

Executive Summary: Charter Petition Renewal

June 10, 2024

Making Waves Academy's current charter term is set to expire on June 30, 2025, this charter was renewed February 2017 for 5 years (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2022). As a result of the pandemic and its impact on the data needed to consider renewals, our term was extended an additional 3 school years. "Under [Assembly Bill 1505](#), passed in 2019, authorizers must consider a charter school's placement in one of three categories [Low, Middle, or High] based on its performance on the [California School Dashboard](#)"¹. **As of March 2024, MWA was officially categorized as a "middle-performing" charter school. A "middle-performing" school may be renewed for up to 5 years unless the authorizer finds a significant deficiency in our program.**

Renewals are a process intended to a) assess the performance of a charter school and b) to make updates to our charter. Below is a summary of the updates and note-worthy changes we made to our petition.

General Updates

- **We updated general language to reflect current practices, accomplishments during our current term, or as required by law.** Our current charter was revised approximately 7 years ago; since then:
 - Our school leadership model has changed significantly to work towards a "one school" model vs. two (middle and upper).
 - We moved to a 1:1 device model for all students.
 - MWA became a part of the EI Dorado SELPA for Special Education purposes and built our own Special Education team
 - We merged our LCAP and WASC goals.

Note-Worthy Changes

- **We amended our expulsion procedures to include an option for the Board to designate an Expulsion Hearing Officer annually.** This will allow for three pathways to conduct an expulsion hearing: 1) a hearing officer, 2) an administrative panel, or 3) the full Board can hear the case. The Board of Directors will still vote to make the final decision but the hearing can be conducted by any of the entities listed above.
- **We removed the MWA sibling preference from our list of enrollment priorities.** We believe it is more equitable for all students who are eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meal ("FRPM") who reside within West Contra Costa Unified School District attendance boundaries to have the same odds of getting in. **The change in the lottery would not occur for two more school years** (two more 5th grade classes along with the 6th-8th grade waiting lists). **The first class of students without the lottery priority will be the 2026-27 school year.**

Changes We Considered but Could Not Make

Re-Enrollment Policy

We wanted to add a re-enrollment policy that would create an opportunity to re-enroll for students who voluntarily transferred out of MWA. In our current charter, the only students who have a pathway to return to MWA outside of the lottery process are those who are expelled. We believe that students who left MWA voluntarily should also have a pathway to return. Upon further consultation with our attorneys, it appears that we are not able to do this in the way that we would like. AB-1360 prohibits public charter schools from having admission requirements for any student (except those expelled).

Prepared by: Elizabeth Martinez, Chief Operating Officer

1. <https://calauthorizers.org/most-california-charter-schools-meet-states-new-performance-levels/>