



Charter Petition District Required Language: History, Purpose and Importance

Board of Education Meeting
Superintendent's Report
December 5, 2017



OBJECTIVES

- **Share history, purpose and importance of L.A. Unified's use of District Required Language in Charter Petitions**
- **Summarize and provide context to recent updates to District Required Language**



HISTORY

- For at least 12 years, the District has included certain required language for all charter petitions, commonly referred to as “District Required Language” or “DRL.”
- DRL is updated administratively by Staff annually to include recently passed legislation that applies to charter schools or any newly adopted Board policy applicable to charter schools.
- Charter School stakeholders have provided input on the DRL over the years.
- The Board of Education approves charter petitions which include the DRL.



PURPOSE

- To clearly highlight key requirements that charter schools must adhere to as an L.A. Unified-authorized charter school. (Other authorizers have similar requirements in a Memorandum of Understanding)
- DRL provisions include but are not limited to requirements based on:
 - ✓ Federal law, the Charter Schools Act, and other statutorily required provisions
 - ✓ Applicable District policies (i.e., Student Discipline)
 - ✓ Requirements pursuant to the Modified Consent Decree and provision of special education services
 - ✓ Procedures and requirements related to health and safety, public accountability, insurance and indemnification, closure, and school sites/facilities



IMPORTANCE

- Provides clear and transparent accountability terms to all stakeholders including students, families, and the public
- Provides consistency to all charters authorized by LAUSD regarding expectations and adherence to legal requirements and applicable policies

QUALITY AUTHORIZING PRACTICE MATTERS

“...a refined policy environment combined with careful authorizing and strong accountability such as seen in Los Angeles, can produce a large proportion of charter schools with superior results.”

Charter School Performance in Los Angeles, 2014
Center for Research on Educational Outcomes at Stanford (CREDO) Report



SOME *REQUESTED* CHANGES TO DRL

CHANGES IMPLEMENTED

- Charter School Closure Procedures
- Facilities
- Insurance
- Legal and Policy Compliance
- Proposition 39 Dispute Resolution
- Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)

CHANGES NOT IMPLEMENTED

- Assurances, Affirmations, and Declarations: the District Required Language (DRL) Addendum
- Audit and Inspection of Records
- Health and Safety Policies
- Mandatory Dispute Resolution
- MCD Requirements
- Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audits and investigations
- Student Discipline Policies and Procedures
- Transitional Kindergarten

PLEASE NOTE: These requests are from some charter applications submitted to the Charter Schools Division in September/October 2017



CONCLUSION

As stated publicly by our Acting Superintendent at the November 7, 2017 Board Meeting:

- Effective oversight is a central part of this equation, and L.A. Unified is in the best position to provide Los Angeles charter schools with quality oversight and guidance.
- The DRL for charter applications was updated to maintain high expectations for charter schools, continuously improve practices and ensure that all students are served.
- District Required Language (DRL) outlines the laws, regulations, and policies that charter schools must follow to be authorized by L.A. Unified.
- NO changes were made to DRL pertaining to public accountability, student and staff safety, or anything under the purview of Office of the Inspector General.
- Updates to DRL do not, in any way, change the District's oversight responsibilities under the law or diminish requirements for charter schools authorized by L.A. Unified.
- For charter students and families, the equation for success is → Innovative instructional practices and skillful educators PLUS effective oversight and guidance EQUALS success...every time.