Community School for Creative Education

CSCE Special Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday April 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM PDT

Location

Community School For Creative Education
2111 International Blvd
Oakland CA, 94606

Rudolf Steiner, Motto of Social Ethics, 1920 (at end of first full year of first Waldorf School founded 1919)

The healing social life is found when in the mirror of each human being the whole community finds its reflection, and when in the community the strength of each one is living.

La vida social saludable se encuentra cuando en el espejo de cada ser humano la comunidad entera se encuentra reflejada y en la comunidad vive la virtud de cada uno.

尋找到健康之社交生活, 就是當每個人對著鏡子 能從整個社區的影像中找 到自己的反映, 這樣在社區內每人都能活出精彩。

Heilsam ist nur, wenn Im Spiegel der Menschenseele sich bildet die ganze Gemeinscaft Und in der Gemeinschaft Lebet der Einzel Seele Kraft

Objective and 5 BIG GOALS

CSCE annual objective is reaching 80% proficiency in ELA and Math for all student groups grades 3-8 measured by NWEA MAP.

To achieve this school-wide objective over the next two years,
the CSCE has FIVE BIG GOALS

Goal #1: Develop Waldorf-inspired, Common Core-aligned and equity-focused curriculum;
Goal #2: Test and document Waldorf-inspired, Common Core-aligned practices as measured in student and adult learning outcomes;
Goal #3: Maintain a well-operated school environment in Operations, HR and Budget;
Goal #4: Maintain effective community outreach (including parents, community partners, policy and research community); and
Goal #5: Launch long-term fundraising strategy for scale-up with financial stability

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Agenda

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
I.	**Opening Items**			**6:30 PM**
A.	Record Attendance		Cheryna Wright	1 m
B.	Call the Meeting to Order		Cheryna Wright	1 m
C.	Land Acknowledgment		America Foy	5 m

Land Acknowledgment CSCE
Community School for Creative Education respectfully acknowledges the original peoples of the lands on which this school is built. For thousands of years and hundreds of generations, the Chochenyo people actively stewarded these lands to ensure they provided for all living things. The land on which CSCE was established was, and continues to be, significant to the Muwekma Ohlone tribe. Today, we acknowledge the impact colonization had on the Chechenyo/Muwekma Nation and recognize our responsibility to help them heal from this history and secure a sustainable future.

En Español
Community School for Creative Education reconoce respetuosamente a los pueblos originarios de las tierras donde se construye este campus. Durante miles de años y cientos de generaciones, el pueblo Chochenyo administró activamente estas tierras para garantizar que estas sustentaran a todos los seres vivos. Esta tierra en la que se estableció CSCE fue y sigue siendo importante para la tribu Muwekma Ohlone. Hoy

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
	reconocemos el impacto que tuvo la colonización en la nación Chechenyo/Muwekma y reconocemos nuestra responsabilidad de ayudarlos a recuperarse de esta historia y asegurar un futuro sostenible			
D.	Approve Agenda	Vote	Cheryna Wright	5 m
II.	**Public Comment**			**6:42 PM**
A.	Public Comment	FYI	Davonna James	5 m
	Members of the public may address the Board on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Board, including items on or not on the agenda. Each speaker is limited to three minutes. The Board may not take action on non-agendized items - per the Brown Act			
III.	**Academic Excellence**			**6:47 PM**
A.	Student Attendance Report and Discussion	Discuss	Davonna James	5 m
IV.	**Executive**			**6:52 PM**
A.	A. Finance Committee Report	Discuss	America Foy	5 m
B.	Board Liaison Contract Approval	Vote	Cheryna Wright	10 m
	Vote to approve the contract for Board Liaison with Revonia Thompson.			
V.	**Facility**			**7:07 PM**
A.	A. Facilities Report	FYI	America Foy	5 m
VI.	**Finance**			**7:12 PM**
A.	CSCE Financial Status and Operations Planning	Discuss	Cheryna Wright	5 m
B.	B. ACOE Notice of Violation	Discuss	Davonna James	5 m
VII.	**Other Business**			**7:22 PM**
A.	Spring Festival of Community	FYI	Cheryna Wright	5 m

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
VIII.	**Closed Session**			**7:27 PM**
A.	CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL--EXISTING LITIGATION	Vote	Cheryna Wright	45 m
	CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL--EXISTING LITIGATION (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9) Name of case: (Specify by reference to claimant's name, names of parties, case or claim numbers)			
IX.	**Closing Items**			**8:12 PM**
A.	Adjourn Meeting	Vote		

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice.

REASONABLE LIMITATIONS MAY BE PLACED ON PUBLIC TESTIMONY The Governing Board’s presiding officer reserves the right to impose reasonable time limits on public testimony to ensure that the agenda is completed.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY Pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting of the Governing Board may request assistance by contacting Community School for Creative Education, 2111 International Boulevard, Oakland CA 94606 510 686 4131.

FOR MORE INFORMATION For more information concerning this agenda or for materials relating to this meeting, please contact Community School for Creative Education, 2111 International Blvd., Oakland CA 94606, tel: 510 686 4131; em: info@communityschoolforcreativeeducation.org. For copies of this agenda and for agendas and minutes of prior meetings, visit our website (www.communityschoolforcreativeeducation.org).

Coversheet

B. ACOE Notice of Violation

Section: VI. Finance
Item: B. B. ACOE Notice of Violation
Purpose: Discuss
Submitted by:
Related Material: 2026.04.15-CSCE Notice of Violation.pdf

Alameda County Office of Education

Alysse Castro
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joaquin Rivera
Trustee Area 1

Angela Normand
Trustee Area 2

Ken Berrick
Trustee Area 3

Aisha Knowles
Trustee Area 4

Janevette Cole
Trustee Area 5

Eileen McDonald
Trustee Area 6

Cheryl Cook-Kallio
Trustee Area 7

April 15, 2026

Bill Kappenhagen, Interim Head of School
Cheryna Wright, CSCE Board Chair
DaVonna James, CSCE Vice Chair
America Foy, CSCE Chief Financial Officer
Community School for Creative Education (CSCE)
2111 International Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94606

Re: Notice of Violation Pursuant to California *Education Code* Section 47607(g)

Dear Community School for Creative Education Board of Directors,

The Alameda County Board of Education (ACBOE) has been made aware of a number of violations that, if not resolved immediately by the Community School for Creative Education (CSCE) Board, will directly impact the ability of CSCE to continue operations in 2026-27. The instances of violation are detailed below.

This letter serves as a formal Notice of Violation ("Notice"), pursuant to California Education Code section 47607(g) and California Code of Regulations, Title 5 Section 11968.5.2, and provides a reasonable period in which CSCE must address the concerns identified by ACOE staff. ACBOE voted to approve and issue this Notice at its duly noticed public meeting on April 14, 2026.

ACBOE has the authority to revoke CSCE's charter if it makes written factual findings, which are supported by substantial evidence and specific to CSCE, that CSCE has committed one or more violations of Subdivision (f) of Education Code section 47607. This Notice is the first formal step in that process.

Instances of Violation

The CSCE Board engaged in fiscal mismanagement and failed to meet generally accepted accounting principles (California *Education Code* [*EC*] Section 47607[f][3]).

313 W. Winton Ave.
Hayward, California
94544-1136

(510) 887-0152

www.acoe.org

Following ACOE's site visit in October 2025, CSCE has not adequately addressed several key concerns, including enrollment, ADA, and ADA ratio projections; declining enrollment trends; inconsistency between documents; unexplained fluctuations in salary and expense assumptions; and incomplete cash flow projections with discrepancies in balance sheet item balances. As a result, CSCE's fiscal position has materially worsened.

On March 9, 2026, CSCE submitted to ACOE its Second Interim Financial Report (see attachments) with a "Qualified" certification. A "Qualified" certification is assigned when a Local Education Agency (LEA) may not meet its financial obligations for the current or two subsequent fiscal years. However, ACOE has determined that the charter's financials present a "Negative" certification. A "Negative" certification is assigned when an LEA will be unable to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the current year or for the subsequent fiscal year.

CSCE has failed to meet generally accepted accounting principles and engaged in fiscal mismanagement under *EC* Section 47607(f)(3) by continuing to base its budget and multiyear projections on unrealistic enrollment projections and not implementing timely budget adjustments when those unrealistic projections do not materialize. That fiscal mismanagement has jeopardized the financial stability of the school: CSCE continues to incur substantial deficit spending and increasing debts due to cash deficiencies—and CSCE is projected to be insolvent for fiscal year 2026–27.

Unrealistic Enrollment and Average Daily Attendance Projections

CSCE has a pattern of using unrealistic Enrollment, Unduplicated Pupil Count, and Average Daily Attendance projections which, in addition to inaction and other factors noted below, put CSCE at high risk of insolvency for fiscal year 2026-27. The unreliable and unrealistic nature of CSCE's projections are evidenced by its recent track record of failing to accurately project its continuing decline in enrollment and attendance.

- Enrollment Projections Failed to Account for Enrollment Trajectory: CSCE's enrollment for the 2025-26 school year has continued to decline further than what CSCE projected and is consistent with past projections being higher than actual enrollment.

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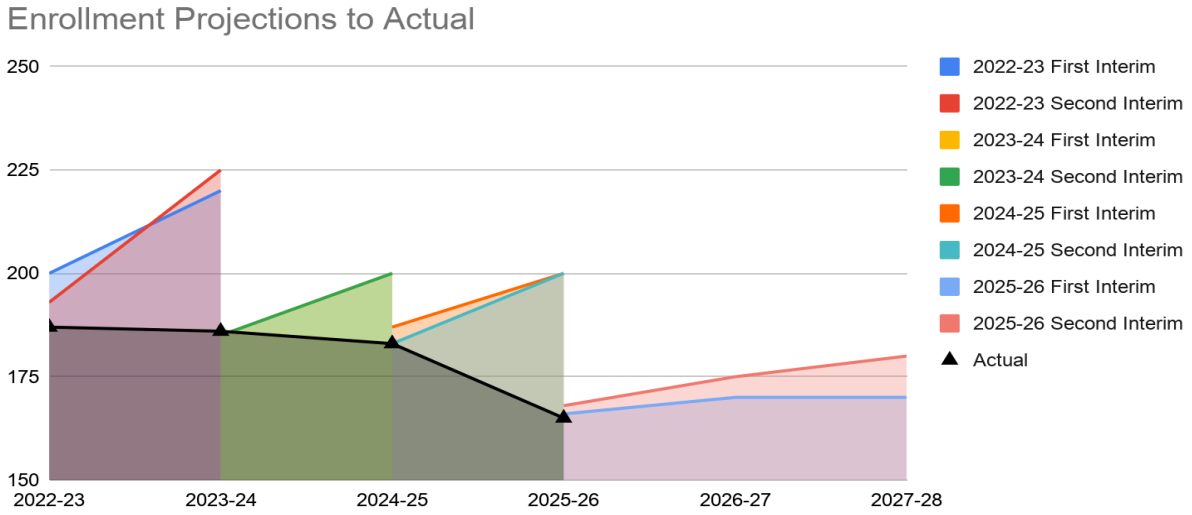
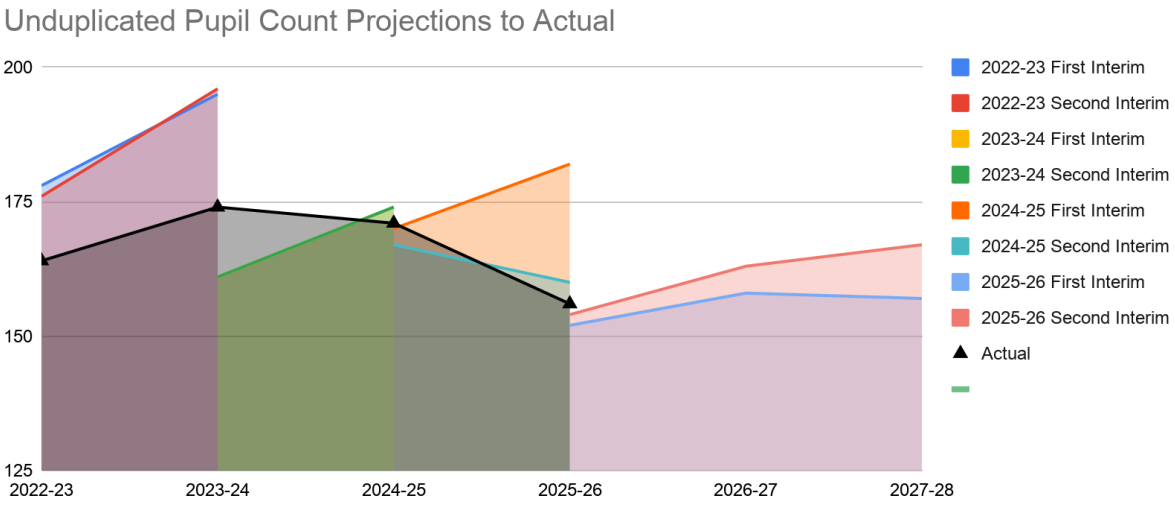
Alameda County Office of Education

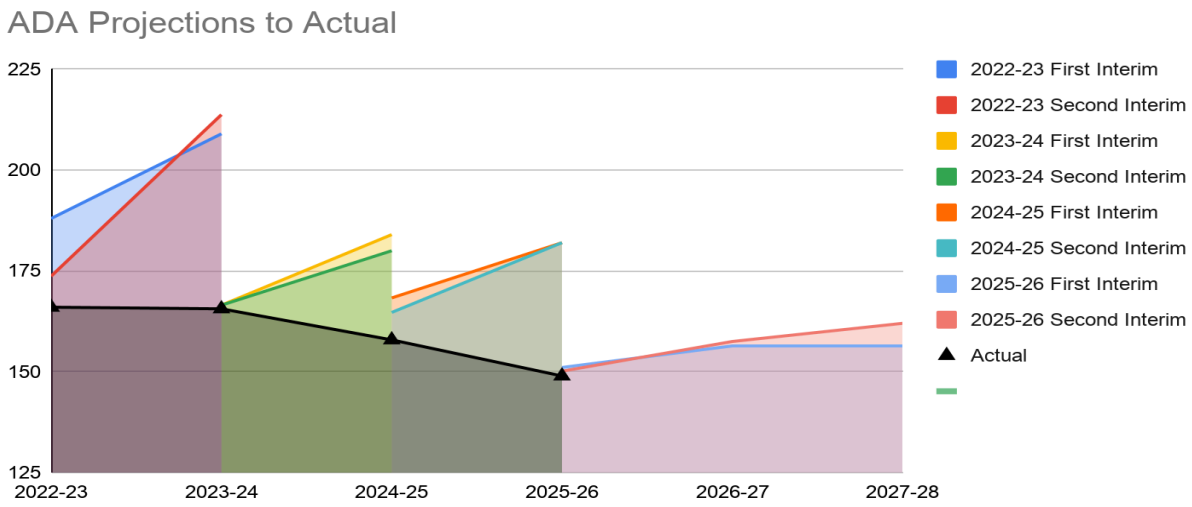


- Inaccurate Unduplicated Pupil Count Projection: CSCE's Unduplicated Pupil Count for 2025/26 has continued to decline further than what CSCE projected and is consistent with past projections being higher than actual Unduplicated Pupil Counts.



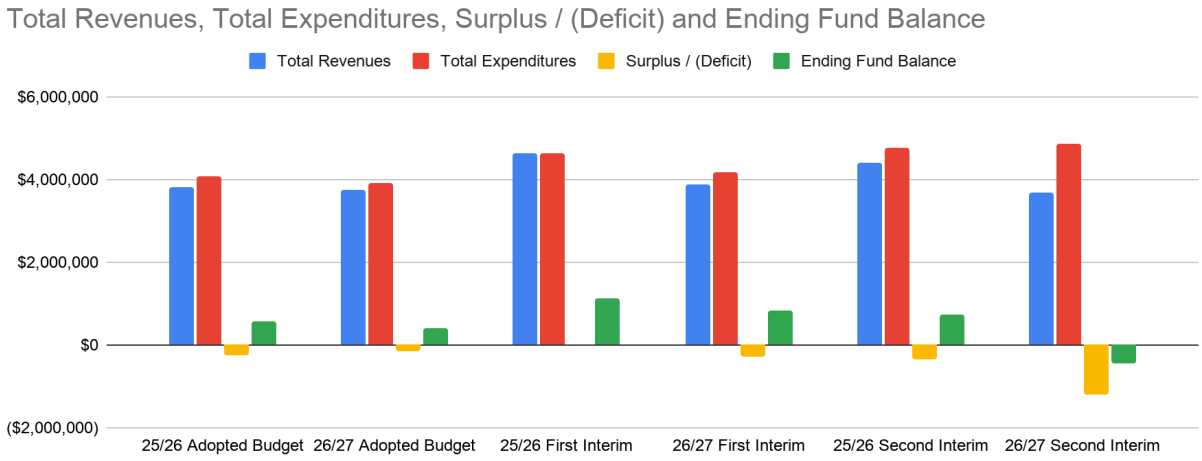
- Average Daily Attendance Projections Failed to Account for Historical Trend: CSCE's Average Daily Attendance to Enrollment ratio has been 88% for the past three years,

but CSCE continues to project between 90%-92% for future years before revising downward when enrollment and attendance do not materialize.



Projected Fiscal Insolvency

Based on a review of CSCE's Second Interim Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025-26, ACOE has determined that CSCE is projected to deplete its reserve funds and carry a negative fund balance of ($447,518) by June 30, 2027. As a result, CSCE is projected to be unable to meet its financial obligations for Fiscal Year 2026-27.



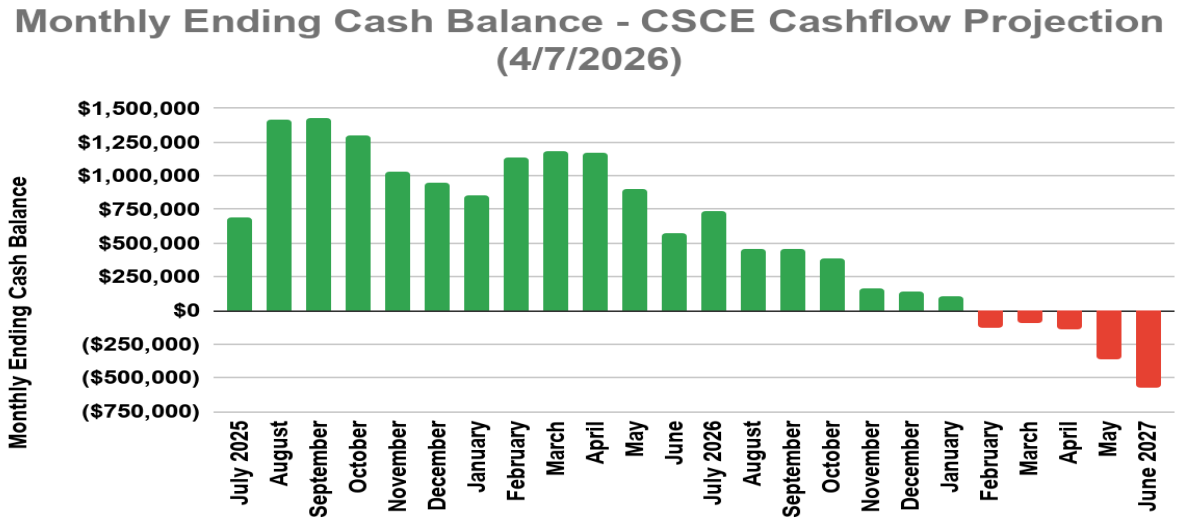
Existing Evidence

- CSCE reflects a structural deficit for 2025/26 and for 2026/27 that has increased since the Adopted Budget in June 2025.
- CSCE's reserves for 2026/27 are projected to be fully depleted reflecting a negative ending fund balance.

Unresolved Concerns

- CSCE appears to be budgeting revenue from unknown sources, as well as revenue for which they appear ineligible. ACOE is awaiting supporting documentation and confirmation. If these funds do not materialize, the deficit will increase and speed up CSCE's insolvency.
- Contrary to generally accepted accounting principles, CSCE continues to reflect an ending fund balance of $163,699.36 in its restricted general fund; the balance has remained unchanged from 2024-25 Unaudited Actuals through the 2025-26 Second Interim Financial Report. Additional details were requested from CSCE at First Interim, however, no response has been provided.

Cash Flow Projections



Existing Evidence

- On March 31, 2026, CSCE submitted a cash flow projection for 2026/27 identifying that it would run out of cash by February 2027.

Unresolved Concerns

- Repeated requests for fiscal information and documentation have been ignored and multiple cash flows have been received from CSCE that continue to reflect incomplete and inaccurate data.

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2024-25 Audit Findings & Restatements

- CSCE was found to be out of compliance with the instructional time requirements in Education Code section 47612.5, resulting in reduced State Aid and EPA. Although a corrective action plan has been implemented, the finding indicates an internal control risk, and given the current period of leadership transition, there remains an increased risk of error.
- Audit Restatement - CSCE's 2025-26 beginning fund balance was reduced by $44,229 due a required correction to accrued rent, further weakening its overall fiscal position.

Any Fiscal Solvency Plan to address this violation must include, at minimum, steps that have or will be implemented (with corresponding deadlines) and evidence of how the plan's strategies will address the concerns raised, without compromising the educational program.

The CSCE Board failed to meet or pursue pupil outcomes identified in the charter (*EC* Section 47607[f][2]).

CSCE has failed to meet its goals and rate targets for chronic absenteeism that are outlined in its renewal petition.

In CSCE's Charter Renewal Petition, CSCE identified the following Expected Annual Outcome for the 2025-26 school year regarding chronic absenteeism: "[f]ewer than 5% of students are chronically absent overall and within each significant subgroup." It also outlined a goal of maintaining a chronic absence rate of 10 percent or less throughout the charter term.

CSCE's chronic absenteeism rate has been at least four times higher than its stated goal of 10 percent since 2024-25, and it remained steadily in the 44-46 percent range from November 2025 through February 2026, including a chronic absenteeism rate of 45.9 percent in February 2026.

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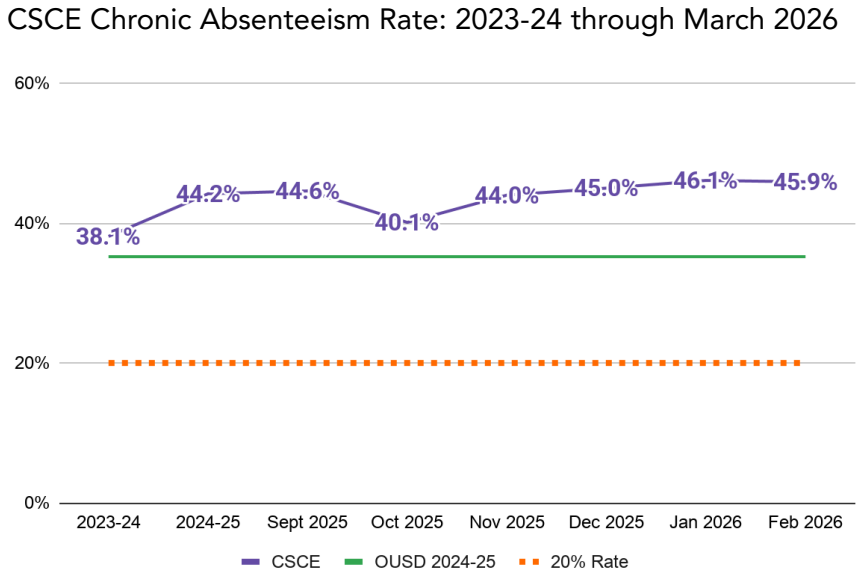

Sources: CSMC Student Data Services, the contractor CSCE uses, provided student absence count reports from CSCE's SIS for the 2024-25 school year and for the first six 20-day periods of 2025-26. ACOE calculated the rates using those reports. For OUSD: DataQuest 2023-24 Chronic Absenteeism Rate

ACOE Staff Calculation of Chronic Absenteeism Rate Targets, per CSCE Criteria									
Student Group	Baseline 2018-19 *Source: 2019 CA Dashboard*	2019-20 *No Data - COVID*	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2021 - 26 Change
All Students	23.2%	*No data*	17.2%	14.2%	11.2%	9.5%	9.0%	8.5%	-14.7%

Source of above table: Charter Renewal Petition for Community School for Creative Education (calculated from improvement criteria detailed on page 57 of Word Document version of petition)

The CSCE Board committed a material violation of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter petition (*EC* Section 47607[f][1]) and violated Education Code section 47605 (EC Section 47607[f][4]).

Despite multiple notices and technical assistance from ACOE staff, CSCE remains out of compliance with the mandatory teacher credentialing requirements of the Education Code and provisions of its own charter incorporating this legal requirement.

Pursuant to Education Code section 47605, teachers in charter schools must hold the Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit, or other document required for the teacher's certificated assignment. CSCE affirmed compliance with this Education Code requirement in its charter petition, confirming that it "shall ensure that the teachers in the Charter School hold the Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit, or other document required for the teacher's certificated assignment."

ACOE staff has been providing notice, intervention, and guidance to support CSCE in complying with this legal requirement for a calendar year. ACOE first formally identified the lack of required teacher credentials in April 2025. At the time, none of the eight total CSCE teachers were properly assigned. Seven months later, in December 2025, ACOE followed up with another formal notice when still none of the eight CSCE teachers were properly assigned. ACOE staff paired these notices with guidance and technical assistance to CSCE regarding the permit application process in monthly meetings from November 2025 through March 2026.

CSCE's follow-up on ACOE's guidance has yielded delayed and limited progress toward ensuring CSCE students are served by teachers with appropriate certifications for their assignment. Even after regular intervention, no teachers were correctly assigned as of January 2026, though five applications for required permits had been filed. As of April 2026, five out of the nine CSCE teachers have obtained short-term staff permits that have resulted in temporary county certifications (i.e., a local assignment option). The remaining four teachers—44 percent of CSCE's teachers—remain misassigned.

Additional Concerns

CSCE has had substantial instability in leadership and governance since 2022-23. There have been five Heads of School/Interims in the last five years (Ida Oberman in 2021-22, Phillip Gedeon in 2022-23, 2023-24, Anayaxy Barraza in 2024-25, and Anatasia Prentiss, Adjoa McDonald and Bill Kappenhagen in 2025-26). On April 8, ACOE staff requested an update on CSCE's leadership and were informed that Bill Kappenhagen is currently the Interim Head of School. As of the date of this letter, no documentation from the CSCE Board of Directors has been received regarding this transition.

Governance
CSCE's Board composition is also highly unstable. One founding CSCE board member still serves on the board and there have been seven new CSCE board members since July of 2025, of whom five remain currently active on the board.

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Remedy Period and Right to Respond to Instances of Violation

Pursuant to Subdivision (g) of Education Code section 47607, ACBOE grants to CSCE a reasonable opportunity to remedy or refute each of the violations identified herein. ACBOE has determined that nine days is a reasonable time period to remedy these violations. Accordingly, the remedy period expires on Friday, April 24, 2026.

Pursuant to 5 *CCR* Section 11968.5.2, the CSCE Board has the right to respond to this communication through the following actions:

> (1) Submit to the ACBOE a detailed, written response addressing each identified violation which shall include the refutation, remedial action taken, or proposed remedial action by the charter school specific to each alleged violation. The written response is due by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 24, 2026.
>
> (2) Attach to its written response supporting evidence of the refutation, remedial action, or proposed remedial action, if any, including written reports, statements, and other appropriate documentation.

If, by the end of the remedy period, CSCE has not successfully remedied the violations identified in this Notice, or refuted them to ACBOE's satisfaction, ACBOE may proceed with revocation of the CSCE charter pursuant to *EC* Section 47607(f).

On May 12, 2026, CSCE will have an opportunity to present its evidence to refute or remedy each alleged violation to the ACBOE. The ACBOE will review the evidence and discuss the items in a public hearing, and will consider whether there is substantial evidence to refute or remedy each alleged violation, at which time it may issue a Notice of Intent to Revoke, pursuant to *EC* Section 47607(h). If the ACBOE issues a Notice of Intent to Revoke, the ACBOE will hold a public hearing on May 26, 2026, at which time the ACBOE will determine whether sufficient evidence exists to revoke CSCE's charter.

A written response and supporting evidence addressing each of the above-outlined issues must be received by the ACBOE by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 24, 2026, via email at juwenl@acoe.org, agarde@acoe.org, and charters@acoe.org.

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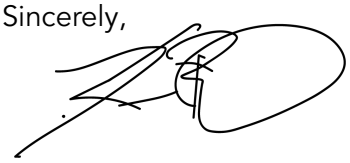
If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Juwen Lam, Chief of Accountability Partnerships, by email at juwenl@acoe.org, or Allan Garde, Associate Superintendent of Business Services, by email at agarde@acoe.org.

Sincerely,



Ken Berrick, President
Alameda County Board of Education

Enclosures

cc: Alysse Castro, Superintendent
Janevette Cole, Board Vice President
Cheryl Cook-Kallio, Trustee
Aisha Knowles, Trustee
Eileen McDonald Trustee
Angela Normand, Trustee
Joaquin Rivera, Trustee
Allan Garde, Associate Superintendent of Business Services
Juwen Lam, Chief of Accountability Partnerships