

REGULAR MEETING  
June 2, 2025  
1:00 p.m.

[X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting



Location: Orange County Department of Education, Boardroom, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
Alternate Location: The Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20036  
YouTube Livestream: [https://youtube.com/live/-XD8\\_NEkwco](https://youtube.com/live/-XD8_NEkwco)

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AGENDA

WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER: For the benefit of the record, this Regular Meeting of the Orange County Board of Education is called to order.

ROLL CALL

(\*) AGENDA

Regular Meeting of June 2, 2025 – Adoption

(\*) MINUTES

Regular Meeting of May 7, 2025 – Approval  
Special Meeting of May 14, 2025 – Approval

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Lynn Milgrim

INVOCATION

Pastor Craig Hill  
Taft Avenue Community Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INTRODUCTIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS (general)

CONSENT CALENDAR

- (\*) 1. Approve the granting of diplomas to the students listed from Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services, Alternative Education Division.
- (\*) 2. Accept the \$25,000.00 donation from SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union in support of the 2025 Academic Pentathlon program and send a letter of appreciation to donor.
- (\*) 3. Approve board date change from Wednesday, April 1, 2026 to **Wednesday, April 8, 2026.**

## CHARTER SCHOOLS

4. Charter submissions
- (\*) 5. Charter School Public Hearing – Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana  
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, will facilitate the public hearing.  
Discussion Format  
Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana  
Santa Ana Unified School District  
Public Comments  
Board Questions
- (\*) 6. Board Action - Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana.
- (\*) 7. Charter School Public Hearing – Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III  
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, will facilitate the public hearing.  
Discussion Format  
Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III  
Public Comments  
Board Questions
- (\*) 8. Board Action – Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III
- (\*) 9. Charter School Public Hearing – College and Career Preparatory Academy material revision.  
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, will facilitate the public hearing.  
Discussion Format  
College and Career Preparatory Academy  
Public Comments (15 min.)  
Board Questions
- (\*) 10. Board Action – College and Career Preparatory Academy Material Revision

## SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

11. Presentation of High School Diploma - Angel, ACCESS/ Area 8 Graduate
12. Santa Ana High School Wrestling Team CIF Championship Recognition



## PRESENTATIONS

- (\*) 13. Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Presentation – Chris Romanosky, Executive Director, Connections and Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, ACCESS, will conduct the presentation regarding the LCAP for the Orange County Department of Education.
- 14. Public Hearing – Chris Romanosky, Executive Director, Connections and Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, ACCESS, will conduct a public hearing regarding the Orange County Department of Education LCAP.
- (\*) 15. Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Presentation – Fatinah Judeh, Principal, will conduct the presentation regarding the LCAP for the College and Career Preparatory Academy.
- 16. Public Hearing – Fatinah Judeh, Principal, will conduct a public hearing regarding the College and Career Preparatory Academy Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).
- (\*) 17. Budget Presentation – David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services will conduct the presentation regarding the Orange County Department of Education budget for 2025-2026 fiscal year.
- 18. Public Hearing – David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services will conduct a public hearing regarding the Orange County Department of Education budget for 2025-2026 fiscal year.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

- (\*) 19. Superintendent's Salary
- (\*) 20. Approve the submission of a 2025 Golden Bell Awards® application for the TUPE CBP by the CSBA's deadline of Friday, June 27, 2025.
- 21. Presentation - Ethnic Studies

## BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

- 22. Board discussion regarding the Proposed Charter Schools MOU. (Valdes)
- (\*) 23. Board action to designate a liaison to the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE). (Williams)
- (\*) 24. Adopt Resolution #17-25, Supporting Access to Speech and Debate Education. (Williams)

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- Board Discussion regarding Irvine International Academy (IIA) - Notice of Concern and other events (Williams)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Superintendent
- Deputy Superintendent

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

### CLOSED SESSION(S) PUBLIC REPORT OUT

### ALTERNATE LOCATION

Trustee Tim Shaw will participate from the alternate location.  
The Mayflower Hotel  
1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036

## ADJOURNMENT



Renee Hendrick  
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education

Next Regular Board Meeting - Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Location - Orange County Department of Education, Boardroom, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
and via YouTube Livestream

Individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations, including agenda or agenda packet materials in alternative formats or auxiliary aids and services, may request assistance by contacting Darou Sisavath, Board Clerk, at (714) 966-4012.

(\*) Printed items are included in materials mailed to Board Members.

MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
May 7, 2025

[X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting



ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES

WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Orange County Board of Education was called to order by President Williams at 4:06 p.m., May 7, 2025, in the Board Room, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube live stream <https://youtube.com/live/WvMlAIMzivQ>.

ROLL CALL

Present:  
Jorge Valdes, Esq.  
Tim Shaw  
Mari Barke  
Ken L. Williams, D.O.  
Lisa Sparks, Ph.D.

AGENDA

Motion by Valdes, seconded by Barke and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the agenda of the Regular meeting of May 7, 2025.

MINUTES

Motion by Barke, seconded by Valdes and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of April 2, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (related to Closed Session) - None

The Board took a recess from 4:08 p.m. to 5:01 p.m. to go into closed session.

CLOSED SESSION 1

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION Orange County Board of Education v. OC Superintendent of Schools, Al Mijares, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond Case No 30-2019-01112665-CU-WM-CJC - Government Code §§ 54956.9(a) and (d)(1)

CLOSED SESSION 2

Government Code Section 54956.8  
Conference regarding real property located at Argosy, 601 S. Lewis Street, Orange, CA 92868.

RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION at 5:01 PM

INVOCATION

Pastor Christina Williams  
Harbor Light Church, Costa Mesa

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sunburst Youth Academy Color Guard Presentation of Flags  
Pledge of Allegiance lead by Chief Warrant Officer Sullivan  
National Anthem

## SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of Certificate to Reagan, National Civics Bee Winner
  2. NOCSELPA Special Recognition “Above and Beyond Award” - Juan Escobar
  3. Fourth District PTA Special Recognition – Jesus Valadez
  4. Special Awards Presentation –Presentation of awards to the 11th Annual Jack R. Hammett Memorial Day Essay and Art Contest participants and winners.
    - The Freedom Committee of Orange County Veterans - Captain Tim Richards, US Army and Scott Williams, First Lieutenant, US Army
    - Analee Kredel, Associate Superintendent, ACCESS & Connections facilitated the presentation and announced the contest winners as follows:
      - Connections Essay Winners
        - Kevin, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
        - Carven, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
        - Nana, 1<sup>st</sup> Place
      - Connections Art Winners
        - Ms. Pulido’s Class, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
        - Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
        - Ariyamaan, 1<sup>st</sup> Place
      - ACCESS Essay Winners
        - Michael, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
        - Lyra, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
        - Rebecca, 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- Rebecca, first place winner, read her essay on “What does Memorial Day mean to you.”
26. Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Sparks absent for the vote) to adopt the Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation. Board Vice President Mari Barke read the proclamation into record. Trustee Sparks departed the meeting before the vote, at approximately 5:42 p.m.

The Board took a recess from 5:46 p.m. to 5:54 p.m.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

- Motion by Barke, seconded by Williams and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Sparks Absent) to approve Consent Calendar items #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, and #12.
5. Adopt Resolution #16-25 to recognize May 26, 2025 as Memorial Day.
  6. Approve the granting of diplomas to the students listed from Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services, Alternative Education Division.

7. Accept the 3rd Quarter Report on Williams Uniform Complaints for Orange County Department of Education ACCESS and Connections for the period of January 1 to March 31, 2025.
8. Adopt the annual updated Orange Department of Education Investment Policy.
9. Accept the donation of a \$1,000 Amazon gift card from Action Angels to support the ACCESS program, and send a letter of appreciation to the donor in recognition of their contribution.
10. Accept donation of \$50,000.00 from SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, on behalf of the Orange County Teachers of the Year program and send a letter of appreciation to donor.
11. Approve board date change from Wednesday, June 4, 2025 to **Monday, June 2, 2025.**
12. Approve a Special board meeting on **Wednesday, May 14, 2025** to conduct inter-district appeal hearings.

#### INTRODUCTIONS

None

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Birgitta
- Captain Wilkerson
- Mercedes
- Judy
- Kenneth
- Cherie
- Michelle
- Tiffany
- Heidi
- Ronna
- Hanna
- Windi
- Suraj
- Abigail
- Patty
- Darren
- Valery

#### CHARTER SCHOOLS

13. Charter submissions - None



14. Charter School Public Hearing – Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III material revision.  
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.  
▪ Kapil Mathur, Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III

PUBLIC COMMENTS (item #14 only)

- Roderick
  - Paul
  - Natalie
  - Dot
  - Jessica
  - Skyler
15. Charter School Public Hearing – College and Career Preparatory Academy material revision.  
Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit, facilitated the public hearing.  
▪ Fatimah Judeh

PUBLIC COMMENTS (item #15 only)

- Chief Warrant Officer Sullivan
- Christine
- Jonathan
- Gianna
- Jose
- Rob
- Alexis
- Heidi
- Ashley
- Laurie
- Duyen
- Neiman

TIME CERTAIN

16. Public Hearing – David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Division of Administrative Services, conducted a public hearing on CSEA’s Initial Proposal to Superintendent. The hearing was opened at 7:42 p.m. There being no input from the audience, the hearing was closed at 7:43 p.m.
17. Public Hearing – David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Division of Administrative Services, will conduct a public hearing on Superintendent’s Initial Proposal to CSEA. The hearing was opened at 7:43 p.m. There being no input from the audience, the hearing was closed at 7:44 p.m.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

18. Motion by Williams, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Sparks Absent) to approve the revised board policy 200-8 regarding Ethics Training.
19. Motion by Barke, seconded by Williams, and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Sparks Absent) to adopt Resolution #15-25 authorizing the exemption of the County of Orange zoning requirements for the reconstruction of the Rancho Sonado site under DSA review.
20. Motion by Barke, seconded by Williams, and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Sparks Absent) to approve the selection of C.W. Driver, LLC to provide Pre-Construction Services, and approve the Pre-Construction Services Agreement with C.W. Driver, LLC for the Rancho Sonado Project.

## BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

21. Motion by Williams, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a vote of 3-1 (Williams, Valdes, and Shaw voted Yes; Barke voted No; Sparks Absent) to approve the position of Executive Liaison to the Orange County Board of Education.
22. Motion by Williams, seconded by Barke, and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Sparks Absent) to approve a new board policy 100-25, Role of the Executive Committee.
23. Board discussion regarding the Proposed Charter Schools MOU.
24. Motion by Barke, seconded by Valdes, and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Sparks Absent) to approve the renewal of the 2025 Sheehy Strategy Group agreement.
25. Motion by Shaw, seconded by Barke, and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Sparks Absent) to adopt the Legislative Platform and Oppose AB 84.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- Salary Increases over \$10,000 in accordance with Education Code 1302 and board policy 100-10
- Charter Schools Update - Post charter schools dashboard on website

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Superintendent

- Love Them All - Angels game on Friday, April 18th
- ACCESS Art Contest - Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE)
- Teachers of the Year surprise visits
  - Erin Bro, San Clemente High School
  - Jeannette Aguilera, Centralia Elementary
  - Megan Lee, Loara Elementary
  - Catherine Reinhardt-Zacair, Fullerton College
  - Darcy Blake, Ladera Vist Jr. High School
  - Tracy Havens, Hicks Canyon Elementary
- 5-3-1 Plan School and Student Safety – Met with key county leaders

- Sheriff Don Barnes, OC Sheriff's Dept.
- Todd Spitzer, OC District Attorney
- Chief Brian Fennessey, OC Fire Authority
- OC Grip event on April 23rd

#### Deputy Superintendent

- Next special board meeting – May 14, 2025 starting at 3:00 p.m.
  - 11 appeals, 8 hearings
- Next regular board meeting – Monday, June 2 starting at 1:00 p.m.

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- Trustee Shaw – Support AB 600, Support SB 64, and traveled to Sacramento for hearing on SB 249

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Trustee Barke – Kids Run the OC and Nova Academy Exit Interviews

#### CLOSED SESSION(S) PUBLIC REPORT OUT

Mr. Brenner reported that for closed session 1, the board had a discussion with legal counsel; no action was taken other than the approval of Epstein, Becker, and Green invoices 1183972, 1193627, and 1196963.

Mr. Rolen, General Counsel, reported that for closed session 2, the board received an update from the real property negotiator; no action was taken.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (continue)

Trustee Barke – shout-out to Allison

#### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded, the May 7, 2025, board meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.



Renee Hendrick  
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education

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Ken L. Williams, D.O.  
President, Board of Education

Next Special Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting – Monday, June 2, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Location - Orange County Department of Education, Boardroom, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube Livestream

Individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations, including agenda or agenda packet materials in alternative formats or auxiliary aids and services, may request assistance by contacting Darou Sisavath, Board Clerk, at (714) 966-4012.

MINUTES  
Special Meeting  
May 14, 2025

[X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting

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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Special Meeting Minutes

WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Orange County Board of Education was called to order by President Williams at 3:09 p.m., May 14, 2025, in the Board Room, 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube live stream <https://youtube.com/live/bdNg-P3IP4Y>.

ROLL CALL

Present:  
Jorge Valdes, Esq.  
Tim Shaw  
Mari Barke  
Ken L. Williams, D.O.  
Lisa Sparks, Ph.D.

AGENDA

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the agenda of the Special meeting of May 14, 2025.

MINUTES

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS (related to Closed Session) – None

The Board took a recess from 3:10 p.m. to 6:17 p.m. to go into closed session.

TIME CERTAIN

1. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #05072025003I - Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District to Fullerton Joint Union High School District

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the appeal and allow the student to attend the Fullerton Joint Union High School District for the period of one academic year (2025-2026).

2. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #05072025006I - Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District to Fullerton Joint Union High School District

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the appeal and allow the student to attend the Fullerton Joint



Union High School District for the period of one academic year (2025-2026).

3. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student # 05072025017I - Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District to Fullerton Joint Union High School District

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the appeal and allow the student to attend the Fullerton Joint Union High School District for the period of one academic year (2025-2026).

The Board took a recess from 4:23 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

4. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #05072025008I - La Habra City School District to Lowell Joint School District

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 4-0 (Barke, Sparks, Valdes, and Williams voted Yes; Shaw Recused) to approve the appeal and allow the student to attend the Lowell Joint School District for the period of one academic year (2025-2026).

5. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #05072025010I - Huntington Beach Union High School District to Newport Mesa Unified School District

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the appeal and allow the student to attend the Newport Mesa Unified School District for the period of one academic year (2025-2026).

6. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Student #05072025011I - Santa Ana Unified School District to Newport Mesa Unified School District

Motion by Sparks, seconded by Barke, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the appeal and allow the student to attend the Newport Mesa Unified School District for the period of one academic year (2025-2026).

7. Inter-district Appeal Hearing (Closed) – Students #05072025012I, #05072025013I, and #05072025014 - Santa Ana Unified School District to Newport Mesa Unified School District

Motion by Barke, seconded by Sparks, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the appeal and allow the students to attend the Newport Mesa Unified School District for the period of one academic year (2025-2026).

#### CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED  
LITIGATION Potential litigation pursuant to (d) (4) of Government Code  
Section 54956.9



RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION at 6:17 PM

CLOSED SESSION(S) PUBLIC REPORT OUT

Mr. Rolen, General Counsel, reported that in closed session, the Board voted 5-0 to direct counsel to reply on behalf of the Board to an appeal by Tustin International Academy before the State Board of Education.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and seconded, the May 14, 2025, special board meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

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Renee Hendrick  
Assistant Secretary, Board of Education

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Ken L. Williams, D.O.  
President, Board of Education

The next Regular Board Meeting will be on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. All meetings will be held onsite at 200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 and via YouTube live stream.

Individuals with disabilities in need of copies of the agenda and/or the agenda packet or auxiliary aides and services may request assistance by contacting Darou Sisavath, Board Clerk, at (714) 966-4012.

June 2, 2025

RA

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDU [X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

DATE: 06/02/25

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Analee Kredel, Associate Superintendent, ACCESS & Connections Division

SUBJECT: Granting of Diplomas

The students listed on the attached pages have been certified for graduation by the Custodian of Records or their designee for the Division of Alternative Education and the Division of Special Education Services of the Orange County Department of Education. These students have met the standards of proficiency in the basic skills prescribed by the governing board in accordance with Education Code 51412. It is requested that the Board approve the granting of diplomas to these students.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve granting of diplomas to the students listed from Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services, Alternative Education Division and the Division of Special Education Services.

AK:rc

Pages 15-16 removed (CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT INFORMATION)

June 2, 2025

[X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting

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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

DATE: June 2, 2025

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent of Operations

FROM: Dr. Sandra Lee, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Donation for the Orange County Academic Pentathlon Program

The Orange County Department of Education and the Academic Pentathlon program are pleased to be the recipient of a \$25,000.00 donation from SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union. These funds were used for the 2025 Academic Pentathlon competitions and award ceremonies for students in grades six through eight.

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RECOMMENDATION: Accept the \$25,000.00 donation from SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union in support of the 2025 Academic Pentathlon program and send a letter of appreciation to donor.

SL:sm

Item: Consent Calendar #3

June 2, 2025

☒ Mailed ☐ Distributed at meeting

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

DATE: June 2, 2025

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Darou Sisavath, Board Recording Clerk

SUBJECT: Board meeting date change

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RECOMMENDATION:

Approve board date change from Wednesday, April 1, 2026 to Wednesday, April 8, 2026.



**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF  
EDUCATION  
BOARD AGENDA**

Item: Charter Schools #5

June 2, 2025

[X] Mailed      [ ] Distributed at meeting

**DATE:** June 2, 2025

**TO:** Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

**FROM:** Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing – Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana Appeal Charter Petition

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**DESCRIPTION:**

On February 25, 2025, Compass Charter Schools, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, submitted an appeal to operate Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana within the boundaries of the Santa Ana Unified School District following denial by the Santa Ana Unified School District governing board. The charter school proposes to operate a non-classroom-based program serving students in transitional kindergarten through grade eight for an initial charter term from 2025 through 2030.

The Orange County Board of Education held a public hearing on April 2, 2025, to consider the level of support for the charter school.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Under California Education Code section 47605, on June 2, 2025, the Orange County Board of Education will hold a public hearing to grant or deny the Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana charter petition. At the public hearing, petitioners shall have equal time and opportunity to present evidence and testimony responsive to the Orange County Department of Education staff recommendations and findings published on May 16, 2025.



# MEMO

## ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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May 16, 2025

**To:** Members, Orange County Board of Education

**From:** Orange County Department of Education Charter Schools Unit

**Re:** Staff Report Findings of Fact and Recommendations for Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana

### I. INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) staff's review of the Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana Charter Petition ("Petition") to establish a charter school, submitted on appeal following a denial by the governing board of the Santa Ana Unified School District. This report focuses on the most significant issues identified during the review. Commendations or suggestions for improvement are not included, as the review process is intended to identify deficiencies.

Based on information gathered throughout the review process, including a clarification meeting held with the petitioner Elizabeth Brenner and other school representatives on April 29, 2025, OCDE staff recommends denial of the Petition.

### II. BACKGROUND

#### A. COMPASS-SANTA ANA

On February 25, 2025, petitioner Elizabeth Brenner, Superintendent and CEO of Compass Charter Schools ("Petitioner"), submitted a charter petition to the Orange County Board of Education ("Board"). The Petition appealed the January 28, 2025, Santa Ana Unified School District ("SAUSD") Board denial of its request for Compass Charter Schools, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation and Charter Management Organization ("CMO"), to operate Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana ("Compass-Santa Ana"), a non-classroom based charter school, within the district's boundaries. The Petition asserts that Compass-Santa Ana qualifies as a "continuing charter school."

On April 2, 2025, pursuant to Education Code section 47605(b), the Board held a public hearing on the provisions of the charter and to consider the level of support for the Petition by teachers employed by the school district, other employees of the school district, and parents.

The Board must take action to grant or deny the Petition within ninety (90) days of receipt unless extended by mutual agreement for up to 30 additional days. The Petitioner agreed to a nine-day extension to align with the Board’s regular meeting schedule. Action is scheduled for the June 2, 2025, regular meeting. In accordance with Education Code section 47605(b), this staff report, and its recommendations will be published at least 15 days before the public hearing, on May 16, 2025.

## **B. COMPASS-SAN DIEGO**

Compass Charter Schools operates Compass–San Diego, which was initially authorized in 2012 by the Mountain Empire Unified School District (MEUSD). According to the SAUSD’s Staff Report dated January 13, 2025, the Petitioner initially requested approval from SAUSD for Compass-San Diego to continue operating a resource center located in Santa Ana (the “Santa Ana Resource Center”) prior to the renewal of Compass-San Diego’s charter with MEUSD on February 14, 2024. On July 17, 2024, SAUSD denied the request to include the Santa Ana Resource Center in Compass–San Diego’s charter renewal petition to MEUSD.

As a result, the petitioner now seeks to establish a “Continuing Charter School,” named Compass-Santa Ana, based on the Santa Ana Resource Center. Although the Petitioner refers to the Santa Ana Resource Center as the “Orange County Learning Center” or “OCLC,” this report will use the term “Santa Ana Resource Center” for clarity. Accordingly, evaluation of the Compass–Santa Ana petition requires consideration of the Compass–San Diego charter, as discussed in the analysis that follows.

## **III. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

### **A. CONTINUING CHARTER SCHOOL**

Education Code sections 47653 and 47654 were enacted, in part, to clarify the definition of “continuing charter schools” following geographic restrictions introduced by AB 1505 and AB 1507. Section 4765 defines a “continuing charter school” as an “affected charter school,” meaning one that has been, or is proposed to be, affected by actions required to comply with:

1. **Subparagraph (A) of paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of Section 47605,**
2. **Subparagraph (A) of paragraph (5) of subdivision (c) of Section 47605.1,**
3. **Subdivision (c) of Section 47605.9, or**
4. **Subdivision (b) of Section 47612.7.**

Each provision is discussed in more detail below:



Education Code	
47605(a)(5)(A)	<p>A charter school that established one site outside the boundaries of the school district, but within the county in which that school district is located before January 1, 2020, may continue to operate that site until the charter school submits a request for the renewal of its charter petition. To continue operating the site, the charter school shall do either of the following:</p> <p>(i) First, before submitting the request for the renewal of the charter petition, obtain approval in writing from the school district where the site is operating.</p> <p>(ii) Submit a request for the renewal of the charter petition pursuant to Section 47607 to the school district in which the charter school is located.</p>
47605.1(c)(5)(A)	<p>A charter school that was operating a resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility outside the jurisdiction of the school district where the charter school is physically located before January 1, 2020, may continue to operate the resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility until the charter school submits a request for the renewal of its charter petition. To continue operating the resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility, the charter school, before submitting the request to the charter school's chartering authority for the renewal of the charter petition, shall first obtain approval in writing from the school district where the resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility is operating.</p>
47605.9(c)	<p>A charter school operating under a charter approved by the state board pursuant to Section 47605.8, as that section read on January 1, 2019, may continue to operate under the authority of that chartering authority only until the date on which the charter is up for renewal. The charter school shall submit a petition for renewal to the state board. If the state board grants renewal pursuant to Section 47607, the state board shall designate, in consultation with the petitioner, the governing board of the school district or county board of education in which the charter school is located as the chartering authority. A charter school assigned to a county board of education under this subdivision shall qualify as a charter school pursuant to Section 47605.6. Subsequent renewals shall be subject to the same requirements as other charter schools authorized by the same chartering</p>

	authorities, including review by the state board in accordance with Section 47607 and paragraph (2) of subdivision (k) of Section 47605.
47612.7(b)	<p>Subdivision (a) shall not apply to a nonclassroom-based charter school that was granted approval of its Petition and providing educational services to pupils before October 1, 2019, under either of the following circumstances:</p> <p>(1) If Assembly Bill 1507 of the 2019-20 Regular Session amends Section 47605.1 and becomes operative on January 1, 2020, and the charter school is required to submit a petition to the governing board of a school district or county board of education in an adjacent county in which its existing resource center is located in order to comply with Section 47605.1, as amended by Assembly Bill 1507 of the 2019-20 Regular Session, or to retain current program offerings or enrollment.</p> <p>(2) If a charter school is required to submit a petition to a school district or county board of education in which a resource center is located in order to comply with the court decision in <i>Anderson Union High School District v. Shasta Secondary Home School</i> (2016) 4 Cal.App.5th 262, or other relevant court ruling, and the Petition is necessary to retain current program offerings or enrollment.</p>

Education Code section 47654(c) further defines “Continuing Charter School” as a charter school that the California Department of Education (“CDE”) has deemed to meet the requirements of Education Code section 47653. Pursuant to Education Code section 47653, the charter school must notify CDE by May 15 of the fiscal year preceding the year in which it seeks continuing status. This notification must be submitted in a format prescribed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (“State Superintendent”). Additionally, the State Superintendent may require supporting documentation, such as attendance records or other relevant materials, to verify that instruction was provided at the site and that the school meets the eligibility requirements. Consequently, a charter school becomes a “Continuing Charter School” when it is affected by an action under Education Code sections 47605(a)(5)(A), 47605.1(c)(5)(A), 47605.9(c), or 47612.7(b), and the CDE confirms it meets the standards outlined in Section 47653.

## **B. APPEAL OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT’S DENIAL OF A CHARTER PETITION**

Education Code section 47605(k)(1)(A)(i) states: “If the governing board of a school district denies a petition, the petitioner may elect to submit the petition for the establishment of a charter school to the county board of education.” The county board of education shall review the Petition according to Education Code sections 47605(b) and (c). However, if the Petition submitted on



appeal contains new or different material terms, the county board of education shall immediately remand the Petition to the governing board of the school district for reconsideration, which shall grant or deny the Petition within 30 days. Should the Board approve the Petition, the Board would become the charter authorizer for the Charter School. Should the Board deny the Petition, the petitioner may appeal that denial to the state board within 30 days of the denial.

**C. CRITERIA FOR CHARTER AUTHORIZER TO CONSIDER WHEN GRANTING OR DENYING PETITION**

Under Education Code section 47605(c), the Board shall not deny a petition for the establishment of a charter school unless it makes written factual findings, specific to the particular Petition, setting forth specific facts to support one or more of the following:

1. Charter school presents an unsound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school.
2. The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the Petition.
3. The Petition does not contain the number of signatures required by subdivision (e).
4. The Petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions described in subdivision (e).
5. The Petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the required elements under Education Code section 47605.
6. The Petition does not contain a declaration of whether or not the school shall be deemed the exclusive employer of the employees of the charter school for purposes of the Educational Employment Relations Act Chapter 10.7 (commencing with Section 3540) of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code.
7. The charter school is demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school is proposing to locate.
8. The school district is not positioned to absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school.

If a school district's denial is based on fiscal impact pursuant to Education Code section 47605(c)(8), the Board shall also review the school district's related findings.

#### IV. ANALYSIS

The following analysis applies the relevant statutory provisions of the Education Code to the specific facts and circumstances set forth in the charter school petition.

##### A. CONTINUING CHARTER SCHOOL DEFINED

The Compass-Santa Ana Charter Petition submitted first to SAUSD and then to the Board, is titled a “Continuing Charter Petition.”

As outlined in Education Code section 47654, a petitioning school must demonstrate that it is affected by one of the statutory actions described in sections 47605(a)(5)(A), 47605.1(c)(5)(A), 47605.9(c), or 47612.7(b) to qualify as a “continuing charter school.”

However, two of the four statutory provisions do not apply to Compass-Santa Ana:

1. Education Code section 47605(a)(5)(A) does not apply as it pertains to charter school sites that are located *outside* the boundaries of the authorizing school district but *within the same county* as that district, before January 1, 2020. Compass-San Diego was authorized by Mountain Empire Unified School District, which is located in San Diego County, while the proposed Compass-Santa Ana site is in Orange County.
2. Education Code section 47605.9(c) does not apply because Compass-San Diego was not authorized by the *State Board of Education* pursuant to Education Code section 47605.8, as it was in effect on January 1, 2019.

Therefore, in order for Compass-Santa Ana to qualify as a continuing charter school, it must be a result of an action under either Education Code section 47605.1(c)(5)(A) or 47612.7(b).

This position is consistent with the Petitioner’s letter accompanying the appeal to the Board, regarding, “Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana Charter Petition Appeal to the Orange County Board of Education,” (“Petitioner’s February 25, 2025 Letter”), which states:

Following changes in law due to Assembly Bills 1505 and 1507 (2019), we recognize that OCLC cannot continue as a resource center for Compass-SD beyond June 30, 2025, when Compass-SD’s new charter term will begin. To this point, *Sections 47612.7(b) and 47605.1(c)(5)(B)* each allow for existing resource centers that may be deemed noncompliant to Petition as continuing charter schools and become legally compliant, so long as the resource center was operating under an approved charter school, that began serving students before October 1, 2019 and the resource center was serving students before the law changed. (Emphasis added.)

As a result, consistent with Compass-Santa Ana’s position, the Analysis in this Staff Report will focus on whether Compass-Santa Ana may qualify as a continuing charter school under either Education Code section 47605.1(c)(5) or Education Code section 47612.7(b).

Education Code	Approval Process
<p><b>47605.1(c)(5)(A):</b> A charter school that was operating a resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility outside the jurisdiction of the school district where the charter school is physically located before January 1, 2020, may continue to operate the resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility until the charter school submits a request for the renewal of its charter petition.</p>	<p>To continue operating the resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility, the charter school, before submitting the request to the charter school’s chartering authority for the renewal of the charter petition, shall first <b>obtain approval in writing from the school district where the resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility is operating.</b></p>
<p><b>47612.7(b):</b> Subdivision (a) shall not apply to a nonclassroom-based charter school that was granted approval of its Petition and providing educational services to pupils before October 1, 2019, under either of the following circumstances:</p> <p>(1) If Assembly Bill 1507 of the 2019-20 Regular Session amends Section 47605.1 and becomes operative on January 1, 2020, and the charter school is required to submit a petition to the governing board of a school district or county board of education in an adjacent county in which its existing resource center is located in order to comply with Section 47605.1, as amended by Assembly Bill 1507 of the 2019-20 Regular Session, or to retain current program offerings or enrollment.</p> <p>(2) If a charter school is required to submit a petition to a school district or county board of education in which a resource center is located in order to comply with</p>	<p><b>47612.7(a):</b> Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided in subdivision (b), from January 1, 2020, to January 1, 2026, inclusive, the approval of a petition for the establishment of a new charter school, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of section 47612.5, is prohibited.</p> <p>Consequently, should Compass Santa Ana qualify for an exception under Education Code section 47612.7(b), it may submit <b>a petition for the establishment of a new charter school.</b></p>



the court decision in Anderson Union High School District v. Shasta Secondary Home School (2016) 4 Cal.App.5th 262, or other relevant court ruling, and the Petition is necessary to retain current program offerings or enrollment.	
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**B. COMPASS-SANTA ANA IS NOT A “CONTINUING CHARTER SCHOOL”  
UNDER EDUCATION CODE SECTION 47605.1(c)(5)**

Under Education Code section 47605.1(c)(5)(A), a charter school that was operating a resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility outside the jurisdiction of the school district where the charter school is physically located before January 1, 2020, may continue to operate the resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility until the charter school submits a request for the renewal of its charter petition.

The Compass-Santa Ana Petition indicates that the resource center located in Santa Ana, which Compass-Santa Ana refers to as the Orange County Learning Center (“OCLC”), (“Santa Ana Resource Center”) was operated by Compass-San Diego until Compass-San Diego was required to submit a request to renew its charter in 2024.

Education Code section 47605.1(c)(5)(A) further provides:

To continue operating the resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility, the charter school, before submitting the request to the charter school’s chartering authority for the renewal of the charter petition, shall first obtain approval in writing from the school district where the resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility is operating.

Education Code section 47605(c)(5)(B) states that the California Department of Education shall regard as a continuing charter school for all purposes a nonclassroom-based charter school that was granted approval of its Petition, that was providing educational services to pupils before October 1, 2019, and is authorized by a different chartering authority due to changes to this subdivision by the addition of this paragraph that took effect January 1, 2020.

According to the Santa Ana Unified School District’s Staff Report dated January 13, 2025, the petitioner requested approval to continue operating the Santa Ana Resource Center from Santa Ana Unified School District on February 14, 2024. However, on July 17, 2024, Santa Ana Unified School District denied Compass-San Diego’s request to include the resource center in its charter renewal petition to Mountain Empire Unified School District (“MEUSD”).

Education Code section 47605.1(c)(5)(A) expressly provides that, for a charter school to continue operating a resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility outside its authorizing district's boundaries, the school must obtain written approval from the school district where the facility is located **before** submitting its renewal petition. There is no appeal process if the school district denies approval. Because SAUSD denied Compass-San Diego's request for written approval, there is no further legal path for Compass-San Diego to continue operating the Santa Ana Resource Center under section 47605.1(c)(5)(A). Without SAUSD's written approval, Compass-Santa Ana cannot qualify as a "continuing charter school" under section 47605.1(c)(5)(B), which is contingent upon compliance with subparagraph (A) of that provision.

**C. COMPASS-SANTA ANA IS NOT A "CONTINUING CHARTER SCHOOL"  
UNDER EDUCATION CODE SECTION 47612.7(b)**

Education Code section 47612.7(a), enacted by Assembly Bill (AB) 1505, prohibits a chartering authority from approving a petition for the establishment of new non-classroom based charter schools from January 1, 2020, to January 1, 2026. This prohibition is subject to only two exceptions set out in section 47612.7(b)(1) and 47612.7(b)(2). To qualify under either exception, Compass-Santa Ana must first demonstrate that the Compass-San Diego charter meets the criteria specified in section 47612.7(b): A nonclassroom-based charter school that was granted approval of its Petition and providing educational services to pupils before October 1, 2019.

Compass-Santa Ana submitted the Petition on February 25, 2025, certifying it as complete. Relevant to the statutory exception in Education Code section 47612.7(b), the Petition provides the following information:

1. Page 5 of the Petition: The Petition is submitted "for a California public charter school to be named Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana ('CCS,' 'Compass,' or the 'Charter School'), to be operated by Compass Charter Schools (the 'Corporation')[.]"
2. Page 8 of the Petition: Compass Charter Schools of San Diego ("CCS-SD") was founded and initially authorized in 2012.
3. Page 8 of the Petition: CCS opened the Orange County Learning Center ('OCLC') in 2017 within the geographical boundaries of the Santa Ana Unified School District.
4. Page 68 of the Petition: "CCS of Santa Ana will be operated by Compass Charter Schools, a California Nonprofit Benefit Corporation... Compass Charter School currently operates and governs three charter schools: Compass Charter Schools of Los Angeles, which is authorized by the governing board of the Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School

District; Compass Charter Schools of San Diego which is authorized by the governing board of the Mountain Empire Unified School District; and Compass Charter Schools of Yolo, which is authorized by the governing board of Winters Joint Unified School District. Compass Charter Schools operates as a single nonprofit corporation, as described herein. The Board may also operate and govern additional charter schools.”

The Petition states that “CCS,” which according to Page 5 of the Petition, refers to Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana opened the Santa Ana Resource Center in 2017. Although the reference to Compass-Santa Ana rather than Compass-San Diego appears to be a mistake, the operation of a resource center is not sufficient to qualify for an exception under Education Code section 47612.7(b).

In support of its Petition, on March 14, 2025, petitioner provided copies of annual lease agreements for a Santa Ana Resource Center spanning from 2017 to present. All of these lease agreements, including the lease agreement in effect in 2017, were signed by a representative of Compass Charter Schools, the nonprofit corporation that operates and governs multiple charter schools. Compass Charter Schools currently operates three charter schools, two of which are located in counties adjacent to Orange County: Compass Charter Schools of Los Angeles, which opened on July 1, 2016, and Compass-San Diego, which opened on August 15, 2012. The lease agreements do not identify which of these charter schools was operating at the Santa Ana Resource Center or providing educational services there.

In Petitioner’s February 25, 2025 Letter, Petitioner made two claims related to compliance with the exemption under Education Code section 47612.7(b):

- 1. In 2017, long before I joined Compass Charter Schools as Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent in 2023, Mountain Empire Unified School District (“MEUSD”) granted the charter petition to establish Compass-SD, the charter for which included reference to the school’s use of a Learning Center. This Learning Center was OCLC, and we now Petition for OCLC to become Compass-SA.*
- 2. Pursuant to the notification requirement outlined in Education Code Section 47604.4(b), and prior to OCLC’s operation, Compass Charter Schools sent a letter to the Orange County Department of Education alerting them that OCLC would be opening and would serve as a resource center for Compass-SD pursuant to Education Code Section 47605.1(c). Compass Charter Schools sent a copy of this notification letter to MEUSD.*



We address both of petitioner's claims as follows:

First, in response to petitioner's claim that, in 2017, MEUSD approved Compass-San Diego's charter petition which included reference to the school's use of a "Learning Center," and that the referenced "Learning Center" was the Santa Ana Resource Center, we reviewed Compass-San Diego's Charter Renewal for the 2017–2022 term ("Compass-San Diego 2017 Charter Renewal"), which was provided by the Petitioner on May 2, 2025 in support of the Petition.

The Compass-San Diego 2017 Charter Renewal indicates that it was submitted to MEUSD on October 5, 2016. Because the Compass-San Diego 2017 Charter Renewal was submitted in 2016, any references to a "Learning Center" could not pertain to the Santa Ana resource center because Compass-San Diego claims to have opened the Orange County site in 2017.

The Compass-San Diego 2017 Charter Renewal references "Learning Center" three times:

1. *"Learning Coach Lounges are held weekly, either virtually through our web-based virtual software, or in-person at our Learning Center."* (Page 23 of Compass-San Diego 2017 Charter Renewal).
2. *Scholars complete their course work for their biology and chemistry courses as they do the rest of their classes. However, for the wet lab portion of the course they attend our realtime hands on labs. These labs are taught at our San Diego Learning Center.* (Page 30 of Compass-San Diego 2017 Charter Renewal). (Emphasis Added)
3. *CCS administers all state standardized tests at the Learning Center, as well as at other sites geographically placed among our scholars' locations.* (Page 37 of Compass-San Diego 2017 Charter Renewal).

Each of these references is either general or specifically tied to the San Diego Learning Center. There is no mention of a Santa Ana, Orange County, or adjacent county site. Consequently, the Compass-San Diego 2017 Charter Renewal does not support petitioner's claim that Compass-San Diego's charter included a Santa Ana Resource Center for purposes of qualifying for an exception under Education Code section 47612.7(b).

Moreover, in regards to additional facilities or resource center locations in the future, page 10 of the Compass-San Diego 2017 Charter Renewal states:

As an independent study program, CCS requires limited facilities to operate its program. At this time, CCS does not anticipate requiring additional facilities or resource center locations. **Should CCS wish to add, change, or remove resource center locations in the future, it will enter into and/or revise a separately-executed memorandum of understanding**

**with Mountain Empire Unified School District, which shall state that such changes require notice to Mountain Empire Unified School District and no material revision of the CCS charter.** All administrative services for CCS shall be conducted at the CCS Central Office, which is located at 850 Hampshire, Suite P, Thousand Oaks, California 91361.

This provision confirms that as of 2016, Compass-San Diego did not plan to establish additional resource centers and that any future expansion would require formal notice to, and a separate memorandum of understanding with, MEUSD. In response to a public records request submitted to MEUSD seeking all documents between MEUSD and Compass-San Diego and/or Compass Charter Schools regarding facilities operated by or affiliated with Compass-San Diego, MEUSD's response did not include any records responsive to the request.

Second, in response to petitioner's claim that Compass-San Diego complied with Education Code section 47604.4(b) by providing notice to the Orange County Superintendent of Schools, prior to operation of the Santa Ana Resource Center, and provided the same notice to MEUSD, we note the following:

1. Petitioner provided a copy of the notice referenced in Petitioner's February 25, 2025 letter. The document, dated September 7, 2017, is titled "Notice Pursuant to Education Code Section 47604.4(b)" and is addressed to the Orange County Superintendent of Schools. A carbon copy (CC) line indicates that the notice was also sent to "Dr. Kathy Granger, Superintendent of Mountain Empire Unified School District." There is no indication that a copy of the letter was also sent to the Governing Board of the MEUSD.
2. Compliance with Education Code section 47604.4(b) does not demonstrate satisfaction with the criteria required for an exception under Education Code section 47612.7(b). These are distinct statutory provisions that serve different purposes. Education Code section 47604.4(b) requires advance notice regarding the operation of facilities within the county, consistent with the county superintendent's authority to monitor and investigate charter school operations. In contrast, section 47612.7(b) sets specific eligibility criteria for establishing new nonclassroom-based charter schools, including demonstrated approval and operation before October 1, 2019.
3. To the extent that petitioner relies on compliance with Education Code section 47604.4(b) to support its broader claims, the significance and reliability of the notice is undermined by conflicting information and procedural gaps:
  - a. **July 1, 2017:** In an email dated May 2, 2025, petitioner stated that Compass-San Diego began providing educational services to students at:



- i. 902 South Broadway, Santa Ana beginning July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2023, and
- ii. 600 North Main street from August 16, 2023 to present.
- b. **August 15, 2017:** The first lease agreement for 902 South Broadway, Santa Ana, provided by the petitioner, was signed by Compass Charter Schools on July 18, 2017, and became effective on August 15, 2017.
- c. **September 7, 2017:** Date of the letter providing notice to the Orange County Superintendent of Schools of Compass-San Diego's intent to operate a resource center within Orange County, located at 902 South Broadway Street in Santa Ana.

Moreover, the September 7, 2017, Notice under Education Code section 47604.4(b) was not produced by MEUSD in response to a records requests for all documents regarding facilities operated by or affiliated with Compass-San Diego.

Even assuming the then-Superintendent of MEUSD received a copy of this notice, it does not satisfy the obligation detailed in the Compass-San Diego's 2017 Charter Renewal that was approved by MEUSD, which expressly required that any addition, change, or removal of a resource center location be authorized through a separately executed memorandum of understanding (MOU) with MEUSD. Absent such an agreement, Compass-San Diego would have been required to follow the statutory procedures for adding additional sites as provided under Education Code sections 47605 and 47605.1, as those provisions existed in 2017.

### **Material Revision**

At the time Compass-San Diego claims it began operating the Santa Ana Resource Center in 2017, prior to the enactment of Assembly Bill (AB) 1505 and AB 1507, the Charter Schools Act included the following provisions:

1. Education Code section 47605(a)(4) (2017 Version):

*"After receiving approval of its Petition, a charter school that proposes to establish operations at one or more **additional sites shall request a material revision** to its charter and **shall notify the authority that granted its charter of those additional locations**. The authority that granted its charter shall consider whether to approve those additional locations at **an open, public meeting**. If the additional locations are approved, they shall be a material revision to the charter school's charter."* (Emphasis added)

2. Education Code section 47605.1(c) (2017 Version):

*"Notwithstanding any other law, a charter school may establish a resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility located in a county adjacent to that in which the*

*charter school is authorized if the following conditions are met: (1) The facility is used exclusively for the educational support of pupils who are enrolled in nonclassroom-based independent study of the charter school; and (2) The charter school provides its primary educational services in, and a majority of the pupils it serves are residents of, the county in which the charter school is authorized.”*

Additionally, on January 18, 2017, the California Supreme Court denied the Petition for review of the Third District Court of Appeal’s decision in *Anderson Union High School District v. Shasta Secondary Home School* (2016) 4 Cal.App.5th 262 (“*Anderson*”). Consequently, the decision in *Anderson* became binding law throughout California as of that date.

In *Anderson*, the Court of Appeals determined that that the geographic and site limitations set forth in the Charter Schools Act apply to all charter schools, including “nonclassroom-based” programs. In reaching this conclusion, the court analyzed whether the term “site” as used in Education Code section 47605(a) includes a resource center, the court explained:

*The term “schoolsite” has a particular meaning, as set forth in section 47612.5, subdivision (e)(3), requiring principal use for classroom instruction. There is no statutory or other specific legal definition for “site” so we use the plain dictionary meaning. A site is the “place where a structure or group of structures was, is, or is to be located,” or the “place where something stands.” “Site” speaks to location, while “schoolsite” speaks to use. The Legislature appropriately used the term “site” when addressing the geographic restrictions on charter schools. A resource center is a facility (see section 47605.1, subd. (c)) and thus has a location or site. (Internal citations omitted).*

Applying *Anderson* to Compass-San Diego, the Santa Ana Resource Center constitutes a “site” for purposes of Education Code section 47605(a). As such, any plan to establish operations at Santa Ana Resource Center after the approval of the original charter required a material revision. This legal requirement was clearly established as of January 18, 2017.

In an email dated March 21, 2025, petitioner stated that Compass-San Diego was authorized by Mountain Empire Unified School District (MEUSD) to operate the Santa Ana Resource Center pursuant to a material revision approved on September 12, 2017. In support, the petitioner submitted unofficial minutes from MEUSD’s Board meeting held on September 12, 2017, which state: “*Material Revision to the Charter for Compass Charter Schools – Approved as a consent item.*” However, the minutes do not provide any detail regarding the nature or content of the material revision, and there is no indication that the revision specifically pertained to the approval of the Santa Ana Resource Center or any other facility operated by Compass–San Diego.

In response to a public records request, MEUSD provided a copy of the agenda and minutes of the September 12, 2017 MEUSD Board Meeting:

1. Agenda Item 9.01 states: *“Material Revision to the Charter for Compass Charter Schools.”*
2. Official Minutes states:
  - a. Under Financial & Business: *“Material Revision to the Charter for Compass Charter Schools – Approved as a consent item.”*
  - b. Under Reports: *“Compass Charter Schools: As part of their continued engagement in outreach projects, Compass Charter School staff and students have adopted a middle school severely impacted by the recent hurricane in Texas. Giving back to community through community service continues to be a vital part of their core objectives for Compass Scholars.”*

When asked to provide a copy of the Petition for material revision that was approved by MEUSD on September 12, 2017, Petitioner provided Compass-San Diego’s 2017 Renewal Charter.

MEUSD was subsequently asked to provide a copy of the full board packet for the September 12, 2017, board meeting; however, to date, no responsive documents have been provided. Instead, MEUSD provided a copy of the Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter Renewal Petition for the 2017-2022 term (“Academy of Arts and Sciences’ 2017 Charter Renewal”).

The Academy of Arts and Sciences’ 2017 Charter Renewal is identical to Compass-San Diego’s 2017 Charter Renewal except that the name, “Academy of Arts and Sciences” was changed to “Compass Charter Schools.” MEUSD approved the Academy of Arts and Sciences’ 2017 Charter Renewal on December 13, 2016. Given that the Compass-San Diego 2017 Charter Renewal is identical, it appears that the material revision that was approved on September 12, 2017, related only to the name change and not the addition of a new resource center.

Given that there were no changes to the original charter renewal, the references to “learning centers” and “San Diego Learning Center,” cannot be recharacterized to include the Santa Ana Resource Center. Education Code section 47605(a)(4) (2017 version), required a charter school seeking to establish operations at additional sites to notify its authorizing agency of the additional locations. In the absence of any changes showing that the Santa Ana Resource Center was identified and evaluated in connection with the September 12, 2017 action, the petitioner has not shown that MEUSD approved Compass-San Diego to establish the Santa Ana Resource Center.



### **Timeline**

The following timeline outlines key events related to Compass-San Diego's operation of the Santa Ana Resource Center, including the dates of charter petition submissions, facility leases, notices to public agencies, and changes in facility locations. It also highlights the legal context established by the *Anderson* decision, which clarified that resource centers operated by nonclassroom-based charter schools are "sites" subject the requirement to seek a material revision at an open and public meeting.

1. **October 5, 2016:** Academy of Arts & Sciences (former name of Compass Charter Schools) submitted a Renewal Petition for the 2017-2022 Term.
2. **December 13, 2016:** MEUSD approved the Academy of Arts and Sciences San Diego Charter Renewal. The Charter Renewal explicitly referenced a San Diego Learning Center and indicated to "*add, change, or remove resource center locations in the future, it will enter into and/or revise a separately-executed memorandum of understanding with Mountain Empire Unified School District, which shall state that such changes require notice to Mountain Empire Unified School District and no material revision of the CCS charter.*"
3. **January 18, 2017:** The California Supreme Court denied review in *Anderson Union High School District v. Shasta Secondary Home School* (2016) 4 Cal.App.5th 262 ("*Anderson*"), thereby rendering the Court of Appeal's decision binding law in California. In *Anderson*, the Court of Appeal held that the geographic and site limitations in the Charter Schools Act apply to all charter schools, including nonclassroom-based programs, and concluded that a resource center constitutes a "site" under Education Code section 47605(a), thus **requiring a material revision to the charter to add a resource center that is determined at an open, public meeting.**
4. **February 8, 2017:** The Restated Articles of Incorporation, filed with the Secretary of State on February 8, 2017, indicates that the organization changed its name to Compass Charter Schools.
5. **July 1, 2017:** Petitioner stated that Compass-San Diego began providing educational services to students at 902 South Broadway, Santa Ana.
6. **August 15, 2017:** The first lease agreement for 902 South Broadway, Santa Ana, provided by the petitioner, was signed by Compass Charter Schools on July 18, 2017, and became effective on August 15, 2017.
7. **September 7, 2017:** On September 7, 2017, Compass sent a letter to the Orange County Superintendent of Schools, providing notice pursuant to Education Code section

47604.4(b), that it *will* operate a resource center at 902 South Broadway Street in Santa Ana. This notice was provided *after* the petitioner claims to have begun providing educational services at the site on July 1, 2017, and after the effective date of the lease.

8. **September 12, 2017:** Petitioner claimed MEUSD approved a material revision authorizing Compass-San Diego to operate the Santa Ana Resource Center. However, it appears from the documents provided that the material revision was for a name change from “Academy of Arts and Sciences” to “Compass Charter Schools.”
9. **June 30, 2023:** Compass-San Diego ceased to provide education services at facilities located at 902 South Broadway.
10. **August 16, 2023:** On August 16, 2023, Compass Charter Schools signed a lease with the Church of Santa Ana for facilities located at 600 N. Main Street, Santa Ana, CA, which became effective on the same date. Petitioner also indicated that educational services also began on August 16, 2023. Compass Charter Schools did not provide notice to the Orange County Superintendent regarding a change to its resource center from 902 Broadway to 600 N. Main Street, Santa Ana location.

The timeline reveals a pattern of procedural deficiencies and inconsistent documentation that call into question petitioner’s assertion that it qualifies for an exemption under Education Code section 47612.7(b). Specifically, the record shows that Compass-San Diego began operating the Santa Ana Resource Center prior to providing the required notice under Education Code section 47604.4(b), without executing the memorandum of understanding written in its own charter for the addition of a new resource center, and without seeking the required material revision.

Accordingly, in the absence of an approved petition that includes a Santa Ana or Orange County resource center, Compass-San Diego cannot meet the conditions necessary to qualify for the exception under either Education Code section 47612.7(b)(1) or Education Code section 47612.7(b)(2), and therefore cannot be considered a continuing charter school.

### **Unapproved Operation of Resource Center Does Not Qualify for Statutory Exception**

Although petitioner contends that Education Code section 47612.7(b) allow for existing resource centers that may be deemed noncompliant to Petition as continuing charter schools and become legally compliant, so long as the resource center was operating under an approved charter school, that began serving students before October 1, 2019, this interpretation is inconsistent with both the text and intent of the statute.

The exception under Education Code section 47612.7(b) allows charter schools that that were lawfully operating under prior law and need to align with the changes introduced by AB 1507. The exception was enacted in the context of broader reforms under AB 1505 and AB 1507, which



amended Education Code section 47605.1 to restrict the ability of charter schools to operate resource centers outside their authorizing district. The purpose of the exception is to provide a pathway for lawfully operating nonclassroom-based charter schools with existing, authorized resource centers in adjacent counties to continue operating despite the new geographic limitations brought on by AB 1507. It was not intended to offer retroactive approval or a compliance cure for schools that were never in legal compliance when the resource center began operating. Notably, Education Code section 47612.7(b)(1) states that the exception applies “*if Assembly Bill 1507 of the 2019–20 Regular Session amends Section 47605.1 and the charter school is required to submit a petition to a school district or county board of education in an adjacent county in which its resource center is located in order to comply with Section 47605.1, as amended.*” This language provides a pathway for schools that were in compliance prior to AB 1507 to adjust to the amended law. It does not apply to schools that established and operated resource centers outside their authorizing district without the required approvals before the statutory amendments took effect.

Interpreting the exception in Education Code section 47612.7(b) to apply to the unapproved operation of a resource center would contravene the statute’s requirements. Under such an interpretation, any charter school approved prior to October 1, 2019, could later operate resource centers in adjacent counties without approval and then claim eligibility for the exception during the moratorium period. This interpretation would circumvent the statutory requirements and defeat the underlying purpose of the moratorium. The legislative history of AB 1507 indicates that it was designed to close loopholes that allowed charter schools to operate resource centers beyond their authorizing districts’ jurisdiction without proper oversight. According to Assembly Member Christy Smith, the Author of AB 1507: “This bill eliminates loopholes in current law which allow charter schools to operate outside of their authorizing district. This bill restores the right of individual districts to have oversight of schools located within their boundaries. In my tenure as a school board member, neighboring school districts abused this loophole and authorization privilege, and families were impacted because of this. The bill clarifies the jurisdictional sovereignty of the duly elected school boards and their role in charter authorization.”

Consequently, because Compass-San Diego never received approval to operate the Santa Ana Resource Center prior to October 1, 2019, Compass-Santa Ana does not meet the criteria for the exception under Education Code section 47612.7(b). As a result, the Petition must be evaluated under statutory moratorium, and it cannot rely on the exception provided in subdivision (b).

#### **D. PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Because the petitioner has not demonstrated eligibility under any of the exceptions enumerated in Education Code section 47612.7(b), the Petition must be treated as a request to establish a new nonclassroom-based charter school. Education Code section 47612.7(a), enacted through Assembly Bill 1505, imposes a moratorium on the approval of such petitions between January 1, 2020, and January 1, 2026, unless a valid exception applies.

As detailed above, Compass-Santa Ana does not meet the criteria for either exception. Accordingly, approval of the Petition would directly violate the statutory moratorium and could expose the Board to legal and procedural challenges for acting beyond its authority under state law.

#### **E. CRITERIA UNDER EDUCATION CODE SECTION 47605(c)**

Although Compass-Santa Ana's Petition is prohibited under the moratorium imposed by Education Code section 47612.7, for the sake of completeness, an analysis is provided under Education Code section 47605, which governs the approval criteria for new charter petitions. This analysis should not be construed as a concession that Compass-Santa Ana's Petition is legally permissible, either as a new nonclassroom-based charter school or as a "continuing charter school." Rather, it is intended to demonstrate that, even assuming the moratorium were inapplicable or an exception were to apply, the Petition nonetheless fails to meet the legal standards for approval set forth in section 47605.

##### **1. PETITIONERS ARE DEMONSTRABLY UNLIKELY TO SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM SET FORTH IN THE PETITION.**

According to an audit report for the year ended June 30, 2018, by Christy White Associates, Compass Charter Schools was formed as a nonprofit public benefit corporation on October 28, 2011, under the name Academy of Arts & Science. In its application for exemption as a 501(c)(3) corporation from 2013, Sean McManus was listed as the CEO, Secretary, and Executive Director of the Charter School. The Restated Articles of Incorporation, filed with the Secretary of State on February 8, 2017, indicates that the organization changed its name to Compass Charter Schools.

Sean McManus, later co-founded and operated the A3 Charter Schools network with Jason Schrock. They played a central role in orchestrating a massive fraud scheme involving 19 charter schools across California in which they funneled millions in fraudulently obtained state education funds through private companies they controlled, exposing critical flaws in California's charter school oversight and funding systems.

Although there is no direct connection between A3 and Compass Charter School, the historical involvement of former CEO Sean McManus raises questions about the leadership structure and financial oversight at Compass Charter School:

- a. According to an Audit Report, Compass Charter Schools paid EdHiye approximately \$858,505 for business services during the 2017-18 school year. EdHive was owned and operated by Steve Van Zant, the Superintendent of Mountain Empire Unified School District when Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter Schools was initially authorized. Mr. Van Zant was charged with a felony conflict of interest and pled guilty.



- b. According to a IRS Form 990 for Compass Charter Schools, Compass Charter Schools paid Jefferey Macias approximately \$900,000 for tutoring services during the 2019-20 school year. Mr. Macias created a satellite location in Tijuana, Mexico, which he called “American Homeschool” and later rebranded the name to “American Learning Center.”

During the clarification meeting, petitioner confirmed that Mr. Macias previously served as a vendor for Compass Charter Schools. Mr. Macias operated a learning center for multilingual students and referred families to Compass Charter Schools. However, petitioner was unable to confirm whether Mr. Macias possessed any teaching credentials. Petitioner further stated that Mr. Macias later attempted to reengage with Compass Charter Schools as a vendor, but his request was denied because his services were located “out of county,” specifically, in Mexico.

Moreover, Compass Charter Schools has sought to expand operations by merging with other schools but have been denied by other charter authorizers:

- a. In 2019, the Monterey County Board of Education ultimately chose to revoke Millennium Charter High School’s charter rather than approve its proposed merger with Compass Charter Schools. Millennium was nearly \$200,000 in debt and had been cited for fiscal mismanagement.
- b. In 2019, the Berkeley Unified School District denied a merger between REALM Charter School and Compass Charter School and then revoked REALM’s charter due to financial concerns.

Lastly, Compass Charter Schools has opened/operated twelve (12) different charter schools under various names, but have either closed or consolidated them down to three (3) charter schools:

- a. Compass Charter School of Los Angeles, authorized by Acton-Agua Dulce Unified;
- b. Compass Charter School of San Diego, authorized by Mountain Empire Unified School District; and
- c. Compass Charter School of YOLO, authorized by Winters Joint Unified.

The pattern of school closures and consolidations raises concerns regarding Compass Charter Schools capacity to sustain multiple programs effectively over time.

## **2. THE PETITION DOES NOT CONTAIN THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED BY SUBDIVISION (A).**

Under Education Code section 47605(a), a petition for the establishment of a charter school may be submitted to the governing board of the school district for review after either of the following conditions is met: (1) The Petition is signed by a number of parents or legal guardians of pupils that is equivalent to at least one-half of the number of pupils that the charter school estimates will

enroll in the charter school for its first year of operation, or, (2) the Petition is signed by a number of teachers that is equivalent to at least one-half of the number of teachers that the charter school estimates will be employed at the charter school during its first year of operation. Moreover, the proposed charter must be attached to the Petition.

The Petition does not include an estimate of the number of students that will be enrolled in the Charter School for its first year of operation, or the number of teachers that the charter school estimates will be employed at the charter school during its first year of operation. However, on OCDE's Charter School Petition Intake Information Form, the petitioner asserted that the proposed grade span for its first year is Transitional-Kindergarten (TK) to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and estimated a total of 190 students in year 1. As a result, petitioner is required to include at least 95 signatures of parents or legal guardians meaningfully interested in having their child attend the charter school.

Compass-Santa Ana submitted zero (0) signatures. Consequently, the Petition does not contain the required signatures for an initial charter petition pursuant to Education Code section 47605(c)(3).

### **3. THE PETITION DOES NOT CONTAIN REASONABLY COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE REQUIRED ELEMENTS UNDER EDUCATION CODE SECTION 47605(C).**

Education Code Section 47605(c)(5)(C) states that a charter petition must include, "The method by which pupil progress in meeting those pupil outcomes is to be measured. To the extent practicable, the method for measuring pupil outcomes for state priorities shall be consistent with the way information is reported on a school accountability report card." The Petition does not contain a plan for collecting, analyzing, utilizing, and reporting student performance on the measurable outcomes to staff, students, parents, and guardians to monitor and improve the school's educational program.

Moreover, the Petition did not include the required administration of a statewide assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities (California Alternate Assessment), as described in Education Code section 47605(d)(1).

The Petition does not contain a comprehensive description of how the charter school will achieve a balance of racial and ethnic pupils, special education pupils, and English learner pupils, as described in Education Code section 47605(c)(5)(G). This is a key component of the Petition as it fosters a commitment to ensuring that the population of the charter school reflects the surrounding community. Currently, the Santa Ana Resource Center has 0 English learners, whereas the Santa Ana Unified School District serves 41% English learners.

The Petition does not include required language in the school's student discipline policy addressing students who voluntarily disclose their use of a tobacco product in order to seek help

through services or supports, and the fact that they shall not be suspended solely for that disclosure.

The Petition inaccurately identifies the county of San Diego as the intended region for student services, and designates the Santa Ana Unified School District as the authorizing entity for Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana.

The Petition states that the charter school will serve students in transitional kindergarten (TK) through twelfth grade and includes narratives outlining an educational program for grades nine through twelve, despite the Santa Ana Resource Center only serving grades TK through eight.

## **V. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION**

After reviewing Compass-Santa Ana's Petition, OCDE have identified the following findings that may serve as a basis for denial:

### **1. Compass-Santa Ana does not qualify as a "Continuing Charter School"**

Compass-Santa Ana does not qualify as a continuing charter school under Education Code sections 47653 and 47654.

### **2. Violation of Statutory Moratorium**

Compass-Santa Ana's Petition seeks to establish a new nonclassroom-based charter school, which is prohibited under the moratorium in Education Code section 47612.7. Compass-Santa Ana does not qualify for an exception under Education Code section 47612.7(b), because there is no evidence that the Compass-San Diego's charter was ever approved to open or operate a resource center located in Orange County.

Moreover, the Petition does not satisfy the approval criteria set forth in Education Code section 47605 for new charter schools. Specifically, the Petition:

### **3. The Petition does not contain the number of signatures required by Education Code section 47605(a).**

Compass-Santa Ana submitted zero (0) signatures.

### **4. The Petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the required elements under education code section 47605(c).**

Compass-Santa Ana's Petition lacks comprehensive descriptions of key components, including how student outcomes will be measured, services for students with disabilities, and plans to reflect community demographics. It also includes factual errors regarding the geographic location and scope of services.



## **V. CONCLUSION**

The Board has three options for action regarding a charter petition on appeal:

- Option One: Approve the charter petition as written.
- Option Two: Approve the charter petition with conditions. This action would result in the charter petition being approved and require the execution of an Agreement to address the findings outlined in the Staff Report.
- Option Three: Deny the charter petition.

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**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF  
BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

Item: Charter Schools #6  
June 2, 2025  
[X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting

24

**DATE:** June 2, 2025  
**TO:** Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent  
**FROM:** Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit  
**SUBJECT:** Board Action – Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana Appeal Charter Petition

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**DESCRIPTION:**

On February 25, 2025, Compass Charter Schools, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, submitted an appeal to operate Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana after denial by the Santa Ana Unified School District governing board. The charter school proposes to operate a non-classroom-based program serving students in transitional kindergarten through grade eight for an initial charter term from 2025 through 2030. Per California Education Code, the Orange County Board of Education held public hearings on April 2, 2025, and June 2, 2025.

The Orange County Board of Education has three options for action regarding a charter school petition:

- Option One: Approve the charter petition as written.
- Option Two: Approve the charter petition with conditions. This action would result in approval of the charter petition and require the execution of an Agreement to address the findings delineated in the staff report published on May 16, 2025, as well as any additional concerns raised by the Board, and establish appropriate timelines for the petitioners to meet the conditions as specified.
- Option Three: Deny the charter petition.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on information gathered throughout the review process, including a clarification meeting held with the petitioner Elizabeth Brenner and other school representatives on April 29, 2025, Orange County Department of Education staff recommends denial of the Petition.

**RESOLUTION AND WRITTEN FINDINGS  
OF THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TO APPROVE THE PETITION FOR A CHARTER SCHOOL  
FOR COMPASS CHARTER SCHOOLS OF SANTA ANA**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Schools Act of 1992, set forth in Education Code section 47600 et seq. (the “Act”), provides for the establishment and operation of publicly funded charter schools that operate independently from the existing school district structures in the State of California; and

**WHEREAS**, Education Code section 47605(k) provides that if the governing board of a school district denies a petition for a charter school, a petitioner may elect to submit the petition to the county board of education on appeal;

**WHEREAS**, on January 28, 2025, the Governing Board of the Santa Ana Unified School District denied the Charter Petition for Establishment of the Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana (“Petition”) to operate as an independent charter school within the boundaries of Santa Ana Unified School District; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 25, 2025, pursuant to California Education Code section 47605 and California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 11967, following denial by Santa Ana Unified School District, Compass Charter Schools, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, (“Petitioner”) submitted the Petition and supporting documents for the establishment of Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana (“Charter School”) to the Orange County Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County Board of Education (“Board”) is required to review the petition on appeal pursuant to Education Code § 47605(b) and (c); and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Education Code section 47505(c), when reviewing charter school petitions, the Board is guided by the intent of the Legislature that charter schools are and should become an integral part of the California educational system, and that establishment of charter schools should be encouraged; and

**WHEREAS**, following review of the Petition and a public hearing, the Board may approve a petition if it is satisfied that granting the petition is consistent with sound educational practice and with the interests of the community in which the school is proposing to locate. In making its determination, the Board shall consider the academic needs of the pupils the school proposes to serve. The Board may deny a petition only if it makes written factual findings that the Petition does not meet the standards and criteria described in Education Code Section 47605(c); and

**WHEREAS**, on April 2, 2025, pursuant to Education Code section 47605(b), the Board held a public hearing on the Petition to consider the level of support for the petition by teachers employed by the school district, other employees of the school district, and parents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County Department of Education (“OCDE”) staff has reviewed and analyzed all information received with respect to the Charter and information related to the operation and potential effects of the proposed Charter School, including information shared during a clarification meeting on April 29, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, on May 16, 2025, in accordance with Education Code section 47605(b), the Board published a Staff Report, with recommended findings, prepared by members of the OCDE staff;

**WHEREAS**, on June 2, 2025, the Board, at its regular meeting held a public hearing, at which the Petitioners had equivalent time and procedures to present evidence and testimony to respond to the staff recommendations and findings, to grant or deny the petition; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board has obtained, reviewed, and analyzed all information received with respect to the petition, including information related to the operation and potential impacts of the proposed charter school.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby approves the Petition for a charter school for Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board approves the standard Agreement with the understanding that Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana will enter into said Agreement that addresses the operational relationship between the School, the Board and OCDE no later than the Board’s regularly scheduled meeting in July, 2025. Should the Petitioner and Board fail to reach agreement by the regularly scheduled meeting in July, 2025, the Board reserves the right to take further action, including but not limited to revoking its approval of the charter. The terms of this Resolution are severable.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA   )  
COUNTY OF ORANGE   )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

I, Jorge Valdes, Esq., Clerk of the Orange County Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly passed, approved and adopted by the Orange County Board of Education at a regular meeting thereof held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2024, and that it was so adopted by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NOES: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Orange County Board of Education

Resolution #



**RESOLUTION AND WRITTEN FINDINGS  
OF THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TO APPROVE WITH CONDITONS  
THE PETITION FOR A CHARTER SCHOOL  
FOR COMPASS CHARTER SCHOOLS OF SANTA ANA**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Schools Act of 1992, set forth in Education Code section 47600 et seq. (the “Act”), provides for the establishment and operation of publicly funded charter schools that operate independently from the existing school district structures in the State of California; and

**WHEREAS**, Education Code section 47605(k) provides that if the governing board of a school district denies a petition for a charter school, a petitioner may elect to submit the petition to the county board of education on appeal;

**WHEREAS**, on January 28, 2025, the Governing Board of the Santa Ana Unified School District denied the Charter Petition for Establishment of the Compass Charter School of Santa Ana (“Petition”) to operate as an independent charter school within the boundaries of Santa Ana Unified School District; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 25, 2025, pursuant to California Education Code section 47605 and California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 11967, following denial by Santa Ana Unified School District, Compass Charter Schools, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, (“Petitioner”) submitted the Petition and supporting documents for the establishment of Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana (“Charter School”) to the Orange County Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County Board of Education (“Board”) is required to review the petition on appeal pursuant to Education Code § 47605(b) and (c); and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Education Code section 47505(c), when reviewing charter school petitions, the Board is guided by the intent of the Legislature that charter schools are and should become an integral part of the California educational system, and that establishment of charter schools should be encouraged; and

**WHEREAS**, following review of the Petition and a public hearing, the Board may approve a petition if it is satisfied that granting the petition is consistent with sound educational practice and with the interests of the community in which the school is proposing to locate. In making its determination, the Board shall consider the academic needs of the pupils the school proposes to serve. The Board may deny a petition only if it

makes written factual findings that the Petition does not meet the standards and criteria described in Education Code Section 47605(c); and

**WHEREAS**, on April 4, 2025, pursuant to Education Code section 47605(b), the Board held a public hearing on the Petition to consider the level of support for the petition by teachers employed by the school district, other employees of the school district, and parents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County Department of Education (“OCDE”) staff has reviewed and analyzed all information received with respect to the Charter and information related to the operation and potential effects of the proposed Charter School, including information shared during a clarification meeting on April 29, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, on May 16, 2025, in accordance with Education Code section 47605(b), the Board published a Staff Report, with recommended findings, prepared by members of the OCDE staff;

**WHEREAS**, on June 2, 2025, the Board, at its regular meeting held a public hearing, at which the Petitioners had equivalent time and procedures to present evidence and testimony to respond to the staff recommendations and findings, to grant or deny the petition; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board has obtained, reviewed, and analyzed all information received with respect to the petition, including information related to the operation and potential impacts of the proposed charter school.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby adopts the findings and recommendations set forth in the attached Staff Report and Findings of Fact dated May 16, 2025, which is attached hereto and integrated herein by this reference.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board approves with conditions the Petition subject to conditions to address the findings as specified and adopted in the Staff Report and Findings of Fact.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that to satisfy the conditions, Petitioner and the Board must fully execute an Agreement that addresses all of the findings, as well as the operational relationship between the School, the Board, and OCDE, no later than the Board’s regularly scheduled meeting in July, 2025. Should the Petitioner and Board fail to reach agreement by the regularly scheduled meeting in July, 2025, the Board reserves the right to take further action, including but not limited to revoking its approval of the charter.

The terms of this Resolution are severable. Should it be determined that one or more of the findings is invalid, the remaining findings and the board action shall remain in full force and effect. Each finding is, in and of itself, a sufficient basis for the conditional approval.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA   )  
COUNTY OF ORANGE   )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

I, Jorge Valdes, Esq., Clerk of the Orange County Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly passed, approved and adopted by the Orange County Board of Education at a regular meeting thereof held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2025, and that it was so adopted by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NOES: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Orange County Board of Education

Resolution #

**RESOLUTION AND WRITTEN FINDINGS  
OF THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION TO  
DENY THE PETITION FOR A CHARTER SCHOOL  
FOR COMPASS CHARTER SCHOOLS OF SANTA ANA**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Schools Act of 1992, set forth in Education Code section 47600 et seq. (the “Act”), provides for the establishment and operation of publicly funded charter schools that operate independently from the existing school district structures in the State of California; and

**WHEREAS**, Education Code section 47605(k) provides that if the governing board of a school district denies a petition for a charter school, a petitioner may elect to submit the petition to the county board of education on appeal;

**WHEREAS**, on January 28, 2025, the Governing Board of the Santa Ana Unified School District denied the Charter Petition for Establishment of the Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana (“Petition”) to operate as an independent charter school within the boundaries of Santa Ana Unified School District; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 25, 2025, pursuant to California Education Code section 47605 and California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 11967, following denial by Santa Ana Unified School District, Compass Charter Schools, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, (“Petitioner”) submitted the Petition and supporting documents for the establishment of Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana (“Charter School”) to the Orange County Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County Board of Education (“Board”) is required to review the petition on appeal pursuant to Education Code § 47605(b) and (c); and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Education Code section 47505(c), when reviewing charter school petitions, the Board is guided by the intent of the Legislature that charter schools are and should become an integral part of the California educational system, and that establishment of charter schools should be encouraged; and

**WHEREAS**, following review of the Petition and a public hearing, the Board may approve a petition if it is satisfied that granting the petition is consistent with sound educational practice and with the interests of the community in which the school is proposing to locate. In making its determination, the Board shall consider the academic needs of the pupils the school proposes to serve. The Board may deny a petition only if it



makes written factual findings that the Petition does not meet the standards and criteria described in Education Code Section 47605(c); and

**WHEREAS**, on April 2, 2025, pursuant to Education Code section 47605(b), the Board held a public hearing on the Petition to consider the level of support for the petition by teachers employed by the school district, other employees of the school district, and parents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County Department of Education (“OCDE”) staff has reviewed and analyzed all information received with respect to the Charter and information related to the operation and potential effects of the proposed Charter School, including information shared during a clarification meeting on April 29, 2025.

**WHEREAS**, on May 16, 2025, in accordance with Education Code section 47605(b), the Board published a Staff Report, with recommended findings, prepared by members of the OCDE staff;

**WHEREAS**, on June 2, 2025, the Board, at its regular meeting held a public hearing, at which the Petitioners had equivalent time and procedures to present evidence and testimony to respond to the staff recommendations and findings, to grant or deny the petition; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board has obtained, reviewed, and analyzed all information received with respect to the petition, including information related to the operation and potential impacts of the proposed charter school.

**WHEREAS**, the Board specifically notes that this Resolution does not include findings relative to every defect in the Petition, but is limited to the most significant issues, which as set forth in the Staff Report and Findings of Fact are legally sufficient to support the Board’s denial of the charter petition.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board hereby adopts the findings and recommendations set forth in the attached Staff Report and Findings of Fact dated May 16, 2025, which is attached hereto and integrated herein by this reference.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that based on the written factual findings as specified in the Staff Report and adopted by the Board, the Board further finds that the Petition is not consistent with sound educational practice and fails to contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the required elements set forth in Education Code section 47605(c).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board denies the Petition based on the findings herein adopted. The terms of this Resolution are severable. Should it be determined that one or more of the findings is invalid, the remaining findings and the board action shall remain in full force and effect. Each finding is, in and of itself, a sufficient basis for the denial.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA    )  
COUNTY OF ORANGE    )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

I, Jorge Valdes, Esq., Clerk of the Orange County Board of Education, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly passed, approved and adopted by the Orange County Board of Education at a regular meeting thereof held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2025, and that it was so adopted by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NOES: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Orange County Board of Education

Resolution #

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN**  
**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND**  
**COMPASS CHARTER SCHOOLS NONPROFIT**  
**FOR THE OPERATION OF COMPASS CHARTER**  
**SCHOOLS of SANTA ANA**

<b>STANDARD TEMPLATE</b>
------------------------------

This Agreement is made and entered into this 2nd day of **June 2025**, by and between the Orange County Board of Education ("Board") and Compass Charter Schools, a nonprofit public benefit corporation operating Compass Charter Schools of Santa Ana (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Charter School"). Hereinafter, the Board and Charter School shall be collectively referred to as "the Parties," and the Board-designated staff of the Orange County Superintendent of Schools ("County Superintendent") shall be referred to as "OCDE."

**I. INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS**

- A. The Board approved the Charter School's petition for five years from **July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025**.
- B. Charter School will be operated by a nonprofit public benefit corporation, formed and organized pursuant to the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law (Corp. Code section 5110 et seq.). Compass Charter Schools is the California nonprofit public benefit corporation operating the Charter School. Charter School shall ensure that at all times throughout the term of its charter, the terms and conditions of any agreement between Charter School and a third party, as well as the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Compass Charter Schools as they pertain to Charter School, are and remain consistent with the Charter Schools Act, all applicable laws and regulations, provisions of the charter, and this Agreement. Charter School will notify OCDE of any amendments or modifications to the nonprofit public benefit corporation's articles of incorporation within **ten (10) business days** of the change. Amendments or modifications to the bylaws may require approval by the Board as a material revision to the petition.
- C. The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth the responsibilities of the Parties with respect to the operational relationship between Charter School, the Board, and OCDE; to address those matters that require clarification; and to outline the Parties' agreements governing their respective fiscal and administrative responsibilities and their legal relationships. To the extent this Agreement contains terms inconsistent with the terms of the charter approved on **date**, the terms of this Agreement shall control.

**II. TERM OF AGREEMENT**

- A. This Agreement is effective from the date upon which the governing boards of each Party approve it for the term of the charter, shall be reviewed at least annually, and may be amended at any time with written mutual agreement of the Parties.
- B. The approved Agreement continues until Charter School voluntarily closes or its charter is non-renewed or revoked, and closure procedures are completed, as determined by the Board and Charter School, after which the Agreement automatically expires. This Agreement is subject to termination during the charter term or any subsequent renewal as specified by law or otherwise set forth in this Agreement.
- C. Charter School may seek renewal of its charter by submitting a renewal request to the Board in the fiscal year immediately prior to the expiration of the term of the charter, and the Board will evaluate and decide on the renewal request in accordance with Education Code sections 47607, 47607.2, and 47605, and their implementing regulations. Charter School will submit its renewal petition in the final school year it is authorized to operate.

**III. FULFILLING CHARTER TERMS**

- A. Governance



1. Charter School acknowledges and agrees it shall comply with the Public Records Act, the Political Reform Act, the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code section 1090 et seq. as set forth in Education Code section 47604.1, and all applicable laws and regulations as they may be amended or added during the term of the charter, including all conflict of interest laws, federal and state nondiscrimination laws, and prohibitions against unauthorized student fees.
2. Charter School, the Board and the County Superintendent are separate legal entities. The County Superintendent and OCDE are not the chartering authority and shall not be liable for the debts or obligations of the Charter School or for claims arising from the performance of acts, errors, or omissions by Charter School. The Board, as the chartering authority, shall not be liable for the debts or obligations of the charter school or for claims arising from the performance of acts, errors, or omissions by the charter school in accordance with Education Code section 47604(d).
3. Within **ten (10) business days** of Charter School board meetings, including special and emergency board meetings, Charter School shall provide OCDE with a complete audio recording of the meeting and all materials provided to the governing board by its administration, contractors, or the public including approved previous meeting minutes, except for confidential communications as defined in Evidence Code section 952 and Government Code section 54963. Charter School will update OCDE of any changes to the Charter School board calendar within **ten (10) business days**.
4. Charter School will provide Brown Act and conflict of interest training to its governing board members and administrative staff within **45 days** of taking office or becoming employed, or as otherwise agreed with OCDE, and **at least once every year**. Charter School will certify that the trainings have been provided to the specified individuals.

#### B. Educational Program

1. Independent Study: Any independent study program operated by Charter School shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations regarding independent study.
2. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): Charter School, its officers and employees will comply with FERPA and the California Education Code sections related to student information protection at all times. Charter School will authorize OCDE to access educational records maintained by Charter School, in accordance with FERPA, and provide notice of such in Charter School policies and Parent/Student Handbook.

#### C. Fiscal Operations

1. Charter School will be directly funded in accordance with Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 47630) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code. The Parties recognize the authority of Charter School to pursue additional sources of funding.
2. The Parties agree that OCDE is not responsible to provide funding in lieu of property taxes to Charter School.
3. Charter School shall comply with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) applicable to public school finance and fiscal management.
4. Charter School shall adopt accounting policies and practices that establish separate accounts and/or sub-accounts for each affiliated charter school. The expenses attributable to each charter school shall be paid only from the account or sub-account of that charter school. Invoices, purchase orders, and other appropriate documentation shall be maintained by Charter School and shall be deemed to be public records subject to disclosure to OCDE upon request.



- a) Each year Charter School shall make all records relating to the expenses of all affiliated charter schools available to OCDE and Charter School's auditor for review and audit to ensure that all expenses are appropriately allocated. In addition, Charter School shall promptly respond as required by Education Code section 47604.3.
  - b) Each year Charter School shall provide an updated organizational chart of all affiliated charter schools and all related parties operated or otherwise controlled by the same nonprofit public benefit corporation.
  - c) Charter School may temporarily loan funds between schools that it operates pursuant to a resolution approved by its Board of Directors that specifies the duration and interest rate of the loan and understands and agrees to provide access to records of Charter School and its affiliated charter schools, upon request from OCDE in accordance with Education Code section 47604.3.
- 5. Charter School shall establish a fiscal plan for repayment of any loans received by and/or on behalf of Charter School. It is agreed that OCDE shall receive written notice of all loans obtained by the Charter School, and repayment of loans shall be the sole responsibility of Charter School.
  - 6. Charter School will use all revenue received from the state and federal sources only for the educational services specified in the charter and this Agreement for the students enrolled and attending Charter School. Other sources of funding must be used in accordance with applicable state and federal statutes and the terms or conditions, if any, of any grant or donation.

#### D. Fiscal Agent

- 1. The Parties agree that neither the Board nor OCDE shall act as fiscal agent for Charter School. It is agreed that Charter School shall be solely responsible for all fiscal services such as payroll, purchasing, attendance reporting, and completion and submission of state budget forms but may contract with OCDE for such services by way of a separate written contract.
- 2. Charter School is responsible for establishing the appropriate funds or accounts in the Orange County Treasury for Charter School and for making the necessary arrangements for Charter School's participation in the State Teachers' Retirement System, the Public Employees' Retirement System, or social security. Nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted to mean that Charter School must maintain all funds in the County Treasury. Funds not maintained in the County Treasury must be deposited with a federally insured commercial bank or credit union.
  - a) OCDE will only withdraw funds from the Orange County Treasury to a charter school-owned bank account. The Bank account name must match the charter school name or a Doing Business As (DBA) reference. No fund transfers will be made to a third party.
  - b) Orange County Treasury withdrawals will occur two (2) times per month. The first withdrawal will occur on the 10th day of each month, and the second withdrawal will occur at the end of each month.
  - c) Charter school's Orange County Treasury account will maintain a minimum balance sufficient to cover one month of CalSTRS and CalPERS retirement contributions.

#### E. Student Attendance Accounting and Reporting

Charter School shall utilize commercially available attendance accounting software.

#### F. Oversight Fees

- 1. Charter School will be charged an annual oversight fee not to exceed one percent (1%) of the revenue received by Charter School in accordance with Education Code section 47613. The oversight fee will

be calculated on the LCFF base grant, supplemental grant and concentration grant funding provided at the First Principal Apportionment (P-1). The amount will be calculated in **April of each year** based upon first principal apportionment (P-1) data for ninety-five percent (95%) of the estimated total. The calculation will also include an adjustment for the preceding year based upon final revenue for that year.

2. Payment Schedule: Charter School shall pay to County Superintendent its actual oversight costs not to exceed one percent (1%) of the LCFF base grant, supplemental grant, and concentration grant revenue received by Charter School ("Oversight Fee") in two equal payments during each Fiscal Year: (1) First Payment -- fifty percent (50%) of the Oversight Fee will be paid on or about **January 15**; and (2) Second Payment -- the remaining fifty percent (50%) plus any adjustment necessary to the First Payment, will be paid on or about **June 15**. County Superintendent will bill Charter School for the Oversight Fee that is due, and Charter School shall make payment within thirty (30) days from receipt of the bill or thirty-two (32) days from the date of the bill. If County Superintendent does not receive the payment within the above-specified timeframe, Charter School hereby authorizes County Superintendent to transfer the payment from Charter School account to County Superintendent's account upon expiration of the thirty (30) days from the receipt of the bill or thirty-two (32) days from the date of the bill.

#### G. Insurance and Liability

1. Charter School will provide certificates of insurance coverage to OCDE prior to opening and annually thereafter. The certificates shall indicate that the Board, County Superintendent, and OCDE are endorsed as additional insured under the coverage and shall include a provision that the coverage will be primary and will not participate with any valid and collectible insurance or program of self-insurance carried or maintained by the Board, County Superintendent or OCDE. Exhibit A, Insurance Coverage and Policies indicates the minimum insurance requirements and is incorporated by reference herein. Charter School shall forward any written notice to OCDE within **three (3) business days** of any modification, change or cancellation of any of the above insurance coverage. It shall be expressly understood that the coverage and limits referenced herein shall not in any way limit the liability of Charter School. In addition, Charter School shall assure that its vendors have adequate insurance coverage for the goods and/or services provided to Charter School to protect the interests of Charter School as well as OCDE, the Board and the County Superintendent.
2. Charter School shall hold harmless, defend, and indemnify the Board, the County Superintendent, and OCDE, its officers, agents, and employees from every liability, claim, or demand (including settlement costs and reasonable attorneys' fees) which may be made by reason of: 1) any injury to volunteers; and 2) any injury to person or property sustained by any person, firm or Charter School related to any act, neglect, default or omission of Charter School, its officers, employees or agents, including any claims for any contractual liability resulting from third party contracts with Charter School's vendors, contractors, partners or sponsors. In cases of such liabilities, claims or demands, Charter School, at its own expense and risk, shall defend all legal proceedings which may be brought against it and/or the Board, the County Superintendent or OCDE, its officers and employees, and satisfy any resulting judgments up to the required Agreements that may be rendered against any of them. Notwithstanding the foregoing: (a) any settlement requiring the Board, the County Superintendent or OCDE to admit liability or to pay any money will require the prior written consent of the Board, the County Superintendent or OCDE, as applicable; and (b) the Board, County Superintendent and/or OCDE may join in the defense with its counsel at its own expense.
3. Charter School understands and agrees that its employees, contractors, subcontractors and agents shall not be considered officers, employees or agents of the Board, the County Superintendent or OCDE,



and are not entitled to benefits of any kind or nature typically provided to OCDE employees. Charter School further assumes the full responsibility for acts and/or omissions of its employees, agents or contractors as they relate to the services to be provided under the charter and this Agreement. Charter School shall assume full responsibility for payment of all federal, state and local taxes or contributions, including unemployment insurance (as applicable), social security and income tax withholding with respect to employees of Charter School.

4. Required Disclosures: Charter School shall notify OCDE in writing within **three (3) business days** of any pending or actual litigation and/or formal claim from any party or notice of potential criminal infraction, criminal or civil action against Charter School or any employee, or request for information by any governmental agency to the extent permitted by law. Charter School acknowledges and agrees it shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations as may be amended or added during the charter term.

#### H. Human Resources

STRS and PERS Reporting Requirements: Charter School shall accept and assume sole financial responsibility for any and all STRS and PERS reporting fines and penalties, including any and all financial consequences from the implementation of regulations or any other action that renders employees of Charter School ineligible to participate in a governmental defined-benefit retirement plan.

#### I. Contracts

1. Charter School shall not have the authority to enter into a contract that would bind the Board, County Superintendent and/or OCDE, nor to extend the credit of the Board, County Superintendent and/or OCDE to any third person or Party. Charter School shall clearly indicate in writing to vendors and other entities with which or with whom Charter School enters into an agreement or contract that the obligations of Charter School under such agreement or contract are solely the responsibility of Charter School and are not the responsibility of the Board, County Superintendent and/or OCDE.
2. Charter School shall ensure that all contracts for goods and services comply with the criteria noted in Title 5, section 11967.5.1 of the California Code of Regulations. Charter School shall comply with bidding requirements tied to the receipt of any state, federal or grant funds that require compliance with bidding that is more stringent or purchasing requirements. Additionally, records and information regarding the implementation of the contract will be provided to OCDE in accordance with Education Code section 47604.3.
3. Charter School will make every effort to ensure that vendors comply with all reasonable inquiries by OCDE for records and information related to this contract.

##### 4. Charter/Education Management Organization (C/EMO) Contracts:

Entering into or substantively revising a contract with an Educational Charter Management Organization (E/CMO) shall be presented to the Board for approval as a material revision to the charter.

Charter School shall ensure the following for any C/EMO contract:

- a) Require that any C/EMO contract (or revision to an agreement) that is entered into be in compliance with state and federal law and the charter and includes language that:
  - i. None of the C/EMO or Charter School principals has conflicts of interest.
  - ii. C/EMO shall comply with Education Code section 47604.3 and the California Public

- iii. Any provision of the agreement that violates state or federal law or the charter is void.
- b) Upon approval by Charter School board, Charter School shall provide OCDE a copy of the following:
  - i. C/EMO agreement (or revision to an agreement).
  - ii. Evidence that the C/EMO is a nonprofit public benefit corporation.
  - iii. A description of the C/EMO's roles and responsibilities for the management of Charter School and the internal controls that will be put in place to guide the relationship.
  - iv. A list of other schools managed by the C/EMO.
  - v. A list of and background on the C/EMO's leaders and board of directors.

J. Facilities Agreement

- 1. Prior to opening, Charter School will provide a written signed agreement, lease or other similar document indicating Charter School's right to use the principal school site identified in the charter, and any ancillary facilities identified by Charter School, for that school year unless Charter School has previously provided a long term lease that includes the school year at issue, and evidence that the facility will be adequate for Charter School's needs.
- 2. A pre-opening site visit shall be conducted by OCDE prior to the opening of Charter School. Once open, Charter School must request a material revision to the charter petition to change facilities. Following an approved revision to the charter, OCDE will conduct, without unreasonable delay, a site visit of a new or changed Charter School facility prior to students attending the new facilities. Under extraordinary circumstances (e.g., a change of facilities necessitated by fire, natural disaster or inhabitability), the Parties may waive the pre-opening site visit.

K. Zoning and Occupancy

- 1. Charter School shall provide OCDE with a Certificate of Occupancy issued by the applicable permitting agency, allowing Charter School to use and occupy the site prior to opening, unless Charter School is located at a public school site provided pursuant to Proposition 39 or other facilities use agreement with a school district. In lieu of the zoning certification, Charter School can provide OCDE with evidence that zoning ordinances have been overridden by the school district in which the facility is located or by another entity authorized to override zoning ordinances pursuant to current or then applicable state law. The facility must meet all applicable health and fire code requirements, zoning laws, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for a K-12 public school.
- 2. If Charter School moves or expands to another facility during the term of this charter, Charter School shall provide a Certificate of Occupancy to OCDE for each facility before the school is scheduled to open or operate in the facility or facilities. If Charter School ever seeks facilities from a school district in which it intends to locate (or is located) under Education Code section 47614 (Proposition 39), it will follow applicable statutes and regulations regarding the submission of such a request to the school district.
- 3. Notwithstanding any language to the contrary in this charter, the interpretation, application and enforcement of this provision are not subject to the Dispute Resolution Process outlined in the charter. The Parties agree that should a dispute arise under this section, they will meet to attempt to resolve



any concerns within ten calendar days of the dispute.

**L. Dispute Resolution**

The Parties acknowledge and agree that in addition to the charter's provisions, dispute resolution procedures shall be consistent with applicable laws and regulations, including Education Code section 47607(g). The staff and governing board members of Charter School agree to resolve any claim, controversy or dispute arising out of or relating to the Charter agreement between OCDE and Charter School, except any controversy or claim that is in any way related to revocation of this Charter School, pursuant to the terms of the dispute resolution procedures in the charter.

**IV. MATERIAL REVISIONS**

Modifications of the approved charter must be in writing and submitted to OCDE for review and determination as to whether such amendments must be submitted to the Board as a material revision to the charter. Such amendments may only be submitted to the Board upon the approval of Charter School's board and will take effect only if approved by the Board.

**V. SEVERABILITY**

If any provision or any part of this Agreement is for any reason held to be invalid and/or unenforceable or contrary to public policy or statute, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and fully enforceable.

**VI. NON-ASSIGNMENT**

No portion of this Agreement or the Charter petition approved by the Board may be assigned to another entity without the prior written approval of the Board.

**VII. WAIVER**

A waiver of any provision or term of this Agreement must be in writing and signed by both Parties. Any such waiver shall not constitute a waiver of any other provision of this Agreement. All Parties agree that neither Party to this Agreement waives any of the rights, responsibilities and privileges established by the Charter Schools Act of 1992.

**VIII. NONDISCRIMINATION**

The Parties recognize and agree that in addition to complying with all nondiscrimination requirements of the Charter Schools Act, including that Charter School shall not charge tuition, shall be nonsectarian, and pursuant to Education Code section 200 et seq., Charter School shall be open to all students. In addition to these nondiscrimination provisions, Charter School shall not discriminate against applicants or employees on the basis of any characteristics or categories protected by state or federal law. Charter School acknowledges and agrees that it shall comply with all applicable federal and state nondiscrimination laws and regulations as they may be amended.

**IX. NOTIFICATION**

All notices, requests and other communications under this Agreement shall be in writing and mailed to the proper addresses as follows:

To OCDE at:

Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent  
Orange County Department of Education  
200 Kalmus Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-9050

To Compass Charter Schools at:  
Elizabeth Brenner, Superintendent  
850 Hampshire Rd., Ste. R  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91361

## **X. INTEGRATION**

This Agreement contains the entire Agreement of the Parties with respect to the matters covered hereby, and supersedes any oral or written understandings or agreements between the Parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement. No person or Party is authorized to make any representations or warranties except as set forth herein, and no Agreement, statement, representation or promise by any party hereto which is not contained herein shall be valid or binding. The undersigned acknowledges that she/he has not relied upon any warranties, representations, statements or promises by any of the Parties herein or any of their agents or consultants except as may be expressly set forth in this Agreement. The Parties further recognize that this Agreement shall only be modified in writing by the mutual agreement of the Parties.

## **XI. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

The Parties further acknowledge and agree that, unless otherwise noted in this Agreement, any inconsistency in the charter shall be resolved by giving precedence in the following order:

1. This Agreement
2. Documents incorporated by reference to the Agreement, including Exhibit A
3. The Charter, as approved by the Board
4. The bylaws and articles of incorporation of the nonprofit public benefit corporation operating as the Charter School

For Charter School:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

For the Board:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## EXHIBIT A

### INSURANCE COVERAGE AND POLICIES

Charter School, at its sole cost and throughout the charter term, shall procure and maintain each insurance listed below in effect. All required insurance, and if self-insurance will be provided, must contain coverage that complies, at a minimum, with the following requirements:

1. Property Insurance for replacement value, if offered by the insurance carrier, including coverage for all assets listed in Charter School's property inventory and consumables. If full replacement value coverage is unavailable, Charter School shall procure property insurance in amounts as close to replacement value as possible and sufficient to protect the school's interests.
2. General Commercial Liability with at least \$2,000,000 per occurrence and \$5,000,000 in total general liability insurance, providing coverage for negligence, errors and omissions/educators legal liability, Fire Legal Liability, of Charter School, its governing board, officers, agents, employees, and/or students. The deductible per occurrence for said insurance shall not exceed \$20,000 for any and all losses resulting from negligence, errors and omissions of Charter School, its governing board, officers, agents, employees, and/or students.
3. Workers' Compensation insurance in accordance with the California Labor Code, adequate to protect Charter School from claims under Workers' Compensation Acts, which may arise from Charter School's operation, with statutory limits. The Workers' Compensation Insurance coverage must also include Employers Liability coverage with limits of \$1,000,000/\$1,000,000/\$1,000,000.
4. Commercial Auto Liability, including Owned, Leased, Hired, and Non-owned, coverage with limits of \$1,000,000 Combined Single Limit per Occurrence if Charter School does not operate a student bus service. If Charter School provides student bus services, the required coverage limit is \$5,000,000 Combined Single Limit per Occurrence.
5. Crime Insurance or Fidelity Bond coverage to cover all Charter School employees who handle, process, or otherwise have responsibility for Charter School's funds, supplies, equipment or other assets. Minimum amount of coverage shall be \$1,000,000 per occurrence, with no self-insured retention.
6. Professional Educators Errors and Omissions liability coverage with minimum limits of \$3,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 general aggregate.
7. Sexual Molestation and Abuse coverage with minimum limits of \$3,000,000 per occurrence. Coverage may be held as a separate policy or included by endorsement in the Commercial General Liability or the Errors and Omissions Policy.
8. Employment Practices Legal Liability coverage with limits of \$3,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 general aggregate.
9. Excess/umbrella insurance with limits of not less than \$10,000,000 is required of all high schools and any other school that participates in competitive interscholastic or intramural sports programs.

## ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF

June 2, 2025

## BOARD AGENDA ITEM

☒ Mailed☐ Distributed at meeting

RA

**DATE:** June 2, 2025**TO:** Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent**FROM:** Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing – Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III Material Revision

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**DESCRIPTION:**

Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III is a countywide charter school that will serve students in grades transitional kindergarten through eight, upon opening in Fall of 2025. On April 14, 2025, Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III submitted a material revision to add Capistrano Unified School District as a location for a charter school facility.

The Orange County Board of Education held a public hearing on May 7, 2025, to consider the level of support for the charter school.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Under California Education Code section 47605, on June 2, 2025, the Orange County Board of Education will hold a public hearing to grant or deny the Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III amended charter petition and material revision. At the public hearing, petitioners shall have equal time and opportunity to present evidence and testimony responsive to the Orange County Department of Education staff recommendations and findings published on May 16, 2025.





# MEMO

## ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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May 16, 2025

**To:** Members, Orange County Board of Education

**From:** Orange County Department of Education Charter Schools Unit

**Re:** Staff Report Findings of Fact and Recommendations for Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III

### I. INTRODUCTION

The following is a summary of the review conducted by Orange County Department of Education staff of the material revision request submitted by Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III in compliance with Education Code section 47607 and recommendations for consideration by the Orange County Board of Education (the Board).

### II. BACKGROUND

The Board approved the Orange County Academy of Science and Arts III countywide charter petition for a term of five years from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2029. Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III will begin serving students in transitional kindergarten through grade eight in the 2025-26 school year. On April 14, 2025, Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III submitted a material revision requesting to open a location within the boundaries of the Capistrano Unified School District. A public hearing was held on May 7, 2025, to consider the level of support for the material revision.

### III. LEGAL STANDARD

Material revisions of charter schools are governed by the standards and criteria described in Education Code section 47605 and shall include, but not be limited to, reasonably comprehensive descriptions of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed.

### IV. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Orange County Department of Education staff determined that the revised Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III charter petition meets Education Code section 47605 standards.

## **V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Orange County Department of Education staff recommend that the Board approve the Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III material revision to open a location within the boundaries of the Capistrano Unified School District.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

The Board has three options for action regarding a charter petition material revision:

- Option One: Approve the material revision.
- Option Two: Approve the material revision with conditions. This action would result in the approval of the revised charter petition and require the charter school to address concerns raised by the Board by established timelines.
- Option Three: Deny the material revision.

\* \* \*

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF  
EDUCATION  
BOARD AGENDA II**

Item: Charter Schools #8

June 2, 2025

[X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting 

**DATE:** June 2, 2025

**TO:** Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

**FROM:** Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit

**SUBJECT:** Board Action – Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III Material Revision

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**DESCRIPTION:**

Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III is a countywide charter school scheduled to begin operations in the 2025-26 academic year. On April 14, 2025, Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III submitted a material revision requesting to add Capistrano Unified School District as a location for a charter school facility. A public hearing was held on May 7, 2025.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Orange County Department of Education staff recommend that the Orange County Board of Education approve Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts III's revised charter petition and material revision.

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF  
EDUCATION  
BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

Item: Charter Schools #9

June 2, 2025

[X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting RH

**DATE:** June 2, 2025  
**TO:** Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent  
**FROM:** Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit  
**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing College and Career Preparatory Academy Material Revision

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**DESCRIPTION:**

On April 11, 2025, College and Career Preparatory Academy submitted a material revision to add an alternative graduation pathway for students aged 19 and older, reducing the total credit requirement from 220 to 155.

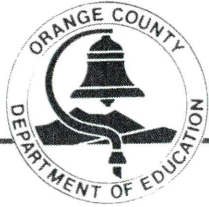
The Orange County Board of Education held a public hearing on May 7, 2025, to consider the level of support for the charter school material revision.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Under California Education Code section 47607, on June 2, 2025, the Orange County Board of Education will hold a public hearing to grant or deny the College and Career Preparatory Academy amended charter petition and material revision. At the public hearing, petitioners shall have equal time and opportunity to present evidence and testimony responsive to the Orange County Department of Education staff recommendations and findings published on May 16, 2025.





# MEMO

## ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

---

May 16, 2025

**To:** Members, Orange County Board of Education

**From:** Orange County Department of Education Charter Schools Unit

**Re:** Staff Report Findings of Fact and Recommendations College and Career Preparatory Academy Material Revision

### I. INTRODUCTION

The following is a summary of the review conducted by Orange County Department of Education staff of the material revision request submitted by College and Career Preparatory Academy in compliance with Education Code section 47607 and recommendations for consideration by the Orange County Board of Education (the Board).

### II. BACKGROUND

College and Career Preparatory Academy is a county charter school serving ninth through twelfth-grade students. On April 11, 2025, College and Career Preparatory Academy submitted a material revision requesting to add an alternative graduation pathway for students aged 19 and older, reducing the total credit requirement from 220 to 155. A public hearing was held on May 7, 2025, to consider the level of support for the material revision.

### III. LEGAL STANDARD

Material revisions of charter schools are governed by the standards and criteria described in Education Code section 47607, including, but not limited to, reasonably comprehensive descriptions of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was initially granted or last renewed.

### IV. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Orange County Department of Education staff determined that the revised College and Career Preparatory Academy charter petition meets Education Code section 47605.5 standards. Adding an alternative graduation pathway for students aged 19 and older will allow College and Career Preparatory Academy to align with similar adult education models in Orange County and address the distinct needs of adult learners. The revised pathway emphasizes coursework in English, mathematics, science, social science, and other state-mandated subject areas while reducing the elective requirements to support timely adult learner completion.

## **V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Orange County Department of Education staff recommend that the Board approve the College and Career Preparatory Academy material revision to add an alternative graduation pathway for students aged 19 and older, reducing the total credit requirement from 220 to 155.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

The Board has three options for action regarding a charter petition material revision:


- Option One: Approve the material revision.
- Option Two: Approve the material revision with conditions. This action would result in the approval of the revised charter petition and require the charter school to address concerns raised by the Board by established timelines.
- Option Three: Deny the material revision.

\* \* \*

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF  
BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

Item: Charter Schools #10

June 2, 2025

[X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting 

**DATE:** June 2, 2025

**TO:** Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

**FROM:** Aracely Chastain, Executive Director, Charter Schools Unit

**SUBJECT:** Board Action College and Career Preparatory Academy Material Revision

---

**DESCRIPTION:**

On April 11, 2025, College and Career Preparatory Academy submitted a material revision to add an alternative graduation pathway for students aged 19 and older, reducing the total credit requirement from 220 to 155. A public hearing was held on May 7, 2025.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Orange County Department of Education staff recommend that the Orange County Board of Education approve College and Career Preparatory Academy's material revision to add an alternative graduation pathway for students aged 19 and older, reducing the total credit requirement from 220 to 155.

June 2, 2025

[X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting 21A

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

DATE: June 2, 2025

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Analee Kredel, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: OCDE Local Control and Accountability Plan

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BACKGROUND:

Orange County Department of Education Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) for the 2025-26 school year will be presented to the Board on June 2, 2025. As required by law, the LCAP included student, parent, and community partner input and was posted to the Orange County Department of Education website for public review.

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RECOMMENDATION:

Presentation and Public Hearing only.

Adoption on June 18, 2025.



June 2, 2025

[X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting *EV*

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

DATE: June 2, 2025

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Analee Kredel, Associate Superintendent, ACCESS & Connections

SUBJECT: Local Control and Accountability Plan: College and Career Preparatory Academy

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BACKGROUND:

College and Career Preparatory Academy (CCPA) Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) for the 2025-2026 school year will be presented to the Board on June 2, 2025. As required by law, the LCAP included student, parent and community partner input and was posted to the Orange County Department of Education website for public review.

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RECOMMENDATION:

Presentation and Public Hearing only.

Adoption on June 18, 2025.

Item: Presentations #17

June 2, 2025

[X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting



ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

DATE: June 2, 2025

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: David Giordano, Associate Superintendent, Administrative Services

SUBJECT: Budget Presentation for Fiscal Year 2025-26

As required by State regulations, the attached documents include the 2025-26 OCDE budget and the Criteria and Standards. The July budget reflects preliminary estimates of income and expenditures, including projected growth needs, based on information available from the Governor's May Revise.

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RECOMMENDATION:

Presentation and Public Hearing only.

DG:sh

June 2, 2025

24

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION [X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting

## BOARD AGENDA ITEM

DATE: June 2, 2025

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Darou Sisavath, Board Recording Clerk

SUBJECT: Superintendent Compensation

**MEMORANDUM**

We have concluded a nearly two-year process focused on evaluating job classifications and compensation for our Classified, Supervisory, and Management teams. This comprehensive study was undertaken to ensure our salaries remain within the top quartile when compared to our district and county counterparts. As part of this review, we also evaluated the compensation for the County Superintendent.

**Superintendent Compensation Overview**

Currently, the County Superintendent receives:

- **Base Salary:** \$330,480
- **Auto Allowance:** \$12,000
- **Total Compensation:** \$342,480

This total includes a 2% cost-of-living adjustment approved by the Board on October 7, 2024.

**Comparative Analysis****Class II Counties (Similar Enrollment Size)**

County	Base Salary	Car Allowance
Santa Clara	\$414,000	\$1,000
San Diego	\$393,926	-
Fresno	\$377,761	-
San Bernardino	\$366,930	\$7,800
Alameda	\$362,789	Reimbursed Mileage
Riverside	\$342,000*	-
<b>Orange</b>	<b>\$330,480</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
Contra Costa	\$229,710	-

\*2023–24 reported data

## Orange County District Superintendents

Dr. Bean currently ranks **12th** among superintendents in Orange County. Notably, this list includes **four interim superintendents**; once those roles are permanently filled and compensation finalized, Dr. Bean's ranking is likely to drop further.

- **Highest Base Salary Reported:** \$418,747
  - **Highest Total Compensation Reported:** \$427,747
- 

## RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure the Superintendent's salary remains competitive and aligned with our compensation goals, we recommend the following adjustments:

- **Increase base salary by 10%, to 15%**, positioning the Superintendent within the top quartile among comparable counties and districts.
- **Increase the vehicle allowance to \$20,000 annually** to better reflect the Superintendent's current travel requirements.

Additionally, the Board may wish to consider offering enhanced benefits, such as contributions to a retirement account or other supplemental compensation, as part of a broader package.



June 2, 2025

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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD ( [X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting  
BOARD AGENDA ITEM

DATE: 6/2/2025  
 TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent  
 FROM: Sandra Lee, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent, Educational Services  
 SUBJECT: Approval to submit a 2025 Golden Bell Awards® application nominating the Tobacco-Use Prevention Education (TUPE) Capacity Building Project (CBP)

The California School Boards Association (CSBA) Golden Bell Awards® promote excellence in education and school board governance by recognizing outstanding programs and governance practices of school boards in school districts and county offices of education throughout California. The Golden Bell Awards® reflect the depth and breadth of education programs and governance decisions supporting these programs that are necessary to address students' changing needs.

This year, the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) is proud to nominate the Tobacco-Use Prevention Education (TUPE) Capacity Building Project (CBP) for the Golden Bell Awards®. This project is managed by the Student Initiatives, Partnerships, and Events Unit in the Educational Services Division.

The TUPE CBP supports local education agencies (LEAs) across California by providing professional learning opportunities, resources, and technical assistance to strengthen their prevention programming. It utilizes a collaborative approach to highlight model programs, best practices, and resources, while committing to a data-driven continuous improvement process. The program's vision is to improve student health outcomes and academic achievement by advancing student health literacy, creating opportunities for youth advocacy, and ensuring equitable access to prevention and early intervention supports. Since its inception in October 2019, the TUPE CBP has prioritized responsiveness, relevance, and relationship building. The California Department of Education (CDE) has awarded funding to OCDE for the TUPE CBP on the strength of its proven track record and student-centered approach.

Below are notable accomplishments and exemplary components of the TUPE CBP:

TUPE Collaborative: Established the TUPE Collaborative, an advisory group of TUPE Coordinators from county offices in each of the California County Superintendents' service regions.

Comprehensive Needs Assessment & Partnerships: In conjunction with the TUPE Collaborative, the TUPE CBP undertook a comprehensive statewide needs assessment to determine the resources, training, and communication channels that would be most beneficial to the field.

Guided by this information, the program enlisted the help of subject matter experts in the areas of tobacco prevention and youth development, such as the Stanford University REACH Lab, CATCH Global Foundation, California Youth Advocacy Network, and California Friday Night Live Partnership. This enabled the CBP to begin curating a centralized repository of vetted, high-quality resources and promising practices in a newly developed website at [tupeca.org](http://tupeca.org).

Professional Learning and Resources: The CBP and its partners launched a suite of professional development courses housed within the Canvas platform, hosted virtual prevention curriculum trainings, facilitated hybrid Professional Learning Network (PLN) convenings and webinars to support emerging priorities like family and community engagement and alternatives to suspension. To date, the CBP has hosted eighty (80) professional development convenings, including twenty-three (23) webinars, forty-six (46) curriculum trainings, and eleven (11) PLNs.

Alternatives to Suspension Spotlight: Each year, one PLN is dedicated to this topic to spotlight successful models from local programs, and has launched an Alternatives to Suspension Toolkit containing turnkey implementation resources for district and school administrators. The CBP partners with and promotes YVAPE (Youth Vaping Alternative Program Education), a no-cost program provided by UC San Diego. YVAPE is a phone and video-based counseling and coaching program that has served over 3,600 students to date and continues to evolve based on feedback from participants and school administrators.

Centering Students: Youth voice remains central through the establishment of the California TUPE Youth Advisory Board (YAB). Over the last five years, the YAB has included student representatives from a variety of rural and urban counties, including Butte, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Orange, Placer, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus. Students are nominated by local TUPE programs to serve at the state level by sharing their experience and insight, providing feedback on youth-facing resources, and presenting at TUPE-related conferences and webinars. Students gain significant academic and life skills, develop relationships with peers from across the state, and most importantly, ensure the CBP fulfills its commitment to centering students in all aspects of its services.

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#### RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the submission of a 2025 Golden Bell Awards® application for the TUPE CBP by the CSBA's deadline of Friday, June 27, 2025.

June 2, 2025

[X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting

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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

DATE: June 2, 2025

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Ken L. Williams, D.O., Board President

SUBJECT: Liaison to ACCBE

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RECOMMENDATION:

Board action to designate a liaison to the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE).

Item: Board Recommendations #24

June 2, 2025

[X] Mailed [ ] Distributed at meeting

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

DATE: June 2, 2025

TO: Renee Hendrick, Deputy Superintendent

FROM: Ken L. Williams, D.O., Board President

SUBJECT: Resolution #17-25, Supporting access to speech and debate education

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RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution #17-25, Supporting access to speech and debate education.



**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA**

“Resolution Supporting Access to Speech and Debate Education”  
June 2, 2025

**WHEREAS**, the ability to communicate effectively, think critically, and engage in civil discourse is essential for personal and professional success in a democratic society; and

**WHEREAS**, speech and debate programs cultivate critical thinking, public speaking, and leadership skills that empower individuals to advocate for themselves and their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, research demonstrates that participation in speech and debate improves academic performance, self-confidence, and civic engagement among students of all backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, access to speech and debate programs remains a challenge for many students due to socioeconomic barriers, lack of financial resources, and limited opportunities within schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the Orange County Board of Education is committed to fostering educational opportunities that prepare youth to become informed, engaged, and articulate members of society; and

**WHEREAS**, promoting speech and debate aligns with the Orange County Board of Education’s values of community engagement and academic achievement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Orange County Board of Education that:

1. The Orange County Board of Education recognizes and affirms the importance of speech and debate education as a vital component of youth development.
2. The Orange County Board of Education encourages collaboration among schools, community organizations, and local leaders to expand access to speech and debate opportunities for all students.
3. The Orange County Board of Education urges schools, community centers, and educational institutions to prioritize resources and initiatives that promote public speaking and debate education.

Passed, Approved, and Adopted this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June 2025.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

State of California       )  
  ) ss.  
County of Orange       )

I, Jorge Valdes, Esq., Clerk of the Board of Education of Orange County, California, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 2nd day of June 2025.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal to this Resolution this 2nd day of June, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jorge Valdes, Esq., Clerk of the Board  
Orange County Board of Education  
Resolution #17-25