



Increase Charter School Accountability

Submitted by Morgan Hill Federation of Teachers, EC-K12, Ed Issues

Whereas, the state of California has more than 1,000 charter schools; and

Whereas, charter schools are publicly funded educational institutions; and

Whereas, charter schools are generally exempt from California State laws governing school districts, except where specifically imposed by California *Education Code (EC)* [Section 47610](#); and

Whereas, charter schools receive public funding but “may elect to operate as, or be operated by, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, formed and organized pursuant to the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law under California Education Code (EC) Section 47604 and therefore may appoint their own governing board members, and

Whereas, exemptions from regulations on financial accounting have led to a lack of transparency in the use of public funds; and

Whereas, the lack of public disclosure of student records leads to a lack of transparency of important student data such as suspensions, expulsions, and dismissals, and

Whereas, elected school boards are responsible for overseeing all charter schools they approve, as part of their responsibility to maintain the public trust;

Therefore be it resolved that the California Federation of Teachers will sponsor legislation that increases the transparency and accountability that the state requires of all charter schools; and

Be it further resolved that this legislation will require that the governing board of every charter school be subject to California Government Code 1090 which ensures that no school board members, consultants, or employees have a financial interest in any agreement, contract, or purchase made by them in their official capacity, or by any governance body or board of which they are a member; and

Be it further resolved that this legislation will require that charter school board members shall be required to submit full financial disclosure reports and identify any potential conflicts of interest prior to being approved by the Charter School Authorizer; and

Be it further resolved that this legislation will make charter schools subject to CA ED Code 41372 which states that at least 55% of a school’s annual expenditures shall be allocated for certificated classroom personnel and pupil services staffing; and

Be it further resolved that this legislation will require that charter schools be subject to a mandatory bidding process for contracts; and

Be it further resolved that this legislation will require that all charter schools use the full Standardized Account Code Structure (SACS) required of all local school districts when presenting financial statements to their charter authorizes; and

Be it further resolved that this legislation will require charter schools to fully disclose enrollment practices and all student records to their charter authorizer; and

Let it finally be resolved that the California Federation of Teachers will sponsor legislation that requires school boards that become charter authorizers to limit the number of approved charters to a number that they have the capacity to responsibly and properly oversee.

Approved for submission by:

NAME OF APPROVING BODY DATE

SIGNATURE AND TITLE of elected officer or committee chair DATE

SIGNATURE AND TITLE of elected officer or committee chair DATE

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER EMAIL

Instructions: Using your word processor, key in the name of the body submitting the resolution, and the title and language of the resolution in the spaces provided. Use as many lines as you need. All resolutions require the signatures of two elected officers of a local union or council, or two members of a committee. Print the resolution and fax or mail the signed copy to the CFT Bay Area office, 1330 Broadway, Suite 1601, Oakland, CA 94612. Fax: 510-523-5262. Finally, if possible, please email the electronic version of the resolution to jgloria@cft.org.

Deadline: Resolutions must be submitted to CFT by **February 6**.