

MEMBER COUNCIL FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVED ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY

The California Charter School Association's Member Council represents the voice of the members to the Association's Board and staff. They facilitate open discussion of issues facing the movement and strive to provide leadership in their regions and to the Association.

Recognizing the need for improved academic accountability for charter schools, the Member Council has driven the Association's efforts to design a more rigorous accountability measure. In June of 2009, after a three-month planning process, the Member Council unanimously adopted the following framework to guide this work.

Member Council Goals for Establishing Improved Academic Accountability for Charter Schools

1. Develop simple and elegant measures for minimum academic performance expectations based upon California's Academic Performance Index (API) system.
2. Advocate for and support the refinement of the state's academic accountability system to become a more sophisticated measure of value-add across all schools.
3. Establish a rigorous performance expectation that allows for the wide differences in school programs within the charter community and that takes into account the wide differences in student background coming into a school.
4. Articulate reasonable timeframes for decision-making with regards to renewals that provide for appropriate review and appeal of renewal decisions.
5. Ensure school districts may no longer unilaterally renew charter schools missing minimum performance expectations.
6. Proactively communicate performance standards to members and the wider public.
7. Advocate consistently so charter schools are not subject to inappropriate local measures being indiscriminately imposed.
8. Establish early warning systems.
9. Describe CCSA's role in ensuring availability of additional resources and supports for schools at risk.
10. Develop procedures for final determination regarding non-renewal of low performing charter schools.
11. Establish measures to enable the charter school movement to provide the improved learning opportunities that will be needed when students are displaced from a charter school going through closure.
12. Establish other minimum performance expectations regarding governance, finance and operations.