



ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Staff Report for

Oxford Preparatory Academy – Saddleback Valley

January 17, 2023

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 Oxford Preparatory Academy – Saddleback Valley in compliance with Education Code section 47607, and recommendations for consideration by the Orange County Board of Education (the Board).

II. BACKGROUND

The Board approved the Oxford Preparatory Academy – Saddleback Valley’s charter petition for a seven-year term from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2028. Oxford Preparatory Academy – Saddleback Valley is a charter school that serves students in grades transitional kindergarten through eighth. On November 4, 2022, Oxford Preparatory Academy – Saddleback Valley submitted material revisions requesting to remove grades sixth through eighth from the charter petition and change enrollment preferences to include siblings of students admitted to or attending the school’s virtual learning program and Oxford Preparatory Academy – Middle School. A public hearing was held on December 14, 2022, to consider the level of support for the material revisions.

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, reasonably comprehensive descriptions of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed. Per education code, priority order for enrollment preferences shall be determined in the charter petition and each type of enrollment preference 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 Oxford Preparatory Academy – Saddleback Valley charter petition meets the standards outlined in Education Code sections 47605. The charter school has a proven track record of academic and operational success. The proposed material revision will allow the school to grow their enrollment from a long wait list. Additionally, current students will not be negatively affected as those students attending the charter school during the 2022-23 school year shall be deemed existing students who are guaranteed enrollment at Oxford Preparatory Academy – Middle School for the 2023-24 academic year. There were no dissenting public comments made regarding the proposed enrollment preferences to include siblings of students admitted to or attending the school’s virtual learning program and Oxford Preparatory Academy – Middle School during the public hearing held on December 14, 2022.

V. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Orange County Department of Education staff recommend that the Board approve Oxford Preparatory Academy – Saddleback Valley’s material revisions to remove grades sixth through eighth and approve the enrollment preferences as delineated in the revised charter petition.

VI. CONCLUSION

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

- Option One: Approve the material revision to remove grades sixth through eighth from the charter petition and approve the revised enrollment preferences to include siblings of students admitted to or attending the school’s virtual learning program and Oxford Preparatory Academy – Middle School.
- Option Two: Approve the material revisions with conditions. This action would result in approval of the revised charter petition and require the charter school to address concerns raised by the Board by established timelines.
- Option Three: Deny one or both of the material revisions.

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