



ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Staff Recommendations and Findings

Orange Springs Charter School

February 17, 2026

I. INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the review conducted by Orange County Department of Education staff regarding the material revisions requested by Orange Springs Charter School (“the School”), pursuant to Education Code sections 47605 and 47607, and provides recommendations for consideration by the Orange County Board of Education (“the Board”).

II. BACKGROUND

The Board approved the Orange Springs Charter School charter petition for a five-year term, effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030.

Orange Springs is a countywide charter school serving students in grades transitional kindergarten through twelve. The School currently operates one location within the boundaries of the Santa Ana Unified School District.

On January 14, 2026, the School submitted requests for material revisions to:

1. Remove the existing 19 percent cap on enrollment for independent study,
2. Add an additional location within the boundaries of the Santa Ana Unified School District, and
3. Extend the implementation timeline for opening locations:
 - In Anaheim Elementary School District/Anaheim Union High School District to the 2028-29 school year, and
 - In Saddleback Valley Unified School District to the 2029-30 school year.

A duly noticed public hearing to consider the level of support for the proposed material revisions was held on February 2, 2026.

III. LEGAL STANDARD

Material revisions to a charter petition are governed by Education Code section 47607 and must be approved by the chartering authority in accordance with the standards and criteria set forth in Education Code section 47605.

The revised petition must contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all elements required under EC § 47605, including any new statutory requirements enacted since the charter was originally approved.

The Board must determine whether the revised petition:

- Presents a sound educational program
- Demonstrates the capacity to successfully implement the proposed changes
- Maintains fiscal solvency and operational viability
- Complies with independent study laws (if applicable)
- Remains consistent with sound educational practice

IV. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Orange County Department of Education staff reviewed the revised petition, supporting documentation, enrollment projections, fiscal impact statements, independent study policies, and proposed facility expansion plans.

A. Removal of Independent Study Enrollment Cap

The School proposes removing the existing 19 percent cap on enrollment for independent study students.

Staff review determined:

- The revised petition includes updated descriptions of the independent study program consistent with current statutory requirements.
- Policies addressing certificated employee supervision, work product documentation, synchronous instruction requirements (as applicable), and attendance accounting have been updated.
- Fiscal projections account for potential shifts in ADA associated with increased independent study enrollment.

Staff finds that the School has demonstrated sufficient operational and fiscal capacity to administer independent study programming in compliance with applicable law.

B. Addition of a Santa Ana Unified School District Location

The School proposes adding a second site within the boundaries of Santa Ana Unified School District.

Staff reviewed:

- Enrollment demand projections
- Facility planning assumptions
- Staffing projections

- Fiscal sustainability under multi-site operations

The revised petition reflects operational capacity to expand to an additional location. No material fiscal insolvency concerns were identified.

C. Extension of Implementation Timelines for Additional Districts

The School proposes extending previously approved timelines for opening locations in:

- Anaheim Elementary School District/Anaheim Union High School District to 2028–29
- Saddleback Valley Unified School District to 2029–30

The revised timeline reflects adjusted enrollment growth projections and facility planning considerations. Staff finds the proposed extensions to be reasonable and fiscally prudent, reducing expansion risk exposure.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on review of the revised petition and supporting documentation, staff determined that the Orange Springs Charter School material revision request continues to meet the standards and criteria set forth in Education Code section 47605 and does not present material deficiencies in educational program design, fiscal viability, or operational capacity.

OCDE staff recommend that the Board approve the material revisions to:

- Remove the 19 percent cap on enrollment for independent study.
- Add an additional location within the boundaries of Santa Ana Unified School District.
- Extend the implementation timelines for opening locations in Anaheim Elementary School District/Anaheim Union High School District to 2028–29 and in Saddleback Valley Unified School District to 2029–30.

* * *