Charter Early and Middle College High Schools

Synergies, Similarities, and Challenges

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Welcome!

• Please share:

Your name
Your role and organization
Something people would be surprised to know about you 😊
Participants will be able to:

• Understand the ins and out of a charter school
• Learn how charter ECHS/MCHS handles operations and instruction
• Learn about new legislative updates for charter early and middle colleges
• Discuss the advantages and challenges of being a charter ECHS/MCHS
• Engage in rich discussion, questions, and answers regarding charter early and middle colleges
Charter
ECHS &
MCHS

Instruction

Accountability

Legislation

Operations
What do you know or think you know about charter schools?
What is a Charter School?

- Charter schools are public schools funded by public monies.
- Charter schools have significant accountability measures placed on them including financial, organizational, operational, and academic.
- Charter schools operate independently of school districts, but are accountable to their authorizer.
- Charter schools can operate as independent charters or within a charter management organization (CMO).
Why Charters?

...to provide opportunities for teachers, parents, pupils, and community members to establish and maintain schools that operate independently from the existing school district structure...

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html
Charter Schools In California

• Charter schools established in California through the Charter Schools Act in 1992
• In the 2013-14 school years 1130 charters serving 519,000 students, with 50,000 students on waiting lists.
• Charter School enrollment growing at approximately 10% per year.

Information obtained from the California Charter School Association
Charters and Authorizers

• Charter petitions typically have a five-year term and must be renewed

• There are 16 elements charters are measured by through the petition

• Failure to satisfy the 16 elements, make required academic progress, or operate with a reserve can results in revocation or non-renewal
# 16 Elements of a Charter Petition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The educational program</th>
<th>Annual audits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Measurable pupil outcomes</td>
<td>Suspension and expulsion policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method for measuring outcomes</td>
<td>Employee benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance structure</td>
<td>Attendance alternatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee qualifications</td>
<td>Return rights of employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and safety procedures</td>
<td>Dispute resolution procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Means to achieve racial and ethnic balance</td>
<td>Employee representation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions requirements</td>
<td>Procedures for closing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Group Discussion

Within your table, examine and discuss the charter FAQ handout that includes the 16 elements and other charter info.

Did you find anything surprising?
Do you have a question about anything you read?
Charters and Authorizers

• Your charter petition is a legal document
  – What you write, you are accountable for
  – What you change, you must notify your authorizer

• Oversight and accountability
  – Finances and reporting
  – Student academic outcomes and results

• Services
  – BTSA/Teacher support
  – Special Education
  – Facilities
Charters and Authorizers

• Renewal and revocation
  – Initial charter typically authorized for 3-5 years
  – All charter renewals are for 5 years
  – Appeals process if non-renewed
  – Failure to meet elements of charter can result in revocation

  – A transparent and collegial relationship with authorizer is critical
Sometimes it feels like we’re on an island.
Operating a Charter School

• Start-up or conversion
• Charter document and mission
• Entrepreneurial component
• Similar to a small district
• Same operational expectations with less resources and support
Collegiate challenges

- Facilities
- Educating college staff and instructors
- Partnerships and MOUs with local community colleges
- Purchasing of classes
- Course alignment
Previous Legislation (2012)

**SB 1316:** Changed the instructional minute requirement for Early and Middle College High Schools in CA to 180 minutes per high school day if the student was enrolled part time in a community college, CSU, or UC.

- This issue with this bill was that it did not include charter schools.
- Charters were forced to do sometimes as much as 288 minutes per day to make ADA.
SB 379: Clean Up for 1316

- Includes charter early and middle colleges

- Students enrolled at the charter school must have at least 50% of their instruction at the high school site if enrolled part-time at a community college, CSU, or UC.
Instruction

- Must be high priority
- Instructional leadership within principals
- Autonomy allows for proactive instructional decisions (CCSS)
- WASC Self Study, Charter Petition, and Internal goal setting can be intentionally aligned closely
- Ability to make data-driven changes quickly
Teacher Support and Evaluation

- Differentiated support based on teacher need
- School size allows for improving instructional practice as a priority
- Implementation of peer review
  - Increases teacher observation/feedback
  - Shares best practices
  - Peer identification of successes and challenges
Middle and Early College/Charter Similarities

- Target high need populations
- Innovative instructional program
- High School focus on collegiate success
- Typically small with 300-500 students
- Greater degree of school autonomy
MCHS/ECHS and Charter Differences

• Charter schools cannot screen/select students

• Charter schools can create internal criterion for college course taking qualification

• Independent charters do not have comparable district instructional or operational support
Questions and Discussion

• What are your questions regarding charter early and middle college high schools?

• If applicable, what challenges have you faced in the charter early and middle college world?

• What support do you need in this area?
Thank You!

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