



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Charter Schools Division

333 S. Beaudry Ave., 20th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Office: (213) 241-0399 • Prop. 39: (213) 241-5130 • Fax: (213) 241-2054

ALBERTO M. CARVALHO
Superintendent

VERONICA ARREGUIN
Chief Strategy Officer

JOSÉ COLE-GUTIÉRREZ
Director, Charter Schools Division

April 22, 2024

Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter Middle
2670 W. 11th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90006

Attention: Mary Keipp, Governing Board President
Yvette King-Berg, Chief Executive Officer
Freddy Zepeda, Executive Administrator

SUBJECT: CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL FOR KIPP SOL ACADEMY

Dear School Leader(s) and Governing Board President:

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Charter Schools Division's (CSD) records indicate that Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter Middle ("Charter School") charter will be considered for renewal in the upcoming 2024-2025 academic school year¹. As Charter School prepares for this very important milestone, the CSD encourages your organization and school leadership to review and understand the renewal criteria, timelines and appeal processes set forth in the Charter Schools Act (Ed. Code, §§ 47600, *et seq.*),² the *LAUSD Policy and Procedures for Charter Schools*,³ and other applicable requirements. The CSD looks forward to reviewing Charter School's renewal including the California Department of Education's (CDE) performance categories, the California School Dashboard (Dashboard) data, verified data, and other relevant data and information that may be provided as part of your renewal submission.

According to the March 2024 CDE Performance Categories, Charter School was identified as Middle Performing. Pursuant to Education Code section 47607.2, a chartering authority shall consider the following:

1. Schoolwide performance and performance of all student groups on the California School Dashboard and shall provide "greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance in determining whether to grant a charter renewal."
2. Clear and convincing evidence, demonstrated by verified data, showing either:

¹ Education Code section 47607.4 provides that, "all charter schools whose term expires on or between January 1, 2022, and June 30, 2025, inclusive, shall have their term extended by two years, and all charter schools whose term expires on or between January 1, 2024, and June 30, 2027, inclusive, shall have their term extended by one additional year.

² See https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1505

³ See

<https://achieve.lausd.net/cms/lib/CA01000043/Centricity/Domain/106/LAUSD%20Policy%20and%20Procedures%20for%20Charter%20Schools%20Amended%20Rev%2001-25-22.pdf>

- a. The school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement, as defined by at least one year's progress for each year in school; or
- b. Strong postsecondary outcomes, as defined by college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers.

As a charter school identified as Middle Performing, verified data should be submitted along with the renewal application for consideration. The chartering authorizer must consider the above factors as part of the renewal decision. ((Ed. Code, §47607.2 (b).))

Additionally, Education Code section 47607(e), states that the chartering authority may deny the renewal of a charter school upon a finding that the school is demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition due to substantial fiscal or governance factors, or is not serving all pupils who wish to attend. Consistent with, and in furtherance of, Education Code section 47607(e), the *LAUSD Policy and Procedures for Charter Schools* outlines the factors that may be considered as part of the renewal analysis in determining whether the charter school has discriminatory enrollment and/or dismissal practices and/or substantial fiscal or governance concerns. It states, in part:

“Substantial fiscal factors may include, but are not limited to, issues related to the charter school’s fiscal solvency, mismanagement of funds, cash flow concerns, or outstanding financial liabilities owed to the District and/or others (e.g., contractual obligations, judgments/settlements, unpaid bills or debts, fee-for-service arrangements, facilities-related costs, Prop. 39 over-allocated space reimbursements, etc.).”

“Substantial governance factors may include, but are not limited to, issues related to the retention of faculty (such as school leadership and teachers) which rise to the level of disruption of delivery of educational programs; conflicts of interest; or, violations of the Brown Act or California Public Records Act.”

“... the LAUSD Board will also consider whether the charter school’s enrollment or dismissal practices are discriminatory as grounds for nonrenewal. (Ed. Code, § 47607(e).)”
 “Upon a finding that the charter school is not serving the pupils who wish to attend, LAUSD must identify evidence supporting this finding, including aggregate data reflecting pupil enrollment patterns at the charter school. (Ed. Code, § 47607(d).)”

If applicable, prior to any nonrenewal determination pursuant to the above, LAUSD will provide the charter school with at least 30 days’ notice of the alleged violation and reasonable opportunity to cure the violation, including a corrective action plan proposed by the charter school (Ed. Code, § 47607(e).), the LAUSD Board may deny a renewal petition only by making either of the following findings: 1) The corrective action proposed by the charter school has been unsuccessful, or 2) The violations are sufficiently severe or pervasive as to render a corrective action plan unviable. (*Id.*)

As Charter School approaches its charter renewal submission for the 2024-2025 school year, to the extent appropriate, please work with your school’s leadership, Governing Board, and legal counsel regarding the submission of the renewal application materials and to understand the renewal criteria, timelines, and appeal processes as referenced above. Please note that the CSD

provides this correspondence to support a transparent renewal process for Charter School. However, this correspondence should not be construed as an exhaustive listing of Charter School's performance record or indication of whether or not Charter School will be recommended for renewal by the CSD, or eventually approved by the LAUSD Board of Education (with or without benchmarks). Rather, the information provided herein is intended to support, inform, and/or guide Charter School's decision-making as it enters its final year of its current charter term.

The CSD will holistically evaluate Charter School's performance through the lens of the renewal criteria set forth by applicable law including the Charter Schools Act (and applicable state guidance) over the term of the charter and through the CSD's processes and procedures for ongoing oversight. Charter School should also conduct its own assessment on an ongoing basis to monitor performance that allows for improvements over time. Thus, Charter School approaching renewal should understand its status regarding renewal eligibility prior to its submission to the CSD for renewal.

In addition, if applicable, please submit a written plan, including implementation timelines, to address any areas of low performance or concern in key areas of operations, governance, facility related matters, and/or fiscal operations, to your assigned CSD administrator as part of the submission of your renewal petition. Please make every effort to resolve any outstanding issues (e.g., tiered intervention notices, outstanding financial liabilities owed to the District and/or others, etc.) and address any current benchmarks in advance of submitting your renewal application to the CSD.

The CSD will conduct a renewal orientation training session for all independent charter schools renewing in the upcoming 2024-2025 academic school year and information has been sent to the school.

If you have questions or would like to discuss the items outlined above and/or the upcoming renewal process, please contact:

Specialist: Dr. Blanca A. Monaster - b.alvesmonaster@lausd.net

Fiscal Oversight Manager: Cindy Delos Santos-Iya - cindy.delossantos@lausd.net

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Blanca A. Monaster

Specialist, CSD

cc: José Cole Gutiérrez, Director, CSD
Marla Willmott, Administrative Coordinator, CSD
Lillian Lee, Fiscal Administrator, CSD
Christian Mendez, Senior Coordinator, CSD
Allan Villamor, Fiscal Oversight Administrator, CSD
Cindy Delos Santos-Iya, Fiscal Oversight Manager, CSD