

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION****TONY THURMOND**  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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April 22, 2020

Miguel Juarez, Board President  
Ricardo Mireles, Executive Director  
Academia Avance Charter  
115 North Avenue 53  
Los Angeles, CA 90042

Dear President Juarez and Director Mireles:

Subject: State Board of Education Approval of the Academia Avance Charter Renewal  
with Conditions

At its March 12, 2020, meeting, the State Board of Education (SBE) renewed Academia Avance Charter (AAC) for a five-year term effective July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2025, under the authorization of the SBE and under the following conditions:

- AAC must contract with an independent education services provider agency, such as WestEd, to conduct a root cause analysis and develop an academic action plan that is focused on identifying and improving the school's math performance and English learner progress. The plan must be adopted by the AAC Executive Board (Board) and provided to the California Department of Education (CDE) by August 1, 2020.
- AAC must contract with an independent expert, such as the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, to develop a fiscal action plan to eliminate the need for the selling of receivables and to provide training and assistance to the AAC Board and staff to ensure effective internal control procedures as well as effective and reliable operations and financial reporting. The plan must be adopted by the AAC Board and provided to the CDE by October 1, 2020.
- AAC leadership will provide quarterly updates to the CDE regarding development and implementation of these plans.

Additionally, the AAC Board must address the following findings:

- The CDE requires AAC to provide the necessary language in the petition to meet the requirement of Element 4: Governance Structure (Enclosure 1, pp. 27–28). AAC must add language throughout the petition to clarify that the term Avance Executive Board, as labeled in the Governance and Organizational chart provided in the AAC petition, is the accurate term to identify the AAC Board.

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Also, the Governance and Organizational Structure chart in the AAC petition should be moved to the beginning of Element 4: Governance Structure. Additionally, AAC will revise the petition to reflect the SBE as the authorizer and to include the necessary language for Element 4: Governance Structure regarding the AAC Board, Governance and Organizational Structure, conflict of interest rules, and Political Reform Act.

- The CDE requires AAC to provide the necessary language in the petition to meet the requirement of Element 5: Employee Qualifications (Enclosure 1, p. 29). AAC must add language to the petition identifying the positions that AAC regards as key in each category as well as the minimum educational qualifications for the following positions: Executive Director, Principal, Director of Special Education, School Psychologist, Teacher Assistants, and High School Dean.
- The CDE requires AAC to provide the necessary language in the petition to meet the requirement of Element 14: Dispute Resolution Procedures (Enclosure 1, pp. 41–42). AAC must add language to the petition that recognizes the following:
  - Because the SBE is not a local educational agency, the SBE may choose to resolve a dispute directly instead of pursuing the dispute resolution process specified in the charter, provided that if the SBE intends to resolve a dispute directly instead of pursuing the dispute resolution specified in the charter, it must first hold a public hearing to consider arguments for and against the direct resolution of the dispute instead of pursuing the dispute resolution process specified in the charter.
  - The SBE cannot be pre-bound to a contractual obligation to split the costs of mediation or agree to mediation to resolve disputes.
  - The substance of a dispute is a matter that could result in the taking of appropriate action, including, but not limited to, revocation of the charter in accordance with California *Education Code (EC)* Section 47604.5. The matter will be addressed at the SBE's discretion in accordance with that provision of law and any regulations pertaining thereto.

The revised petition is to be submitted in Microsoft Word format to the Charter Schools Division by email at [sbeoversight@cde.ca.gov](mailto:sbeoversight@cde.ca.gov) **within 60 days of the date of this letter.**

The CDE provides Enclosure 1 for your reference.

Pursuant to *EC* Section 47604.32, Matthew Huddleston, Education Programs Consultant, will continue to be the staff contact for AAC.

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Additionally, as California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress data and fiscal reports become available, the CDE will continue to monitor the academic performance and fiscal viability of AAC, which could result in the CDE requesting a written response, an action plan, or additional documentation.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Carrie Lopes, Education Administrator, by phone at 916-323-2694 or by email at [clopes@cde.ca.gov](mailto:clopes@cde.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Stephanie Farland, Director  
Charter Schools Division

SF:mlh

Enclosure

cc: Karen Stapf Walters, Executive Director, California State Board of Education  
Khieem Jackson, Deputy Superintendent, Equity and Access Branch, California  
Department of Education

*Sent via First Class Mail and Email to:*

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