



YPI CHARTER SCHOOLS

May 21, 2018

TO: YPI Charter Schools
Board of Directors

FROM: Yvette King-Berg
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve continued membership in the California Charter Schools Association

BACKGROUND

The California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) was established in 2003 as the membership and advocacy organization serving California charter schools. With the Association at the helm, the California charter school movement has continued to grow and improve student achievement. In the 2016-17 school year, 1,254 public charter schools in California served nearly 603,000 students. CCSA's mission is to see one million students attending charter public schools by 2022, with charter public schools outperforming non-charter public schools on every measure. CCSA has five major strategic priorities to advance charter schools: 1) Securing equal funding for charter school students, 2) Securing equal facilities for charter school students, 3) Making sure educators have the freedom they need to innovate and succeed with students, 4) Making sure successful educators have the supports they need to serve more students, and 5) Making sure that charter schools are held to ever-higher standards or lose their license to operate.

ANALYSIS

It would seem logical that as charter schools across the state continue to demonstrate success even twenty-five years after the passage of the original legislation, that acceptance of charter schools as partners in public education would be commonplace. Unfortunately, due to a variety of factors, that is not the case, and CCSA's advocacy efforts are needed more than ever.

After years of maintaining the membership dues at the same level (\$5.00 per student), the Board of Directors of CCSA approved an increase to be phased in over two years: in 2017-2018, membership dues were increased by \$3.00 to \$8.00 per student, and in January 2019, dues will increase an additional \$2.00 per student to \$10. This increases YPICS's cost to \$9,000 and Board approval is required for this action.

The Board is reminded that new threats to the charter movement surface almost daily at every level, with the most significant and serious threats coming from potential State legislation.

Without the work of CCSA, YPICS, and all other California charter schools, would be facing negative media ads, harmful legislative actions, and a hostile environment overall without an avenue to truthfully inform the public about our work. The Board is also reminded that the most serious action that is proposed yearly in the legislature is a moratorium on new charter schools and charter renewals, which would effectively shutter all charter schools in California.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the YPICS Board of Directors approve continued membership in the California Charter Schools Association at a cost of \$10 per student.