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For more information regarding the content of this material, please contact the Charter Schools Division by email at charters@cde.ca.gov.

Olive Grove Charter-Santa Barbara
Supporting Documentation

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETE CHARTER PETITION:

Education Code Section 47605(b)

A charter petition is deemed received by the governing board of the school district on the day the petitioner submits a petition to the district office, along with a signed certification that the petitioner deems the petition to be complete. The following certification is submitted in compliance with Education Code Section 47605(b).

No later than 60 days after receiving a petition, the governing board of the school district shall hold a public hearing on the provisions of the charter. Following review of the petition and the public hearing, the governing board of the school district shall either grant or deny the charter within 90 days of receipt of the petition, provided, however, that the date may be extended by an additional 30 days if both parties agree to the extension.

- Date of submission: July 30, 2025
- Deadline for public hearing: September 28, 2025
- Deadline for granting or denying the charter petition: October 28, 2025

Certification

By signing below, I certify as follows:

1. That I am the authorized representative of Olive Grove Charter - Santa Barbara, and that I am competent and qualified to certify to the facts herein;
2. That, as the authorized representative, I have personal knowledge of the facts forming the basis of this certification;
3. That I make this certification for purposes of Education Code Section 47605(b) only; and
4. That I deem the charter petition to be complete.

Received

Sandra Trujillo
Sandra Trujillo
7/30/25

Name: Meg Rydman, Lead Petitioner

Charter School: Olive Grove Charter - Santa Barbara

Signature: *Meg Rydman*

Date: *July 30 2025*

Olive Grove Charter-Santa Barbara
Supporting Documentation



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November 6, 2025

Sent Via Email
Charters@cde.ca.gov

Ric Reyes, Director
Charter Schools Division
California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 5401
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Olive Grove Charter – Santa Barbara Charter Renewal Petition Appeal to the State Board of Education

Dear Director Reyes:

This letter serves as Olive Grove Charter – Santa Barbara’s (“OGCS-SB” or the “Charter School”) appeal of the denial of its charter renewal petition by the Santa Barbara Unified School District (“SBUSD” or the “District”) to the State Board of Education (“SBE”), as provided for in Education Code¹ Sections 47605.9(b) and 47605(k)(1)(B), and Title 5, California Code of Regulations (“5 CCR”) Section 11966.6.

These laws require that OGCS-SB, currently authorized by the SBE, submit its renewal charter first to SBUSD, the school district within whose boundaries the Charter School is located, and which originally denied the OGCS-SB charter petition. OGCS-SB followed this requirement, and SBUSD denied the renewal charter on October 28, 2025. Pursuant to Sections 47605.9(b) and 47605(k)(1)(B), the Charter School is entitled to a *de novo* review of its charter by the SBE.

In a *de novo* review, the SBE is not limited to considering or operating within the District’s findings for denial of the OGCS-SB charter petition. The SBE does not have to find any “abuse of discretion” by SBUSD in order to approve the Charter School’s charter petition. Instead, the SBE is to review the renewal charter with fresh eyes, and must approve or deny consistent with Sections 47605(c), 47607, and 47607.2.

If the charter renewal appeal is approved by the SBE, OGCS-SB hereby requests that authorization be designated to the Santa Barbara County Education Office. As documented herein, the District’s failure to provide findings that meet the requirements of Section 47607.2(b)(6), the embellishment of the legal standard for a reasonably comprehensive description of required elements, combined with the District’s failure to evaluate the Charter School’s educational program and academic performance in an objective and legally sound manner raises serious concerns about the District’s ability to serve as a fair and competent authorizer.

¹ All statutory citations herein are to the Education Code, unless otherwise identified.

THE DISTRICT DID NOT FOLLOW LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DENIAL

Assembly Bill 1505 (2019) substantially changed the standards and criteria for charter renewal. Among them, two standards for denial of a renewal charter were added to the law. First, Education Code Section 47607(e) permits a denied renewal following notice and an opportunity to cure allegations from the chartering authority of substantial fiscal or governance factors, or of not serving all students who wish to attend. SBUSD never provided such notice to OGCS-SB, so this reason for denial was unavailable.

Second, Section 47607.2(b)(6), which is not cited in the District's Staff Report, permits denial of a renewal charter only after specific factual findings are made. It states:

The chartering authority may deny a charter renewal pursuant to this subdivision only upon making written findings, setting forth specific facts to support the findings, that the charter school has failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the pupils of the school, that closure of the charter school is in the best interest of its pupils and, if applicable pursuant to paragraph (2) and (3), that its decision provided greater weight to performance on measures of academic performance.

(Emphasis added.)

The District's findings fell far short of the legal standard and could not be relied upon to lawfully deny the Charter Petition. The District Board could only deny by finding that closure is in the best interest of OGCS-SB students. Because that is demonstrably untrue, for three primary reasons, the District Board's action to adopt the Staff Report as its findings for denial did not meet the legal threshold for denial.

First, the Staff Report does not contain any written findings, let alone written findings that meet the requirements of Section 47607.2(b)(6), setting forth specific facts that OGCS-SB has failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to its students, nor does the Staff Report contain specific factual findings that closure of OGCS-SB is in the best interest of students.

To the contrary, closure would acutely harm students by transferring them to the Alta Vista High School independent study program, as the District plans to do. Based on 2024 Dashboard data, Alta Vista's ELA and Math distance from standard ("DFS") are far lower than OGCS-SB. Closure of the Charter School would sentence its students to shockingly worse options.

ELA DFS

	OGCS-SB	Alta Vista
All Students	-33.5	-229.2
Hispanic	-31.4	-253.7
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	-41.5	-237.5

Math DFS

	OGCS-SB	Alta Vista
All Students	-148.3	-272.2
Hispanic	-144.4	-306.8
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	-149.4	-290.1

Second, the Staff Report attempts to invent a new legal standard that the Charter School's renewal petition "meets the statutory requirement of containing reasonably comprehensive descriptions of each element, but the program's implementation and results do not demonstrate effectiveness or alignment with SBUSD expectations for student achievement and accountability." That the Charter Petition must contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of required elements **is** a lawful reason for denial. But the notion that the Charter Petition could be denied due to SBUSD's (unpublished, undisclosed, unexplained) "expectations" for student achievement and accountability is a theory made up out of whole cloth, without any basis in law.

Third, District staff claims to have conducted a comprehensive review of the Charter Petition's "verified performance data." However, District Staff did not use verified data once in its academic data analysis, despite the fact that OGCS-SB included this data, and SBUSD is required to consider it (Section 47607.2(b)(3)).

Pursuant to Section 47607.2(b), the District must consider academic achievement and verified data. The District claimed to have completed a comprehensive review of the Charter School's data, yet this review is sorely lacking as demonstrated by the absence of statutorily required data. The District failed to consider verified data required for middle-performing schools. Instead, the only data the District used was data they could validate from public sources. The Charter School had provided data clearly showing one year's progress through use of verified data in its charter petition, yet the District chose to not incorporate this in their analysis. The lack of meticulous work required to assemble findings to show support the District's claim that the Charter School failed to meet or make sufficient progress is concerning to OGCS-SB.

The District's findings focus on inaccurate facts with no evidence to back up any of its claims. The District failed to evaluate the educational program in an objective way and made false claims around the Charter School's course offerings, claiming the Charter School had a lack of A-G courses, Advanced Placement opportunities, or Career Technical education pathways. These falsehoods are particularly concerning, given the extensive description of each of them in the charter petition. Despite the Charter School directly refuting these claims at the District Board meeting, the District sent out communication to families who attend school in the District, continuing to target the Charter School and spread false information.

Board Denies Olive Grove Charter School-SB Charter Renewal

The Board voted 3-2 to deny a charter renewal petition for Olive Grove Charter School – Santa Barbara.

The decision follows a comprehensive staff review, which concluded the charter school has not made sufficient academic progress toward meeting the standards as required by state law.

Key findings supporting the denial included:

- **Declining Performance:** Multi-year academic proficiency drops, with **ELA falling from 46% to 31% and Math from 11% to 4%**.
- **Low Standards:** California School Dashboard data shows performance is "**significantly below standard**".
- **Programmatic Gaps:** Limited implementation of standards-aligned instruction, student supports (MTSS), and English Learner programs.
- **Course Access:** Limited to no availability of **A-G (UC/CSU prep)**, Advanced Placement, or Career Technical Education offerings.

Throughout the course of the charter term, OGCS-SB has consistently provided extensive post-secondary opportunities to students, supports for all students – including students with disabilities and English Learners, and has proven to be an excellent option for students who are seeking an alternative education. OGCS-SB believes that District staff have done a disservice to the students the Charter School has been serving for the past seven years by creating and spreading incorrect information.

DOCUMENTS COMPRISING THIS APPEAL

In accordance with 5 CCR Section 11966.6, the OGCS-SB renewal charter packet includes the following:

1. A complete copy of the charter petition as denied by the District, including a reasonably comprehensive description of how the Charter School has met all new charter school requirements enacted into law after the charter was originally granted, and including all additional documents submitted to the District. (Attached under Tab 1.) The Certificate of Completeness required by Education Code Section 47605(b) is also attached under Tab 1. The charter petition itself contains documentation that OGSB-SB met the applicable criteria for renewal.
2. A copy of the District governing board's written factual findings denying the petition for renewal. Attached under Tab 2, please find:
 - a. District Staff Report and findings for denial of the charter petition dated October 13, 2025.
 - b. The Charter School's response to the District's findings for denial of the charter petition dated October 27, 2025.
 - c. District Board Resolution from October 28, 2025.
3. A description of any changes to the petition necessary to reflect the SBE as the chartering authority are not necessary to submit, as the SBE will designate either the District or the Santa Barbara County Education Office as the chartering authority. Nevertheless, to meet the Regulatory requirement, please see such description included under Tab 3.

* * *

At its October 28, 2025, meeting, the District Board voted to deny the Charter School's charter petition. This appeal is therefore within the 30-day limit for submission of an appeal of a charter petition, as stated in 47605(k). A copy of the appeal has been sent to SBUSD.

We look forward to working with the SBE and the CDE during consideration of the charter petition. Please feel free to contact me at (805) 260-9148 or via email at mrydman@olivegrovecharter.org anytime.

Sincerely,



Meg Rydman
Superintendent

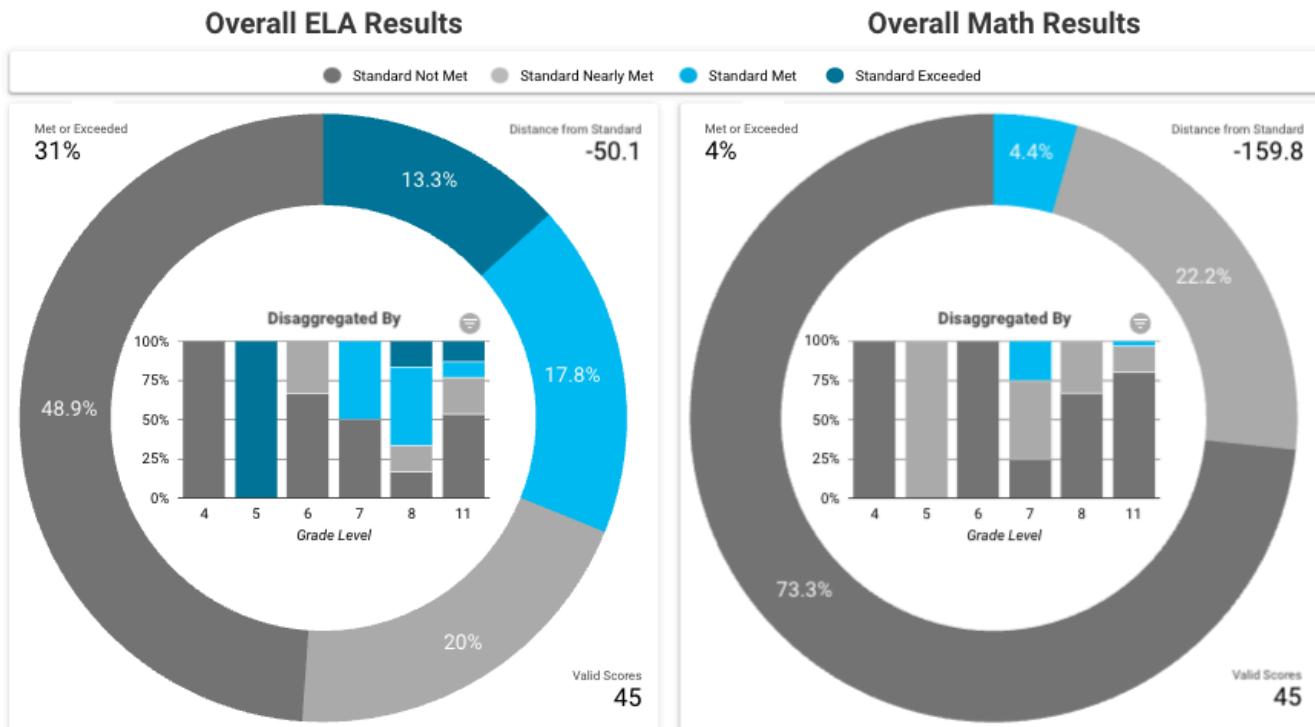
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Olive Grove Charter - Santa Barbara

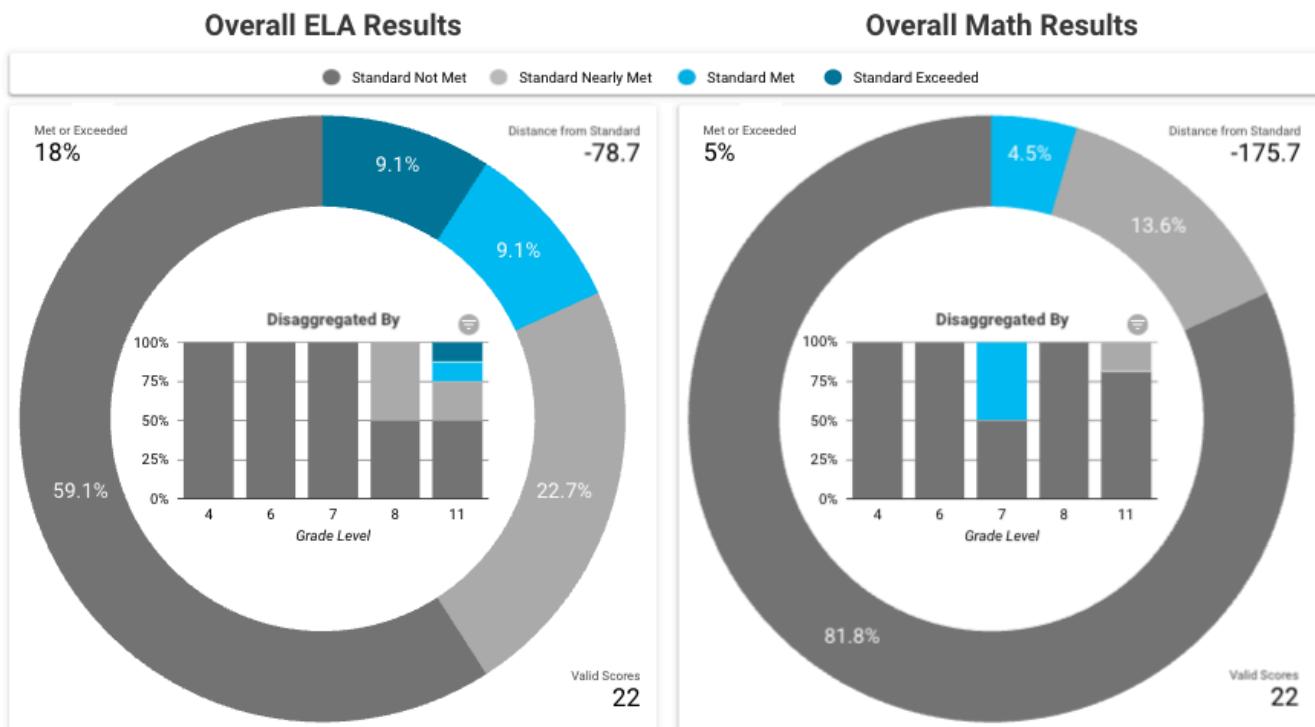
Projected 2025 CAASPP Results

- All students & student groups with 11 or more students

All Students



Socioeconomically Disadvantaged



Hispanic/Latino

