



ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Staff Recommendations and Findings

Orange County Classical Academy

June 18, 2024

I. INTRODUCTION

The following is a summary of the review conducted by Orange County Department of Education staff of the material revision request submitted by Orange County Classical Academy in compliance with Education Code section 47607 and recommendations for consideration by the Orange County Board of Education (the Board).

Orange County Department of Education staff recommends approval of the Orange County Classical Academy material revision.

II. BACKGROUND

The Board approved the Orange County Classical Academy charter petition for a five-year term from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2027, extended by one year through legislation to 2028. Orange County Classical Academy is a countywide charter school approved to serve transitional kindergarten through grade twelve students.

On May 13, 2024, Orange County Classical Academy submitted a material revision requesting to expand operations by adding facilities within the boundaries of Orange Unified and Santa Ana Unified School Districts. A public hearing will be held on June 18, 2024, to consider the level of support for the material revision.

III. LEGAL STANDARD

Material revisions of charter schools are governed by the standards and criteria described in Education Code section 47605 and shall include but not be limited to a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirements of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was initially granted or last renewed. Specifically:

“After receiving approval of its petition, a charter school that proposes to establish operations at additional sites within the geographic boundaries of the county board of education shall notify the school districts where those sites will be located. The charter school shall also request a material revision of its charter by the county board of education that approved its charter, and the county board of education shall consider whether to approve those additional locations at an open, public meeting held no sooner than 30 days following notification of the school districts where the sites will be located.”

Orange County Classical Academy notified Orange Unified and Santa Ana Unified School Districts on March 8, 2024, and May 9, 2024.

Additionally, Education Code 47605.6 states:

“In the event of a drawing, the county board of education shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the growth of the charter school and, in no event, shall take action to impede the charter school from expanding enrollment to meet pupil demand. Per the education code, expanding operations by adding facilities by a charter school shall be approved by the chartering authority at a public hearing.”

IV. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Orange County Department of Education staff determined that the revised Orange County Classical Academy charter petition meets the standards outlined in Education Code sections 47605 and 47607. The proposed material revision will allow the school to address the waiting list and add high school grade levels per the approved charter.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Orange County Department of Education staff recommend that the Board approve Orange County Classical Academy’s material revision to add two additional facilities, one within the boundaries of Orange Unified School District and one within Santa Ana Unified School District.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Board has three options for action regarding a charter petition material revision:

- Option One: Approve the material revision.
- Option Two: Approve the material revision with conditions. This action would result in the approval of the revised charter petition and require the charter school to address concerns raised by the Board by established timelines.
- Option Three: Deny the material revision.

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