California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-XXX (REV. 10/2021)

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# **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** December 10, 2021

**TO:** MEMBERS, State Board of Education

**FROM:** Tony Thurmond, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT:** State Board of Education-Authorized Districtwide Charters: Annual Academic Report

## Summary of Key Issues

This Information Memorandum provides an executive level summary of information regarding the State Board of Education (SBE)-authorized districtwide charter schools. Pursuant to California *Education Code* Section 47606, a school district may convert all of its schools to charter schools provided that certain specified requirements are met. A districtwide charter can be approved only by joint action of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) and the SBE. To date, the SSPI and the SBE have approved nine districtwide charters: seven are active; one has closed; and one surrendered its charter and operates as a non-charter school district.

As a charter authorizer, the SBE must provide oversight monitoring of the charter schools it authorizes. The SBE has delegated this responsibility to the county office of education (COE) where the districtwide charter is located; therefore, in the course of oversight monitoring, the California Department of Education (CDE) requested documentation to support the oversight efforts of the COE. Typically, as a part of the annual academic report, the CDE reviews available testing data, which ordinarily includes the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress English language arts/literacy and mathematics academic test results and California School Dashboard data. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the suspension of statewide testing, assessment data is absent for fiscal years 2019–20 and 2020–21. In this absence, other information was requested to help COEs and the CDE gauge areas where districtwide charter schools were making progress.

The documents each districtwide charter and COE submitted are provided as attachments to this Information Memorandum. Each attachment contains a response from the districtwide charter to the following:

* A summary review of the school’s areas of greatest progress and greatest need
* An update on progress made toward achieving measurable pupil outcomes
* A description of the districtwide charter’s spring 2021 assessments
* A description of how the districtwide charter will address pupil learning loss that resulted from COVID-19 during the 2019–20 and 2020–21 school years
* A description of how the districtwide charter will monitor and support the mental health, and social and emotional well-being of pupils during the school year

Additionally, each attachment contains a response from the COE to the following:

* Acknowledgement that the districtwide charter has or has not produced a Local Control and Accountability Plan
* Schedule of districtwide charter site visit(s) or proposed site visit(s)
* Summary of any technical assistance offered to the districtwide charter by the COE
* Acknowledgement that the COE either has no concerns or has commendations, or has concerns and the expectation for remediation

**State Board of Education-Authorized Districtwide Charter Schools**

The SBE currently authorizes the following seven districtwide charter schools:

| County | District |
| --- | --- |
| Placer | Ackerman Charter |
| Fresno | Alvina Elementary |
| Stanislaus | Hickman Community Charter |
| Kings | Island Union Elementary |
| Fresno | Kingsburg Elementary Charter |
| Kings | Kings River-Hardwick Union Elementary |
| Kings | Pioneer Union Elementary |

## Attachments

* **Attachment 1:** Request for Academic Memorandum Response Sent to State Board of Education-Authorized Districtwide Charter Schools and County Offices of Education (1 Page)
* **Attachment 2:** Response from Ackerman Charter (6 Pages)
* **Attachment 3:** Response from Alvina Elementary (7 Pages)
* **Attachment 4:** Response from Hickman Community Charter (8 Pages)
* **Attachment 5:** Response from Island Union Elementary (6 Pages)
* **Attachment 6:** Response from Kingsburg Elementary Charter (7 Pages)
* **Attachment 7:** Response from Kings River-Hardwick Union Elementary (11 Pages)
* **Attachment 8:** Response from Pioneer Union Elementary (9 Pages)