



Charter Schools Division

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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JOSÉ COLE-GUTIÉRREZ
Director, Charter Schools Division

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Dear Affiliated Charter Schools Principals:

Through discussions with District leadership and the Office of the General Counsel, the following provides clarification to affiliated charter schools regarding admissions policies. Pursuant to the Education Code:

- Admission to a charter school shall not be determined according to the pupil's residence, except that an existing public school converting to a charter school shall adopt and maintain a policy giving admission preference to pupils who reside within the former attendance area of the public school (Ed. Code section 47605(d)(1)).
- The Charter Schools Act requires charter schools to admit all pupils who wish to attend the school. If the number of pupils who wish to attend the charter school exceeds the school's capacity, attendance, **except for existing pupils of the charter school**, shall be determined by a public random drawing. Preference shall be extended to pupils **currently attending the charter school** and pupils who reside in the district. (Ed. Code, section 47605(d)(2)(A) and (B)) (emphasis added).

The Charter Schools Act and the State do not distinguish between affiliated charter schools and independent charter schools. Therefore, the above Education Code provisions apply to affiliated charter schools. Since affiliated charter schools are conversion schools, admission preference has to be provided to students from the attendance boundary. Moreover, once enrolled, existing pupils are exempt from the lottery and have a right to remain enrolled in the school regardless of any change in residence or enrollment capacity constraints. However, if it is discovered that a parent or guardian fraudulently presented the school with residence information in order to gain admittance to the affiliated charter school, the student shall be transferred to the appropriate school of residence.

To ensure alignment and compliance with the Education Code, affiliated charter schools must abide by the above admissions practices.

If you have any questions, please contact your Charter Schools Specialist or Senior Coordinator.

Sincerely,



José Cole-Gutiérrez
Director

c: John E. Deasy
David Holmquist
Matt Hill
Linda Del Cueto
Cheryl Hildreth