



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 22, 2024

The mission of the YPI Charter Schools (YPICS) is to prepare students for academic success in high school, as well as post--secondary education; prepare students to be responsible and active participants in their community; and enable students to become lifelong learners. Students at YPI Charter Schools will become active citizens who characterize the ideals of a diverse and democratic society. Students will provide service to their community, take responsibility for their own learning, and develop the habits of mind and body that will empower them to be successful in high school and beyond.

State:

CSDC Update:

Earlier this year, California State Legislators introduced more than 2,000 new bills. CSDC reviewed them all and found a few designed to hurt charter schools. CSDC is working hard to defeat the bills and to get the word out about the issues they create. This article is our effort to ensure that charter school board members understand these laws and their potential impact. As charter school board members, it's also essential to understand how your support and involvement are urgently needed to kill bad bills.

As always, there's a longer list of bills CSDC and other charter advocacy organizations are keeping an eye on, but in this issue, we will focus on three that are of particular importance to charter school board members.

These bills are:

SB 1380:

This is a bill introduced by California State Senator Bill Dodd (D - Napa) which, if approved, would change the criteria and hearing process for new charter petitions and material revisions. Dodd represents the painfully mismanaged Vallejo Unified School District and Napa Valley Unified School District, which have been fighting dirty to prevent the establishment of the Mayacamas Charter School.

Dodd claims that the bill is intended to protect districts like Vallejo and Napa and the impact would be narrow. In actuality, the impact would be devastatingly broad, affecting nearly all charter schools and districts, thereby earning CSDC's 2024 "charter killer" label. Take action: tell your state Senator that you oppose SB 1380.

EMAIL YOUR STATE SENATOR

AB 2254:

Blanca Rubio (D - Baldwin Park) aims to preserve an important component of the charter school's renewal process in California by removing the sunset clause for using "verified data," which is shorthand for student academic achievement data from testing companies approved by the CA State Board of Education, such as iReady or NWEA Map. This bill also clarifies that charter schools can, but are not obligated to, provide specific local data to support their renewal. This bill is sponsored by the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA).

While the CA School Dashboard is the primary tool for renewal evaluation, supplemental assessment data is allowed to be presented during the charter school renewal process. However, the use of verified data from additional providers will sunset beginning June 30, 2025, which will make the Dashboard the only data available for charter renewal going forward. In many cases, the Dashboard alone will be insufficient for the purpose of a high-stakes charter renewal evaluation. The Dashboard does not measure individual student's academic growth overtime, which puts schools serving high proportions of historically underserved students at risk.

AB 1917:

California State Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D - Torrance) introduced AB 1917 which, if approved, will mandate specific training for school board members, including charter school board members. In its current form, the bill: includes charter schools in the definition of LEAs, identifies areas of law that are foundational for K-12 education governance, requires training for all LEA board members, describes the requirements for offering training, frequency of training, and record keeping.

Muratsuchi's office indicated that he is open to discussion on some amendments, and CSDC enthusiastically supports the idea of training for board members. We look forward to working with Assemblymember Muratsuchi to fine-tune the bill and believe that strong board governance is essential to well-run and transparent public schools.

YPICS:

YPICS is busy assessing students with NWEA and iReady. The EAs will be ready with full reports by the June 2, 2024, Board Meeting.

LAUSD

All schools have completed their LAUSD Oversight visit. Thank you, Board Chair Keipp and Board Treasurer Green, for joining us this year. We are still awaiting the Oversight Visit Reports.