

June 2023 CalOPS Board Policy Update

California State Board of Education May 2023 Action:

California Charter Schools Association worked for the last few years with WestEd & State Board of Education on verified data for renewals for California Connections Academy & others in the "middle" track of renewal. Below is the list of wins achieved at the May California State Board of Education meeting:

- The SBE made clear that verified data is not required for renewing charter schools in the default renewal ("middle") track.
- Flexibility on participation rates for verified data: An authorizer may consider pandemic or natural disaster impacts on participation and **may waive the 95% participation rate** requirement if there is evidence that selection bias has not occurred.
- Student Groups: Charters will now only have to submit student group data from verified assessments when test publishers produce this data (protecting charters from having to generate reports not available from the test publisher). Authorizers are now directed to consider student subgroup growth compared to similar student group norms, wherever possible.
- More assessments now qualify. The SBE approved 10 new academic progress indicators for inclusion within the approved verified data list, including iReady for high school grades. The CORE Student Growth Percentiles are now explicitly called out as allowable evidence of CAASPP-based growth
- Authorizers will now be directed to consult test publisher guidance on what constitutes one year's growth on their respective assessments: this allows needed flexibility and changed norms over time, due to the pandemic, etc.
- Removed the narrow window that only allowed charters renewing in 2020-21 to present evidence of learning disruptions due to the COVID pandemic or other natural disasters. The charter school may present evidence of pandemic- or natural disaster-related learning disruptions at any time that they resulted in school closures.

California Legislative Action:

Budget:

While the budget deficit has grown to \$32 million, Governor Newsom's May revised budget did not propose K12 education cuts, and the legislature has until June 15, 2023, to propose its budget.

On Monday June 12th, the Senate and Assembly announced that they came to an agreement on a state Budget Proposal and they will be sending it to the Governor for approval. Pertinent information in relation to TK-12 education are:

- 8.22% COLA for LCFF and specified categorical programs including Special Education
- Roughly \$300 million for the LCFF Equity Multiplier
- Most of the originally proposed cuts to block grants have been reduced.

There is confidence that these changes will move quickly and be adopted by July 1. Possibility of a 1 year extension for all charters as well as a 1 year extension to the Non-Classroom Based Moratorium in the education trailer bill.

Bill to extend charter renewal by one year:

[Senate Bill 739](#) which extends the charter renewal period by one year passed out of the California Senate on a vote of 28-0. Next, the bill moves to the Assembly Education Committee. With an Assembly Speaker change – the new Speaker is Robert Rivas who will lead on June 30, 2023 - it is uncertain what committee chairs will survive the transition & the trajectory of this bill. However, the California Charter Schools Assn remains positive for its passage & has cited this bill as its top priority for the 2023 legislative session.

[Senate Bill 426](#) which would have changed “non-classroom-based” education to “flex-based education” failed to pass in the California Senate.