

ROCKETSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Rocketship Futuro Academy

Summary of Major Legal Changes in Renewal Petition

On March 10, 2016, the California State Board of Education approved the charter for Rocketship Futuro Academy for a five year term beginning July 1, 2016.

This memo provides a summary of the changes that are contained in our petition for renewal based on new requirements that have been enacted into state or federal law over the past five years, as required by Education Code (EC) 47607(b). This memo is intended to be a guidance document that helps satisfy the legal requirements of 47607. To the extent that the renewal petition includes additional changes that are the result of any law that has been enacted or revised, or contains more details than are described herein, those changes should be viewed in furtherance of our obligations under 47607 as well.

Throughout the petition, all references to EC 47605 have been revised to reflect the changes to that statute pursuant to AB 1505. (For example, all references to 47605(b) are now 47605(c).) The petition also includes an analysis of how the Charter School meets the legal standard for renewal under EC 47607 and 47607.2.

Element A: Instructional Program and Annual Goals

- Pursuant to EC47605(c)(5)(A)(ii), our petition now contains a reasonably comprehensively description of annual goals for all pupils and for each subgroup of pupils in each of the state priority areas specified in Education Code section 52060 subdivision (d)(2)-(8) for each grade level served by the charter school.
- Pursuant to SB 98, signed in June 2020, the deadline for Transitional Kindergarten teachers to fulfill their certification requirements has been extended from August 2020 to August 2021.

Element D: Governance/Assurances

- Our petition now includes a description of how our Board of Directors will comply with EC 47604.1 regarding meeting locations.
- Our petition has also been updated to clarify that all of our Board subcommittees will also comply with the Brown Act.
- Our petition has removed the language that we will comply with all “non-waived” sections of the Brown Act. In accordance with SB 75, Rocketship shall comply with all sections of the Brown Act.

Element E/Assurances: Credentialing

- In accordance with AB 1505, we have removed all language stating that flexibility will be granted to noncore, noncollege prep teachers and have added assurances that all teachers will hold the CTC certificate, permit, or other document required for the teacher’s certificated assignment.

Element F: Health and Safety

- Our petition now includes our School Safety Plan, included as part of our Health and Safety appendix, pursuant to AB 1747 and EC 47605(b)(5)(f).
- Pursuant to AB 2291, our petition now includes a description of how we will comply with the bullying prevention and training requirements of EC 234.4 and EC 32283.5.

- Our petition has been updated to provide assurances that we will provide all students who meet the federal eligibility criteria for Free and Reduced Price meals with at least one nutritionally adequate meal per day as defined in EC 49553.
- Pursuant to AB 1767 and EC 215(a)(2)(A) , Rocketship has adopted an age-appropriate policy on pupil suicide prevention. This policy is also included in the Appendix.
- We have updated our policy on fingerprinting/background checks to include additional requirements for employees who are charged or convicted of crimes to remain in compliance with EC 44939.5.
- We have also updated our medication administration policy to require our schools to stock auto-injector EpiPens pursuant to EC 49414.

Element G: Balance

- In accordance with E.C. 47605(c)(5)(G), we have included a description of how the Charter School will achieve a balance of special education pupils and English learner pupils that is reflective of the general population residing in the territorial jurisdiction of the District.

Element H/Assurances: Admissions and Enrollment

- Revisions to admissions and enrollment policies to comply with E.C. 47605(e) and 47605(n), including:
 - Enrollment preferences shall not require mandatory parental volunteer hours as a criterion for admission or enrollment.
 - Parental involvement is not a requirement for acceptance to, or continued enrollment at, the Charter School.
- Assurances that the Charter School will not discourage enrollment or encourage disenrollment of any pupil for any reason, and specifically for reasons based on academic performance, the pupil's nationality, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, or because the pupil is disabled, academically low-achieving, an English learner, neglected or delinquent, homeless, economically disadvantaged, or a foster youth. Pursuant to EC 47605(e), our petition also reflects the requirement that a charter school is prohibited from requesting a pupil's record or requiring a parent to provide a pupil's records prior to enrollment in the charter school.

Element J: Suspension and Expulsion

- Pursuant to AB 1360, our petition now provides further description of how the Charter School will comply with all federal and state due process requirements in suspensions or expulsions. Additionally, pursuant to AB1747, our suspension and expulsion policy now includes the grounds for mandatory suspension/recommendation for expulsion as set forth in EC 48915. [E.C. 47605(c)(5)(J)]
- Assurances that Rocketship will comply with E.C. 47606.2 and 48913.5 with regards to homework assignments during suspension.
- In accordance with SB 419, Rocketship has removed willful defiance from its list of grounds for suspension or expulsion. [EC 48900, 48901.1]