

# A PARENTS' AND STUDENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

## *Attendance at California Chartered Schools is a RIGHT*

1. Every parent in California has the right to select attendance at a charter school to meet their child's academic needs. Chartered schools are tuition-free public schools. All students in grades K-12 have the option to attend a charter school. The Charter Schools Act of 1992 provides parents and students with expanded educational choices within the public school system.
2. Chartered schools are all different in terms of their mode of instructional delivery and culture. It is the parent's right to select a school that they believe best serves the needs of their student.
3. By design, chartered schools have governing structures that are separate and distinct from the resident school district. Parents have a right to receive specific information relating to the charter school's instructional program, governance structure, and operational management.
4. In California, chartered schools are most commonly authorized by school districts. Although chartered schools are not bound by all the same education codes, district policies, or bargaining agreements, they are a legitimate, integral part of the public schools system. They choose to operate in a reasonable and collaborative manner. Parents have a right to expect that their right to choice cannot be denied.
5. Attendance at a charter school is a student right. Transfer should never require permission or approval from the school district, resident school's administration, or counselor.
6. Attendance at a charter school does not waive the future option of a student to return to a resident school. Resident schools are required to accept students that live within their boundaries.
7. If interested in a charter school, parents have a right to seek information and explore possibilities relating to application at that school without any intimidation or punitive threats communicated by the sending school.
8. Student funding in California follows the student. Transfer to a charter school should not limit the resources made available by the State to funding a student's educational program.
9. Parents have a right to expect that both district and charter school staff will work together professionally and will support student transfers in a sensitive and caring manner. Students and/or parents should never be subjected to negative comments as a result of their choice.
10. Resident schools are obligated under California statute to transfer transcripts and all relevant documents to receiving chartered schools within 10 school days, beginning when the receiving school requests the records. A parent's right to information includes access to district student records, support structures, communication and common policies, practices, and procedures.