

AB 1505 AT-A-GLANCE

We did it! Thank you for taking action on behalf of the students you work for and with each and every day. Our hard work led to the passage of legislation that protects students and dramatically improves 27-year-old outdated and broken charter laws. Standing united with our co-sponsors, labor partners, parents and community groups – through political action that included lobbying in Sacramento, in-district visits with legislators, digital lobbying like texts, social media posts and shares, phone calls and emails, the May 22nd Red for Ed Day of Action, as well as other collective actions across the state – we got this done... for kids, not profits!

AB 1505 (O’Donnell) promotes local control in the charter school environment. The bill strengthens local school communities’ decision-making power regarding all matters related to charter schools’ authorization and renewal. The bill also builds on efforts earlier this year to hold charter schools to the same standards of accountability and transparency as other public schools.

SOME OF THE KEY ELEMENTS INCLUDE:

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| Approval of Initial Charter School Petitions | When reviewing a petition for a new charter school, or a charter that is expanding sites or grade levels, AB 1505 allows charter authorizers to consider how the charter school would financially impact the community and the neighborhood schools. Also, the bill allows a charter authorizer to deny a charter school when the district is in fiscal distress, as determined by the county superintendent of schools. Charter schools currently authorized by the State Board (approximately 29) will transition to oversight by their local school district or county office of education. |
| Charter School Appeals | Petitioners will continue to receive a full appeal to the county office of education, but AB 1505 establishes a limited appeal process to the State Board, which will hear appeals for a charter school that can show the district or county office of education abused its discretion. |
| Charter School Renewals | This bill requires charter authorizers to use the state accountability system as the basis for charter school renewal, receiving differentiated assistance and intervention for academic concerns on the same terms as school districts. AB 1505 allows charter authorizers to close a charter school for fiscal and governance concerns or if the charter school is not serving all student populations. |
| Teacher Credentials | AB 1505 clarifies that charter school teachers must have a state-level background check and the required credential for their assignment, with a transition period. |
| Virtual Schools | The bill establishes a two-year moratorium on non-classroom-based charter schools, with a commitment to reform the sector in the next two years. |
| Data Collection | AB 1505 requires the California Department of Education to collect and monitor data on implementation of the bill, including patterns in authorization and appeals. |