school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year's progress for each year in school OR
 - Strong postsecondary outcomes, as defined by college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers

Renewal Conditions: Low Tier

- Shall generally not renew; however, the chartering authority shall consider the following factors and may renew only for 2 years upon making both of the following written factual findings:
 - The charter school is taking meaningful steps to address the underlying cause(s) of low performance, which are or will be written in a plan adopted by the governing body of the charter school AND
 - There is clear and convincing evidence, demonstrated by verified data, showing either:
 - The school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year's progress for each year in school OR
 - Strong postsecondary outcomes, as defined by college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers

Renewal Criteria for ALL TIERS

Regardless of tier, a school can be denied for the following reasons only after being given 30 days to provide a corrective action plan AND the plan is deemed unsuccessful or unviable:

- Substantial fiscal or governance concerns, OR
- The school is not serving all students who wish to attend
 - Requires review of State-provided enrollment data and substantiated complaints that school has not complied with its suspension/expulsion procedures

Verified Data

- Low tier schools must submit “verified data”. Middle tier schools may also submit verified data.
- Only data sources adopted by the State Board may be used as verified data: 14 academic progress indicators and 6 postsecondary indicators (see “resources” slide for link to list)
- Verified data may show “measurable increases in academic achievement” OR “strong postsecondary outcomes”

Material Revisions and Renewal

- Proposed material revisions to the charter petition at the time of renewal must be submitted separately from renewal petition (but may be submitted concurrently).
 - Examples of material revisions include requests to expand enrollment, significant changes to the educational program, adding a new location, etc.

Renewal Appeal Process

- If the OUSD Board denies a renewal petition, a petitioner has 30 days to submit an appeal to the County Board of Education. The appeal petition cannot contain material changes to the previously submitted petition.
- 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.
 - The State is no longer authorizing charters after phase-out period.



OUSD Renewal Petition Review Process

Background and Process For Petition Review

- OCS staff publishes Renewal Handbook annually
- Per BP, schools can submit renewal petitions after September 15
- OCS staff works with charters and board staff to submit petitions such that there are 2-4 schools per special meeting/public hearing
- Staff report with recommendation published at least 15 days prior to decision hearing
- 9 OUSD-authorized charters up for renewal in Fall 2023/Spring 2024:
 - AIMS K-8
 - Ascend
 - KIPP Bridge
 - LWL
 - Unity High
 - Arise
 - Aspire Lionel Wilson
 - LPS R&D
 - OCHS

OUSD Renewal Petition Criteria

Criteria I: Has the Charter School Presented a Sound Educational Program?

Criteria II: Is the Charter School Demonstrably Likely to Successfully Implement the Proposed Educational Program?

Criteria III: Is the Petition Reasonably Comprehensive?

Criteria IV: Is the Charter School Serving All Students Who Wish to Attend?

Other Evidence Typically Considered by OUSD

In addition to the evidence highlighted in the renewal tiers, OUSD may also consider the following evidence, depending on a school's renewal tier:

Criteria I

- School Performance Analysis (based on State Dashboard and CORE Growth data)
- Comparison of academic performance for key student groups
- Verified data
- School Quality Review rubric (based on site visit)
- Performance improvement plan (only required for low renewal tier schools, but may be requested)

Criteria II:

- Financial condition
- Enrollment and attendance
- Enrollment demographics
- Compliance with regulatory elements (including notices of concern, website posting, teacher credentialing, etc)
- Board health and effectiveness

Criteria III

- Reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the 15 required elements
- All information required by education code
- All District Required Language
- Renewal Performance Report (using District template)
- Additional requirements to petition enacted since charter was last approved

Criteria IV

- State-provided enrollment pattern data
- Substantiated complaints and notices of concern related to noncompliance with suspension/expulsion procedures and laws

Renewal Site Visits

Renewal site visits, which use the School Quality Review (SQR) rubric, are conducted over the course of two days and provide OUSD staff with additional evidence to evaluate the school's program and operations. SQR scores are included in the Staff Report.

Components of the SQR include:

- School leadership interview
- Classroom observations
- Teacher focus group
- Family focus group
- Student focus group
- Governing board focus group

Potential Topics for Further Board Consideration

- Potential revisions to criteria for extended renewal terms (of 6 or 7 years) for high tier schools
- Opportunities for Board members to conduct site visits at schools up for renewal in Fall 2023/Spring 2024
- Learning opportunities for full OUSD board in early 2023 regarding charter renewal process, criteria, and evaluation
- Learning opportunities around other areas covered by AB 1505 (including new petition and material revision review)

Next Steps for OCS

- Communications with Fall 2023/Spring 2024 renewal cohort
 - Submission timeline and batching
 - Verified data use
- Assessing data in post-covid world
 - Timeline of State Dashboard data/release of tiers
 - Taking into account learning loss
 - Use of of pre-covid data
- Defining parameters from AB 1505
 - Supporting Board in potentially updating 6-7 year high tier criteria
 - Defining “racial/ethnic balance”
 - Weight of verified data for low tier vs middle tier schools
- OUSD Board communication and education
 - Onboarding new (and returning) board members re: AB 1505
 - Setting up opportunities for site visits

Resources

- State renewal tier methodology:
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ch/documents/determinecharterperf.pdf>
- SBE adopted verified data sources:
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ch/verifdatacrit.asp#acadprog>
- Education Code §47605 and §47607:
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&division=4.&title=2.&part=26.8.&chapter=2.&article=
- Current charter terms [dashboard](#)
- OSC website page on renewals:
<https://www.ousdcharters.net/renewing-charter-schools.html>

Next Steps and Questions

- Does the Committee have any requests for additional informational updates about AB 1505 or charter renewal?
- How does the Committee want to be involved in preparing for renewals?

Questions?