

# 2019 Changes to California's Charter School Laws

## Overview



In 2019, the Legislature enacted the most substantial changes to California's charter school laws since passage of the original California Charter Schools Act in 1992. These changes resulted from increased demands from district *and* charter parents, educators, administrators, and school board members as communities throughout California faced the significant impacts of unregulated charter school growth, as well as increasing concerns that charter schools do not serve all students.

Four new laws, signed into law by Governor Newsom in 2019, brought these historic changes, including:

### Senate Bill 126

*(Effective January 1, 2020)*

Signed in March, this law requires charter schools and charter school management organizations (CMOs) to follow the same open meetings, public records, and ethics laws as public school districts. It also establishes meeting requirements for CMOs with multiple schools, and requires that board meetings be recorded and posted on charter school websites.

### Senate Bill 75

The 2019 Education Omnibus Trailer Bill  
*(Effective Immediately)*

Signed by the Governor in July, this law clarifies that discouraging enrollment of or pushing out high-needs students is illegal. The bill also requires charter schools to hold public hearings on their Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and to communicate with families in their home language, among other things.

### Assembly Bill 1505

*(Effective July 1, 2020, unless otherwise noted)*

Signed by the Governor in October, AB 1505 allows school districts to consider the fiscal and community impact of new or expanding charter schools on their local community; allows districts in fiscal distress to deny new charter schools; moves control of authorizing to a more local level; aligns renewals with state standards; gives authorizers more tools when a school is not serving all students or has significant fiscal or governance issues; requires charter school educators to hold the same credentials as district educators (new teachers in 2020-21, currently employed teachers in 2025-26 ); and establishes a 2-year moratorium on new nonclassroom-based schools (effective January 1, 2020), among other changes.

### Assembly Bill 1507

*(Effective January 1, 2020)*

Signed in October, this law eliminates the ability to locate charter schools outside the authorizing school district or county. It includes provisions for renewals of existing charter schools that are currently located outside their authorizing district or county, requiring them to either apply to the district where they are physically located or have that district's permission to continue to physically locate there.

These four new laws, taken together, represent a significant overhaul of existing laws, and it is important that they are implemented correctly from the start. Use our new rapid response hotline for **questions** or to **report new charter school petitions or requests to expand** in your district:



(650) 525-4362



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