



Item #11

International Studies Language Academy

State Board of Education

May 9, 2018



TOM TORLAKSON
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

Timeline

- November 7, 2017, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) voted to deny the petition of International Studies Language Academy (ISLA) by a consent vote.
- January 16, 2018, the Los Angeles County Board of Education (LACBOE) voted to deny the petition.
 - Vote was four to one.
- ISLA petitioners submitted a petition on appeal to the State Board of Education (SBE) on January 29, 2018.



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CDE Recommendation (1)

The CDE recommends that the SBE hold a public hearing to **deny** the request to establish International Studies Language Academy, a TK/K–8 charter school, under the oversight of the SBE.

Recommendation based on:

Unsound Educational Program

- Implementing a two-way dual language immersion model in four languages: English and French, German, Italian, or Spanish starting in all grade levels, TK/K–8



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CDE Recommendation (2)

Demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program

- Unrealistic financial and operational plan
 - Aggressive enrollment assumptions
 - Ability to recruit qualified teachers for the two-way dual immersion program in four different languages
 - Ability to secure a facility
- Previous SBE Approval – did not open school in Glendale Unified School District (GUSD)



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CDE Recommendation (3)

Deficiencies in Charter Elements

- Employee qualifications
- Admission requirements
- Dispute resolution procedures



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Advisory Commission on Charter Schools

- April 10, 2018 meeting
- Advisory Commission on Charter Schools (ACCS) moved to recommend approval of the petition to the SBE.
- The motion did not pass by a vote of four to three.
- Five votes are required to move an ACCS recommendation forward to the SBE; therefore, no recommendation moved.



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Previous SBE Approval (1)

- February 19, 2016, ISLA submitted a petition on appeal.
 - Denied by the GUSD and LACBOE
- May 12, 2016, the SBE voted to approve the ISLA petition for a five-year term effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021.
- June 15, 2016, ISLA submitted a request for a material revision to delay opening due to the inability to secure a facility by September 30, 2016, which was a condition of SBE approval.



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Previous SBE Approval (2)

- September 9, 2016, the SBE voted to approve ISLA's material revision of the charter to change from opening in 2016–17 to 2017–18.
- ISLA could not secure the proper facility and meet the conditions set forth by the SBE.
- ISLA did not open the school and voluntarily closed on March 13, 2017.



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CDE Findings – Unsound Educational Program

The petitioner does not present a sound plan for its projected enrollment layout.

- ISLA projected starting enrollment is 438 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018–19 to 796 by FY 2020–21, for an increase of over 80 percent over two years.
- 90/10 two-way dual language immersion model in four languages: English and French, German, Italian, or Spanish



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CDE Findings – Unsound Educational Program (1)

In year one:

- Dual immersion will be offered in four target languages in TK/K, grade one, and grade seven.
- Dual immersion will be offered in two languages in grade two through grade five.
- Acquisition will be offered in four target languages in grade six; however, dual immersion will not be offered.



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CDE Findings – Unsound Educational Program (2)

- Ability to recruit and hire qualified teachers in four languages prior to the start of the 2017–18 school year is problematic.
- The petitioner states they will explore alternative teacher credentialing such as exchange and sojourn credentials.

The complexities of the educational program, beginning with four different languages, makes this educational program highly unlikely to be implemented in a manner which will benefit students.



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CDE Findings – Fiscal (1)

CDE reviewed projected budget and multi-year financial plan.

- Multi-year financial plan is **not** fiscally viable due to negative ending fund balances of \$589,769; \$1,035,813; and \$1,539,012 with no reserve for Fiscal Year 2018–19 to 2020–21.
- Multi-year projected budget includes start-up loans totaling \$525,000 and a Public Charter Schools Grant Program of \$375,000.
 - CDE excludes them from the budget analysis.



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CDE Findings – Fiscal (2)

- Facility costs unknown - ISLA petitioner does not describe the type of facility needed to operate the size and scope of projected enrollment.
 - No Prop 39 agreement with LAUSD in place
 - No facility prospects to house the projected starting enrollment of 438 pupils



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Deficiencies in Charter Elements (1)

Employee Qualifications

- Petition lacks a reasonably comprehensive description of employee qualifications.
 - Non-credentialed individuals from internship programs overseas
 - No plan or timeline for non-credentialed individuals from internship programs overseas to obtain the necessary credentials.



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Deficiencies in Charter Elements (2)

Admissions Requirements

- Admissions requirements call for two lottery pools.
- Admission preferences provided to ISLA's founders are unclear.



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Summary

- Complexities of Educational Program
 - Number of teachers needed
- Aggressive enrollment projections
- Fiscal viability
- Previous and current facility concerns
- Admission requirements