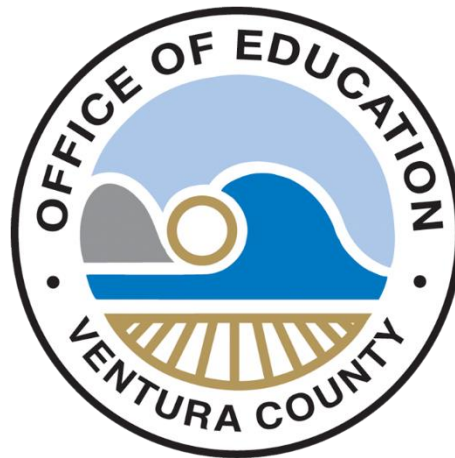


Ventura County Office of Education

5189 Verdugo Way
Camarillo, CA 93012



Dr. César Morales
Ventura County Superintendent of Schools

Charter School Petition Process For Appeals, Renewals and Direct Countywide Submissions

Ventura County Office of Education
Student Services Department
5189 Verdugo Way
Camarillo, CA 93012
(805) 383-1920 Phone
(805) 383-1908 Fax

Charter Petition Review Process

*Petitions Presented Directly to VCBE for the Establishment of a Countywide Charter, Renewals
or on Appeal Following Denial, Non-Renewal or Revocation by a School District*

“The mission of the Ventura County Office of Education is to provide quality services and support for life-long learning opportunities.”

The Ventura County Board of Education (VCBE) and the staff of the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) view the responsibility to provide a quality education to all of the children in Ventura County as a serious undertaking. In that light, we are interested in authorizing only high quality charter schools that:

- Reflect our mission of ensuring the success of all students
- Implement effective approaches to educating students
- Implement effective instructional strategies to serve underperforming populations
- Narrow the achievement gap among students of various backgrounds
- Demonstrate fiscal viability
- Provide sound governance that is free of conflict of interest

The foundational document guiding all charter school operations is the charter. An approved charter is a performance contract between VCOE and the charter school. As such, terms of the contract must be delineated as clearly as possible, especially with regard to student performance measures. A comprehensive, well-written petition provides clear operating procedures for the charter school and objective measures to which VCOE will hold the charter school accountable.

This petition or appeal submission packet is designed to give petitioners a clear outline of what VCOE considers to be a “reasonably comprehensive” charter petition.

A. Submitting the Petition or Appeal

Only complete submission packets will be reviewed.

A charter petition is deemed received by the VCBE for purposes of commencing statutory timelines on the day the petitioner submits the petition to the VCOE Charter School Department, along with a signed certification that the petitioner deems the petition to be complete.

The timelines for the charter petition review are outlined on page 6.

- ☐ 6 printed copies and one electronic copy of the original Charter Petition, and supporting documents considered by District when petition was denied if an appeal. For renewals, submit charter petition from previous term showing edits and provide clean version of updated renewal petition.
- ☐ VCOE Charter Petition Review Checklist, with page numbers identifying where each of the of components listed is found noted in the left column of the matrix.

Please assemble a binder containing the following items with tabs separating each numbered requirement.

- ☐ 1. Table of Contents
- ☐ 2. Notice of Intent to Submit Application (*See Attached*)
- ☐ 3. Copy of Signature pages (50%) of either parents or teachers meaningfully interested
- ☐ 4. Evidence of the school district board's action to deny the petition (meeting minutes) **and** written factual findings for denial
- ☐ 5. Proposed budget (start-up, three-year budget projections, and Cash Flow Analysis)
- ☐ 6. A signed certification that the petitioner(s) will comply with all applicable laws **and** *charter petition is complete*
- ☐ 7. A description of any changes to the petition necessary to reflect the county board of education as the chartering entity

B. Petition Review

The petition for a charter school is reviewed utilizing the Ventura County Office of Education "Charter School Petition Review Checklist" presented as a part of this application packet. Charter petitions presented directly to VCBE, renewals or on appeal following denial are reviewed pursuant to all relevant California Education Codes.

Reasonably Comprehensive Description

According to California Code of Regulations, 5 CCR § 11967.5.1 (g) *A reasonably comprehensive description, within the meaning of subdivision (f) of this section and Education Code section 47605(b)(5) shall include, but not be limited to, information that:*

1. *Is substantive and is not, for example, a listing of topics with little elaboration*
2. *For elements that have multiple aspects, addresses essentially all aspects of the elements, not just selected aspects*
3. *Is specific to the charter petition being proposed, not to charter schools, or charter petitions generally*
4. *Describes, as applicable among the different elements, how the charter school will:*
 - A. *Improve pupil learning*
 - B. *Increase learning opportunities for its pupils, particularly pupils who have been identified as academically low achieving*
 - C. *Provide parents, guardians, and pupils with expanded educational opportunities*
 - D. *Hold itself accountable for measurable, performance-based pupil outcomes*
 - E. *Provide vigorous competition with other public school options available to parents, guardians, and students*

The Ventura County Governing Board and the VCOE staff view 5 CCR § 11967.5.1 (g) as meaningful guidelines for reviewing charter applications and have incorporated this guidance into the "Charter School Petition Review Checklist."

C. Petitioner Team Capacity Interview (At the request of VCOE)

In addition to a review of the charter petition, VCOE Staff may elect to interview the petitioner team and the Board of Directors to gauge the experience and expertise of its members in the areas of:

- Curriculum, instruction and assessment
- Finance and business operations
- School administration, including on-site leadership and on-site financial management
- School governance

If requested by VCOE, this interview is mandatory and must be attended by members of the petitioner team who have expertise in all of the above areas. If a Board of Directors has been identified, at least two members must attend.

D. Ventura County Board of Education Approval Process

Within the guidelines delineated in Education Code § 47605, the Ventura County Board of Education will make a final decision regarding the granting or denial of the charter petition. Petitions may be approved with conditions, including but not limited to the following:

- For a classroom-based program, that a site be secured with an appropriate Certificate of Occupancy 45 days prior to the opening of school
- That the school's student recruitment process not begin until the above condition has been met
- That a qualified principal be hired prior to the opening of the school and that the charter school notify Ventura County Office of Education's Charter Schools Division 45 days prior to the opening of the school
- If the VCBE approves the charter petition, the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the VCBE and petitioners shall be required at the VCBE meeting in which the charter petition is approved.

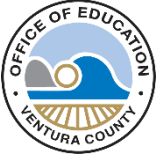
The Board of Education will not deny a petition unless it makes written factual findings setting forth specific facts to support one or more of the following:

- The charter school presents an unsound educational program for students
- The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition
- The petition does not contain the required number of signatures
- The petition does not contain the necessary affirmations
- The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of the required elements for a charter school
- The charter school is demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school is proposing to locate, including an analysis of fiscal impacts of the proposed charter school (Appeals from school district)
- The school district is not positioned to absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school (Appeals from school district)
- For renewals, the charter school did not meet the minimum academic renewal standards (Education Code 47607 & 52052(f))

Please do not hesitate to contact the Ventura County Office of Education
If you have any questions about the application process:

Ventura County Office of Education
Student Services Department – Charter School Division
5189 Verdugo Way
Camarillo, CA 93012
(805) 383-1931

Email inquiries can be addressed to:
mhartsuyker@vcoe.org



Notice of Intent to Submit Application
PETITION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHARTER SCHOOL
Ventura County Office of Education

CHARTER SCHOOL INFORMATION

- ☐ Countywide Charter (47605.6)
- ☐ Direct Submission to VCBE to Serve Students Otherwise Directly Receiving County Related Services (47605.5)
- ☐ Appeal after District Denial (47605)
- ☐ Start up Charter or ☐ Conversion Charter
- ☐ Appeal of Non-Renewed Charter (47607.5)
- ☐ Appeal of Revoked Charter (47607)

Name of proposed charter school: _____

General location (including district) of proposed school: _____

Projected grade levels: _____ Projected Enrollment: _____ Goal date for opening school: _____

LEAD PETITIONER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of lead petitioner: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone Numbers: _____ FAX: _____

Email address: _____

CERTIFICATION

I / we certify that we are interested in applying for a Charter School within Ventura County.

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

Received by: _____

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

CHARTER PETITION TIMELINE

Submission Packet for the Establishment of a Charter School
Only complete application packets will be reviewed

<i>Type of Submission</i>					
Action/ Submission	Appeal of District Denial (47605) and Renewals (47607)	County-Wide Charter (47605.6)	Direct County Charter (47605.5)	Appeal of Non- Renewed Charter (47607.5)	Appeal of Revoked Charter (47607)
1. All Required items detailed in Section A on page 2 of this packet	Maximum of 30 calendar days from district denial	At discretion of petitioners. Timeline does not begin until submission is complete.	At discretion of petitioners. Timeline does not begin until submission is complete.	30 calendar days from the district's denial action	30 days following the final revocation decision of the district
2. Public hearing is held to determine	60 calendar days from receipt of all required documents	60 calendar days from receipt of all documents	60 calendar days from receipt of all required documents	60 calendar days from receipt of all required documents	60 calendar days from receipt of all required documents
3. Decision by the Ventura County Board of Education	*90 calendar days from receipt of all required documents	*90 calendar days from receipt of all required documents	*90 calendar days from receipt of all required documents	*90 calendar days from receipt of all required documents	*90 calendar days from receipt of all required documents
4. Due Process if Denied by VCBE	Appeal to California Board of Education for abuse of discretion review only	None	None	Appeal to California Board of Education for abuse of discretion review only	Appeal to California Board of Education for abuse of discretion review only

*These dates may be extended by an additional 30 days if both parties agree to the extension.