

**CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-39**

**Resolution of the Board of Trustees to Approve Material Revision to
Charter Petition of California Connections Academy Southern California**

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2004, the Capistrano Unified School District (“District”) approved a Charter Petition submitted by Capistrano Connections Academy (“Charter School”);

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2009, the District renewed Charter School’s charter for a five- year term;

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2014, the District renewed Charter School’s charter for an additional five-year term commencing July 1, 2014 and expiring June 30, 2019;

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2018, the District renewed Charter School’s charter for a five-year term commencing July 1, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2024;

WHEREAS, Charter School seeks an amendment to its charter to enable it to conduct a lottery pursuant to its lottery policy, and to adopt admissions preferences;

WHEREAS, Charter School also seeks to make additional modifications to its Charter; and

WHEREAS, the District and Charter School have agreed to materially revise Charter School’s Charter Renewal Petition to reflect the changes noted below.

1. The paragraph under the heading entitled “Nondiscrimination in Admissions” on page 116 of the Charter shall be replaced with the following language:

California Connections Academy is committed to a policy of educational and workplace equality. CalCA SoCal does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, pregnancy, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, age or genetic information, immigration status, or any other category protected by federal or state law in the admission to, participation in, or receipt of the services under any California Connections Academy educational programs and activities, or in its employment practices.

This statement is in accordance with the provisions of Title VII of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, Title IX of the *Educational Amendment of 1972* (Title 9), Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* (Section 504), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004* (IDEA).

CalCA SoCal does not discourage a student from enrolling or seeking to enroll for any reason, including, but not limited to academic performance of the student or because the student exhibits any of a list of characteristics:

- Academically low-achieving
- Economically disadvantaged (determined by income eligibility for any free or reduced price meal program)
- English learner
- Ethnicity
- Foster youth
- Homeless
- Nationality
- Immigration status
- Neglected or delinquent
- Race
- Sexual Orientation
- Pupils with disabilities

CalCA SoCal complies with state requirements regarding enrollment and disenrollment for charter schools, including those contained in Education Code section 47605.

2. Two paragraphs are added after the first paragraph under the heading that reads “Admission Methods and Eligibility Criteria” on page 117 of the Charter. Additionally, the first sentence of the following paragraph shall be deleted, and the words “This includes signing and upholding” in the second sentence of that paragraph shall be revised. Those three paragraphs shall now read as follows:

In accordance with admission and enrollment rules for California charter schools, minimal information is requested of parents in order to submit an application for enrollment.

This means that there are additional tasks which must be completed in order for the student to complete registration and start school, including meeting all eligibility guidelines and any enrollment or re-enrollment deadlines for the school. These additional tasks may include such things as completing online information forms, providing various documents such as proof of residency, proof of age, a Master Agreement for independent study, and immunization records or exemption information for the student.

Parents must agree to and uphold all necessary school-family agreements (such as an Independent Study Master Agreement as shown in Exhibit C and/or the PLCA in Exhibit D). Students are subject to the age and geographic restrictions for California public school admission and funding. The school's policies regarding age eligibility are included in the School Handbook (see Exhibit B).

3. The section entitled "Timetable/Lottery" beginning on page 118 of the Charter shall be revised. The section as revised shall read as follows:

As a non-classroom based school, CalCA SoCal has historically been able to accommodate all eligible students who apply and complete the registration process. Enrollment (and re-enrollment) for the following school year generally opens on or around March 1, and enrollment for the current school year closes around that same time. The CalCA SoCal enrollment team assists parents in completing the required enrollment tasks and in meeting any state-mandated enrollment requirements. However, if demand for enrollment exceeds the school resources, the Board ensures that students are admitted in a fair and transparent manner. In order to accomplish this, the Board may set an enrollment cap and implement a detailed public lottery procedure in accordance with California Education Code section 47605 (e)(2)(B). The Board also would address any applicable federal requirements for the lottery process.

In accordance with California Education Code section 47605 (e)(2)(A) and section 47605 (e)(2)(C), CalCA SoCal, in partnership with CUSD, makes every reasonable attempt to accommodate all the students who wish to attend the charter school. The school's adopted lottery process conforms to all applicable federal and state requirements regarding how to weight or exempt various types of applicants and how to hold the lottery. In the event of a lottery, preference shall be extended in the following order of priority:

1. Existing pupils
2. Children of current CalOPS employees (including any employee offered a position for the upcoming school year)
3. Siblings of existing pupils
4. Pupils who reside within Capistrano Unified School District

Once a student starts attending CalCA SoCal, they become "existing pupils of the charter school" for purposes of any lottery and for determining sibling preference. They therefore have admission priority as enrolled students and are exempt from any lottery, as long as they submit all updated registration documents in a timely manner and continue to meet the school's eligibility requirements in subsequent enrollment periods.

4. The last sentence in the section entitled "Enrollment Window" on page 119 of the Charter shall be revised. Additionally, a new sentence will be added to the end of that section. The final two sentences of that section shall now read as follows:

For example, students moving from another geographic area who attend a different California Connections Academy School may be allowed to transfer after the open enrollment window has closed. The Board may also set a time frame(s) to accept applications in order to determine if a lottery will be necessary.

5. The third paragraph under the section entitled “VI. Non-Discrimination and Racial Balance” on page 119 of the Charter shall be revised and amended to read as follows:

CalCA SoCal utilizes a broad reaching student recruiting effort, thereby ensuring outreach to families with a wide variety of racial, ethnic, linguistic, academic and socioeconomic backgrounds. In particular, the school will focus on achieving a student population reflective of the geographic areas served including students with disabilities, and English Language learners, including students who have been re-designated as fluent in English. In order to accomplish this, certain subgroups may be targeted for extra recruitment efforts in order to achieve a pool of potential students that reflects a balanced student population. Partnerships and outreach efforts using a variety of community and youth organizations aid in this process. Information is included on the public website which describes how the school serves students with disabilities. During information sessions or outreach to communities which speak languages other than English, the school may provide translators and/or informational materials in other languages. More details of the school’s outreach program are described above in Section VI.A.

6. A final paragraph reading as follows shall be added at the end of the section entitled “Suspension (not more than nine days)” on page 124:

Upon the request of a parent/guardian or the affected pupil, the school shall provide access, either directly or indirectly, to a pupil who has been suspended from school for two or more schooldays for disciplinary reasons, to the assignments that the pupil would otherwise have been given during that time period. If an assignment that is requested and turned in by the pupil according to the school’s procedures, either upon the pupil’s return to school from suspension, or within the timeframe originally prescribed by the teacher or the school’s protocols, whichever is later, is not graded before the end of the academic term, that assignment shall not be included in the calculation of the pupil’s overall grade in the class.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees this day of May 19, 2021.


AYES:	(7)
NOES	(0)
ABSENT	(0)
ABSTAIN	(0)

I, Kirsten M. Vital Brulte, Secretary of the Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees, hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said

Board at the meeting on the 21st day of April, 2021, by a roll call vote.



Gila Jones
Clerk of the Board of Trustees



Kirsten M. Vital Brulte
Superintendent
Secretary of the Board of Trustees