



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Charter Schools Division

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Dear Affiliated Charter School Leader:

The Charter Schools Division (CSD) hopes your 2023-2024 school year is going well thus far! This communication highlights pertinent information and updates related to charter school oversight. Please review this material closely so that your school(s) and staff are positioned for success, including in advance of any oversight visit(s) to your school(s).

As always, the CSD is excited to share another productive year on behalf of students and families in Los Angeles.

Senate Bill 114

On July 10, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 114 as part of the Education Omnibus Budget Trailer Bill, which, among other updates, made changes to charter school renewal terms, the moratorium on the establishment of nonclassroom-based charter schools, and the circumstances under which the State Board of Education on appeal may reverse the local decisions under an abuse of discretion standard. Key provisions include the following:

- Requires charter schools whose term expires on or between January 1, 2024, and June 30, 2027, inclusive, to have their term extended by one additional year.
- Extends the prohibition on approving a petition for the establishment of a new charter school offering non-classroom-based instruction by one year, to instead be until January 1, 2026.
- Clarifies that the State Board of Education (SBE) would reverse charter school renewal decisions only upon a determination that there was an abuse of discretion by both the school district and the county board of education.

Thus, for those charter schools who were preparing for renewal this 2023-2024 school year, please note that in light of this recent legislation, charter school renewals will resume in 2024-2025 instead. We look forward to further communication later this school year with the charter schools scheduled for renewal.

Updates to Verified Data

As part of charter school renewals, California Education Code requires charter school authorizers to consider “verified data” for renewals of charter schools identified by the California Department of Education (CDE) as middle-performing or low-performing, based on California School Dashboard data. Verified data is defined as, “assessment data from nationally-recognized, valid, peer-reviewed, and reliable sources that are externally produced.” It also includes postsecondary outcomes which is defined as, “college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers.”

At its May 2023 meeting, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted ten (10) additional academic progress indicators for inclusion within the approved list of verified data assessments. The SBE also amended criteria for defining verified data, updated procedures for using verified data, and revised the previously approved list to include grade levels and programmatic name changes.

For additional information, the current list of verified data may be accessed here: ([Academic Progress Indicators](#)). The updated definitions to the *Criteria to Define Verified Data* and the updated implementation process for *Data Use Procedures Related to Verified Data* are located here: ([Define Verified Data and Use Procedures](#)).

Updates to the 2023-2024 Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit Tool and Guide

As you prepare for this year’s Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit, we want to highlight some of the key changes contained in the Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit tool and Oversight Preparation Guide. The updates were made as part of the Charter Schools Division's annual reflection process, inclusive of feedback from charter school leaders during oversight. Changes to the oversight process and tools include, but are not limited to, a restructured evidence preparation list and clearer criteria for rating school performance. Please see below for specific details. To facilitate effective and efficient review on the day of the visit, please adhere to the guidance provided in the *Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit Preparation Guide 2023-2024* for the preparation of the school’s compliance documentation.

2023-2024 Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit Report (“APBOV Report”)

Updates to the Annual Performance Based Oversight Report are highlighted below.

Governance

- Overall category score impact: A charter school cannot receive a rating greater than “3” in this category if it receives an overall rating of “2” or “1” in any other category: *Student Achievement and Educational Performance* or *Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations*.
- Updates to Rubrics for select indicators:
 - Indicator G3 (Responsive and Accountable Governance): Strengthened rubric for a rating of “4” by including pupil outcomes.

Student Achievement and Educational Performance

- The color-coded performance levels will be reported on the 2023 Dashboard. Accordingly, indicators in the Student Achievement and Educational Performance category for the 2023-2024 Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit Report are scored based on 2023 Performance level data, except for the College/Career Indicator (CCI). CCI will be reported using Status levels only on the 2023 Dashboard, and will be scored based on 2023 Status level data.
- **A1, A3, A5, and A8-A10: Dashboard Indicator** Performance will be scored as follows:
 - 4: Blue
 - 3: Green, or Yellow and at/above the State
 - 2: Yellow and below the State, or Orange
 - 1: Red
- **A2, A4, and A7: Dashboard Indicators** will be scored based on student group performance as compared to statewide averages.
- **A6: Dashboard Indicator** Status will be scored as follows:
 - 4: Very High
 - 3: High or Medium and at/above statewide percentage
 - 2: Medium and below statewide percentage or Low
 - 1: Very Low

Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations

- o Changes to indicators in the Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations category are noted below:
 - “Transparency for Stakeholders” has been removed as an individual indicator. Review of evidence related to transparency for stakeholders will be noted on a “Review of Transparency and Stakeholder Information Compliance Items” checklist. Failure to have any of the applicable items in place may lead to tiered intervention, as appropriate, and restrict the overall rating in the Organizational Management, Programs, and Operations category.
- o Updates to Rubrics for select indicators:
 - Indicators O1 (Implementation of Key Features of the Educational Program): Strengthened rubric for a rating of “4” by requiring the charter school to demonstrate accomplished student achievement as evidenced by an overall score of “3” or “4” in the Student Achievement and Educational Performance category.

Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit Preparation Guide 2023-2024 (“Prep Guide”)

- o The Prep Guide has been updated to include specific documents as evidence for some indicators to provide greater clarity.
- o The Prep Guide has been updated to specify that all oversight documentation should be provided for review **ten (10) business days prior to the annual oversight visit.**

Google Drive Digital Folders

Similar to last year’s oversight visit, please prepare “digital” binders of the school’s documentation and upload them into the school’s Google Drive oversight folder. You will need to create a new folder, labeled “2023-2024,” within the school’s Google Drive oversight folder. All documents and the school’s Self-Reflection are due ten (10) business days before the scheduled date of the visit. Please see the attached oversight preparation guide for specific instructions regarding digital binder preparation. If you do not currently have access to your school’s Google Drive oversight folder, please contact Mr. Gustavo Birrueta at gustavo.birrueta@lausd.net to inform him of the name(s) of staff at your school who will need access.

Thank you for taking time to review this information as part of our effort to provide clear and accessible information to you as part of oversight, and, above all, for the work you do on a daily basis to serve our students and their families. Please continue to communicate with your assigned CSD administrator as your primary contact in the Division to communicate key matters and for any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



José Cole-Gutiérrez
Director, Charter Schools Division

Attachments:

Affiliated Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit Preparation Guide 2023-2024
Affiliated Annual Performance-Based Oversight Visit Report 2023-2024 template
Affiliated Charter School Self-Reflection 2023-2024 template