



Process Update: Charter Oversight, Investigation, and Renewal

Board Meeting

Date: June 20, 2024

Agenda Item No. 9.6

Presented by:

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SCUSD CORE BELIEF

We recognize that our system is inequitable by design and we vigilantly work to confront and interrupt inequities that exist to level the playing field and provide opportunities for everyone to learn, grow and reach their greatness.

SCUSD GUIDING PRINCIPLE

All students are given an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options

Tonight's Information

- Annual Oversight Update for 2023-24
- Renewal Timelines and Processes
- Review/Investigation of Concerns



2023-24 Annual Reports Nearly Complete Will be posted to SCUSD website ~July

1 - Annual Authorizer Oversight

- Review Key Documents
 - Fiscal reports (i.e., budgets, audits)
 - Board meetings and policies
 - Other requested documents
- Review state and local performance data
- Site Visit
 - Classroom observations
 - Interviews with staff / board
 - On-site document review



What the Board Will See

- Annual Report to the Board
 - High level summary with links to more detail
 - Complete ~ July
- Detailed Annual Staff Report
 - May include required action items for charter schools
 - Complete ~ July
- Notice to Cure / Correct
 - If issue(s) are severe or significant, authorizer may issue formal notice to cure/correct any deficiencies or violations

Education Code § 47604.32 sets out the minimum oversight requirements that must be performed each year by the authorizer

Tier is determined based on the previous 2 years of published CA Dashboard Data



3 Tiers for Renewal

Middle Tier Schools = Presumptive Renewal

Potential Denial Findings by Tier

High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shall not deny for academic reasons• Can only deny with a finding that school is either<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ (A) unable to implement program due to fiscal/governance concerns OR◦ (B) is not serving all students who wish to attend.• Can deny for the reasons in High OR can deny if:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ (A) school has failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the students AND◦ (B) Closure is in the best interest of students AND◦ (C) Decision provided greater weight to academic performance
Middle	<p>Presumptive denial, but may renew for 2 years if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ (A) the charter school is taking meaningful steps to address the underlying cause of low performance (with a written plan) AND◦ (B) Verified data shows 1 year progress for students OR strong postsecondary outcomes
Low	

- Renewal criteria is tied to each performance category/tier.
- MIDDLE TIER:
 - Consider performance schoolwide and for all subgroups on state indicators, plus performance on local indicators (all reflected on Dashboard)
 - Greater weight given to performance on academic measurements
 - Consider verified data (if presented by charter school) showing:
 - Measurable increases in academic achievement (1 year of progress); OR
 - Strong postsecondary outcomes
- Renewal term = 5 years

Anticipated Renewal Timelines 2024-25

INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOLS:

Growth Public School, Sacramento Charter High School, & St. Hope Public School 7

- **Late June:** Petition Submission
- **August 8:** Public Hearing (within 60 days of submission)
- **Sept 4:** Renewal Staff Report / Findings Published (15 days before determination)
- **Sept 19:** Determination Hearing / Vote (within 90 days of submission)

DEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOLS:

George Washington Carver, Sacramento New Technology, & The Met High School

- **Mid Jan:** Petition Submission
- **March 6:** Public Hearing (within 60 days of submission)
- **March 26:** Renewal Staff Report / Findings Published (15 days before determination)
- **April 10:** Determination Hearing / Vote (within 90 days of submission)

Third Party Investigation of Concerns (Re:SHPS)

Why a 3rd party investigation?

- Extensive allegations against charter school organization (SHPS) brought by parents and former charter educators
- Authorizer has a legal duty to oversee charter school and monitor fiscal condition
 - Protect student interests
 - Avoid liability
- Third party review separate from standard oversight/ renewal evaluation
- Why now?

Process and Considerations:

- Request for information/records + review of publicly-available information
 - Linked directly to allegations
 - Objective data to validate or disprove allegations
 - Maintained in normal course of business
- Third party review
 - Records review/site visit/interviews (as needed)
 - Prepare report of findings
- District evaluation
 - If necessary, issue notice to cure/correct
 - 30+ days for charter school to respond with corrective action plan

Anticipated Timelines with Investigation

- **Late June:** Petition Submission
- **Early/Mid July:** Conclude Investigation
- **By July 26:** *If necessary based on reported findings*, Board issues notice to cure and correct
 - What would this look like?
 - List of violations and findings
 - Citation to law, charter, charter policy, or agreement in violation
 - Clear timeline for opportunity to cure and correct, including preparation of corrective action plan
- **Aug. 8:** Public Hearing #1 (within 60 days of submission)
- **Aug. 26:** *If necessary*, deadline for charter school to provide response to notice to cure and correct (30 days after issuance)
- **Sept. 4:** Renewal Staff Report / Findings Published (15 days before Board vote)
- **Sept. 19:** Public Hearing #2 / Board Vote (within 90 days of submission)

What If?

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Concerns
Unfounded /
No Significant
Findings

Proceed with
Charter Renewal
Process;
Middle Tier

Concerns
Founded /
Significant
Findings

SCUSD Issues
Notice of Cure
and Correct

Charter is not
responsive to
request for
records
needed to
investigate
concerns

Board could
consider this a
violation of Ed.
Code and charter
terms.
"It gets messy"

Charter develops
and implements
corrective action
plan.

Eligible for
renewal based on
likelihood of
successfully
implementing
action plan

Eligible for denial
based on not
implementing
action plan

SCUSD notifies
Charter that
violations are
sufficiently severe
to render
corrective action
plan unviable

Basis for denial
based on
"demonstrably
unlikely to
successfully
implement..."

**IMPORTANT: Process
IS NOT and CANNOT
be Predetermined.**

Closing Points

- We are in the “messy middle” and are working our way through.
- Big Picture Goal: Have processes in place to ensure confidence that the schools authorized by SCUSD are:
 - Working continuously to improve outcomes for all students
 - Operating within the bounds of accepted financial and governance practices



“The middle is messy, but it’s also where all the magic happens, all the tension that creates goodness and learning.”

BRENÉ BROWN



Thoughts? Questions? Comments?