



## **Assembly Bill 1505 Memo**

California Assembly Bill AB1505 is a revision of the [Charter Schools Act of 1992](#), which allowed charter schools to open and named the purpose and regulations of a charter school's existence. As charters began to grow, unintended consequences and unexpected challenges surfaced and called for a charter law reform. Assembly Bill 1505 has key changes to the following four areas: (1) charter approval process, (2) charter renewal process, (3) charter appeals process, and (4) teacher credentialing. These changes go into effect on July 1st, 2020.

**1. CHARTER APPROVAL PROCESS:** As of July 1st, 2020, charter school authorizers can:

- Deny a charter if they are a duplication of a nearby school program and if the existing program has sufficient capacity for the pupils proposed to be served within reasonable proximity to where the charter school intends to locate.
  - *Note: does not apply to schools up for renewal, only for new schools, or material revisions.*
- Deny a charter school when the school district is in fiscal distress (as determined by the county superintendent of schools) or is under state receivership
  - *Note: does not apply to schools up for renewal, only for new schools, charters wanting to expand, or material revisions.*
- Hold a public hearing no later than 60 days after receiving a petition and shall either grant or deny the charter within 90 days of receipt of the petition
  - *Note: the date may be extended by an additional 30 days if both parties agree to the extension.*
- No “online charter schools” (non-classroom based charters) will open for the next 2 years, from January 1, 2020, to January 1, 2022.

**2. CHARTER RENEWAL PROCESS:** Charter schools have a tighter set of guidelines in order to be renewed:

- The state accountability (California School Dashboard) system should be part of the criteria for charter school renewal.
  - High-performing charter schools will be authorized for 5-7 years.
  - Middle-performing charter schools will be authorized for 5 years.
  - Low-performing charter schools should not be renewed but may be granted a two-year renewal under limited circumstances.
- Existing charters wanting to expand sites or grade levels can be denied if the district is under financial distress or state receivership.
- Charter authorizers are required to consider alternative data, approved by the State Board of Education, for middle- and low-performing charters on renewal,



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- during a transition period. Allows a low performing charter to be renewed for two years using alternative data.
- Hold a public hearing no later than 60 days after receiving a petition and shall either grant or deny the charter within 90 days of receipt of the petition
  - *Note: the date may be extended by an additional 30 days if both parties agree to the extension.*
- Charter authorizers can deny approval to a charter petition if it's not serving all student populations that wish to attend (e.g. not serving kids with special needs)

**3. CHARTER APPEALS PROCESS:** The previous law stated that charter schools can appeal to the county board of education if the district denies them. If the county denies them, they can appeal to the state board of education (SBE) under limited circumstances. Under AB1505:

- Charter schools can still appeal to the county and will only allow an appeal to the state board only when a county or district has “abused its discretion”.
- If the district denies a charter school and they appeal to the county, the county board of education shall also review the school district's findings.
- Oversight of new SBE-approved charter schools (after 7/1/20) will be remanded to either the district or county where the school originally petitioned.

**4. TEACHER CREDENTIALS:** Before AB1505, only teachers of core subjects, such as Math, English or Science, are required to have a credential or permit issued by the state. Those teaching “non-core” subjects like music, art and dance are not. Now, all teachers are required to have a credential, including “non-core” subjects.

- All charter school teachers employed in the 2019-20 school year must hold all required certificates and authorizations required for their assignment by July 1, 2025, and not hold emergency permits after that date.
- Charters will have access to the same temporary and emergency credentialing options currently available to districts.