

# **Elite Academic Academy, Adult Workforce Investment, Charter School**

## **Statement of Purpose**

**Lucerne Valley Unified School District** In compliance with the intent of the California Legislative, provides Charter School oversight. The purpose of this handbook is to outline, provide guidance and support material related to the oversight process. The handbook is intended to be utilized by existing LVUSD approved Charter Schools as well as entities interested in LVUSD's Charter School oversight process.

To our valued charter partners:

As we move into our charter school oversight process I wanted to share a few thoughts about this venture and what we hope to accomplish along with some background information. This may ramble a bit, but I wanted to put this out to all of you.

I would like to start by sharing some background on Patrick Leier who we are working with. Patrick is an entrepreneurial thinker, who as you get to know him, will be able to share ideas, thoughts, and provide feedback to both myself and hopefully to your schools too. As I have gotten to know Patrick we have had some in depth conversations on different ideas of school reorganization (for a traditional public school) and ways to generate money for traditional public schools that I had never considered. He has been able to develop a format for our oversight that will help us have a consistent process for all of our charters as we move through this time in the state where there is a clear attack on both charters and on authorizers. By no way is this venture intended to be a “gotcha” on anybody. It is a work in progress that was set out as a goal for me so we have a uniform oversight process.

We have designed the survey around the 16 elements of the charter petitions. It is intended to drive conversation so we can learn from each other. Many portions are addressed through your WASC reports, audits, etc. The “self-study” portion of the work will be able to be addressed fairly quickly by you. I hope as we go through this we will be able to derive value from it. I know that I will as I learn more about each of your schools and the processes you use. As we move forward on this it would be my hope that it potentially evolves into a

Professional Learning Community type process. If a charter feels they need support in an area, either myself, Patrick or perhaps one of our other charters could help with that support if both parties are willing. I know that many of you have connections with other charters already in which you collaborate around best practices.

This past week I started a PLC type group with 11 other Superintendents from both charters and small school districts as part of some work the Small School Districts' Association is doing. We met at Da Vinci Charter School to see best practices in action. Our hope is to provide support throughout the state to other small schools by sharing best practices that we all may have going on. The initial work was funded by the Gates Foundation. This support is not coming from the CDE as they focus on the needs of CTA and the large districts. Billions of dollars has been wasted in professional development, NCLB support, and now potentially differentiated assistance. We hope to create a model that CDE turns to for small districts. Tim Taylor the Executive Director of SSDA is leading this charge with our group. This type of model is what I would love to see those who want to be part of evolve into for us.

As we move into this new process with Patrick please know we are listening to feedback and want to make it beneficial for all and protect both us as an authorizer and you as charters. We all have our strengths and areas we can grow in and together it is my hope that is what we will do. The Lucerne Valley Board and I fully support the opportunity for school choice and want to strengthen the work we are all doing to serve our kids.

Feel free to give me a call at any time if you have suggestions, concerns, feedback, etc. I value the relationships that we have built over our time as an authorizing district for your school.

Peter

**Peter Livingston, Superintendent**

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#### **Legislative Context**

California Education Code Section 47600, also known as the Charter Schools Act of 1992, was enacted

to allow teachers, parents, students and community members to establish and maintain schools that operate independently from existing

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K- 12 school districts and to do the following:

1. **Improve pupil learning.**
  2. Increase learning opportunities for all pupils, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for pupils who are identified as academically low achieving.
  3. Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods.
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1. **Create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for their learning**
  2. Provide parents and pupils with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public-school system.
  3. Hold the schools established under this part accountable for meeting measurable pupil outcomes and provide the schools with a method to change from rule-based to performance-based accountability systems.

Provide vigorous competition within the public-school system to stimulate continual improvements in all public schools.

#### **Charter schools**

**Charter schools** are part of the public-school system but differ from traditional public schools because they are exempt from many state laws relating to specific educational programs. Specific goals and operating procedures are detailed in agreements (e.g., charter petitions and memoranda of understanding) between the authorizing agency and the Charter School organizers

#### **Legend**

The oversight process utilized by the District has been designed relevant to implementation of pertinent Education Code sections. In addition to reviewing the Charter School's compliance, relevant to California Education Code sections, the oversight process also involves reviewing the Charter School's progress towards fulfilling the mission, purpose, goals, objectives and outcomes of the Charter School as referenced in the Charter School's board approved Petition and contingent Memorandum of Understanding.

The oversight process is based on the Charter School conducting an annual self-review , including but not limited to, completing self-review materials. The self-review process is followed up with site and/or virtual visitation(s) by LVUSD and/or LVUSD contracted service providers, whereby the completed self-review material is used to guide the visitation. Oversight visitations are designed to review and validate the self-review in reference to documents and observations of the actual operations of the Charter School.

The self-review responds to essential components of the 16 required elements included in the board approved Charter School's Petition. In addition, two elements of the required 16 elements will be reviewed in more depth, one area of focus being Financial. The other area of focus will be determined by an agreement between the district and charter school. If the District determines that a need for additional in depth review or a particular aspect of the Charter School is warranted, a more rigorous oversight process will be initiated on the identified specific elements requiring further review.

At the conclusion of the annual oversight process, a written summary of the results, including suggestions and/or recommendations and commendations will be provided to the Charter School.

**Note:** To help assure that the self-review process does not duplicate and is articulated with ongoing state accountability measures, while conducting the self-review, the Charter School may reference recent WASC, LCAP, and Annual Audit materials as conformation or evidence related to self-review items.

## **LEGEND**

- Δ** Indicates an element of the self-review suggested to be completed by the Charter School
- √** Indicates an essential element of the self-review to be completed by the Charter School
- Σ** Indicates an element for an in-depth review by the Charter School and follow up by the LVUSD Oversight Team

**The ratings Strong, Sufficient, Insufficient may be converted to rubric scores, Strong = 2, Sufficient = 1 and Insufficient = 0. They represent the degree of evidence that is available to support fulfillment of the board approved charter school's petition goals and objectives, compliance with contingent MOU as well as applicable Ed Code requirements.**