

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy

Philosophy, Goals, Objectives and Comprehensive Plans

BP TBD

Philosophy

Charter School Oversight and Accountability

The OUSD Board of Directors takes its oversight and accountability role as a charter school authorizer seriously, and recognizes the need to respond to the growth of charter schools and the financial impact this growth has had on OUSD's finances. This policy details the approach of the OUSD Governing Board to enhancing oversight of OUSD-authorized charter schools and addressing the impact of rapid charter school growth.

Appointment of OUSD Charter School Board Representatives

To increase its ability to hold charter schools accountable, OUSD will exercise Education Code 47604(b), which states that "[t]he governing board of a school district that grants a charter for the establishment of a charter school formed and organized pursuant to this section shall be entitled to a single representative on the board of directors of the nonprofit public benefit corporation" and assign representatives to charter school boards.

Re-Integration of Charter Schools

The OUSD Governing Board desires to reduce the number of different systems delivering education in Oakland, and therefore invites charter schools to rejoin OUSD, either in part through joining the OUSD SELPA, or entirely, by surrendering their charter and becoming an OUSD-operated school. The OUSD Governing Board hereby directs the Superintendent or her designee to devise and articulate a process in consultation with other divisions within OUSD by which charter schools may apply to rejoin OUSD.

Regular Review of Complaints & Notices of Concern

Though charter schools are authorized by OUSD, they are independent and operate as their own local education agency (LEA). Therefore, charter schools manage their students' grades, discipline, enrollment, admissions, and employees. People wishing to submit a complaint regarding these and/or other issues must file their formal complaint directly with the charter school site leadership, who are responsible for addressing the complaint.

If a charter school does not follow their complaint procedures or does not adequately address complaints, OCS shall intervene and if necessary, issue a Notice of Concern. The Notice of Concern will outline the issues and include a list of remedies necessary to resolve the Notice of Concern.

OCS staff will provide a quarterly summary report outlining the complaints received and the Notices of Concern issued to the OUSD Board during closed session.

Provision of Student Exit Data

OCS will share student exit data with the Board of Directors twice a year.

Equitable Service of Students

It is illegal for charter schools to discriminate against students or families on the basis of race, class, language ability or disability status. The Office of Charter Schools shall report on the demographics of students served by charter schools, with multiple years of data so that trends can be easily observed.

If the Board of Education should find evidence of discrimination via practices of school push-out or poor student recruitment practices, such findings will influence renewal decisions. Evidence of equitable service of students shall include whether students receive free and reduced price lunches.

Transparent Governance

In addition to the documents the state requires charter schools to make public, it is the expectation that OUSD-authorized charters shall adhere to a higher level of transparency, in the belief that schools using public funds to operate should provide transparency in their operations. The OUSD Governing Board may consider the voluntary provision of documents such as a Conflict of Interest Policy, Governing Board contact information and board-approved budgets when making charter renewal decisions.

Board Study Session

OCS staff will present at least one Board study session per year on their charter school oversight efforts, any trends the Board of Education should be aware of, and any planned changes to our oversight efforts based on learnings in the previous year.

Collaboration with the Charter Sector

OUSD is a public agency and as such, the Governing Board endeavors to conduct its work in full view of the public. Occasions may arise where it makes sense to collaborate with the charter sector to do policy planning or other kinds of collaboration. Any such collaboration shall require the approval of the Governing Board in a publicly-noticed meeting. The work of ongoing collaborative bodies that include OUSD staff shall be conducted in full view of the public at properly-noticed meetings, with minutes taken and shared publicly afterward.

Fiduciary Duty to OUSD Students

Within the confines of all applicable laws including Proposition 39 (2000), the OUSD Board of Directors shall prioritize the fiscal health of the school district during the negotiation of any financial agreements or leases with charter schools. Real estate transactions involving charter schools shall be posted on the regular agenda of the Board of Education, and not the consent agenda, to facilitate community awareness and participation in such decisions.

As a general rule, charter schools located in OUSD buildings shall be charged the maximum rent allowable under state law.

Use of OUSD Resources to Promote Charter Schools

OUSD resources shall not be used to promote charter schools, including OUSD buildings, enrollment fairs, parent guides, the OUSD enrollment system, website, or any other materials, without the express written permission of the OUSD Governing Board in advance, to be noticed on the regular (not consent) agenda, to facilitate community awareness and participation.

Oversight of Parcel Taxes

Oakland taxpayers entrust the OUSD Governing Board with the responsibility for overseeing the use of tax revenues. Charter schools who wish to access OUSD's parcel taxes must provide OUSD access to their financial statements in order to ensure compliance with the intended uses of taxpayer-approved taxes.

The Superintendent or her designee will draft administrative regulations for adoption by the Governing Board by December 2018.