

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD POLICY
BP 6006 Instruction

Quality School Development: Citywide Plan for Oakland's Publicly-Funded Schools

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The Board of Education (Board) is deeply committed to the vision of Oakland being home to high quality public education options for all students and families, no matter their race, ethnicity, zip code, or income and that all Oakland public school students shall receive a high quality equitable education based on what they need using Board-approved indicators and metrics to measure improvement and success. To realize this vision, the Board directs the Superintendent to develop a citywide plan that promotes the long-term sustainability of publicly-funded schools across Oakland that represent quality and equitable educational options.

The Board recognizes that it has some oversight over all Oakland publicly funded schools, both those run by the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) and those it authorizes which are run by various charter school operators. The OUSD Board of Directors takes its oversight and accountability role as a charter school authorizer seriously and also acknowledges that it has a fiduciary responsibility to maintain the fiscal health and well-being of OUSD and its schools in order to provide a high-quality education to its students. Consistent with that fiduciary duty, the OUSD Board of Directors shall prioritize the fiscal vitality of the school district in its relationship with charter schools.

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It is the Board's categorical expectation that all education providers operating or desiring to operate publicly funded school programs in Oakland - district or charter - will accept shared responsibility for the sustainability of our school system and embrace the idea that we: (i) do not operate in silos, (ii) are interdependent in our efforts to serve all students and families; and (iii) need to act with consideration of the larger Oakland community. We also recognize the challenging work ahead of building and rebuilding trust among the diverse members of our community in realizing this vision and the inherent conflicts created by limited resources and the fiduciary responsibilities of both the OUSD board and charter boards to their own schools and students.

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The Board is acutely aware of the legal constraints that limit its formal authority. Current state law does not allow the Board comprehensive authority on the location, authorization, oversight, and management of charter schools in Oakland. However, the Board is committed to using its existing levers as an authorizer and lease-holder to require charter schools in Oakland to live up to this board's vision of providing high-quality public education options for all students and families, including, but not limited to:

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- Serving all Oakland students, including our highest need students--including students with disabilities, English Language Learners, foster youth, low income students, unhoused students and students of color, including all the way that those categories intersect, and including the full spectrum of need that is present in each of these categories;
- Commitment to sharing successful, quality practices and models across the district;
- Agreement to collecting and acting upon a shared set of metrics;
- Creating and growing schools in ways that do not undermine the financial stability of the District as a whole, or individual OUSD schools; and
- Requiring greater transparency and oversight of enrollment, transfers (mid-year and between years), and expulsions to ensure that all students' rights are protected.

The Board is committed to advocating for legislative changes that will result in greater and more effective control of the regulatory environment in which the school district operates.

To this end, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to increase access to high quality public school options for the students and families of Oakland using quality, equity, utility, sustainability and community benefit as guiding principles and factors during the redesign and reconfiguration of OUSD that builds upon the current work of the Blueprint for Quality Schools process. This redesign should consider all OUSD schools and all Oakland charter schools authorized by OUSD and Alameda County.

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The Superintendent shall:

1) Use, and work with the Board to modify where needed, the Asset Management, Accountability, Charter Authorization, Enrollment, Equity, Results Based Budgeting, School Governance, and Quality School Development policies as the guiding policies to create a city-wide plan by which all schools - both OUSD-run schools and charter schools authorized by OUSD and Alameda County - will be engaged, assessed, and leveraged to deliver more high quality school options in Oakland; and

2) Address specific issues in such city-wide plan that include, but are not limited to:

a. Facilities - how OUSD can best leverage vacant and surplus properties and utilize facility use agreements to strategically engage all Oakland public schools – district or charter - so that (i) high-quality publicly funded schools across Oakland are able to serve all of its students, (ii) as a general rule, district should seek to maximize revenues to enhance its fiscal vitality and ensure charter schools are serving a higher concentration of students with greater needs. (iii) a fiscally sound number of schools exist given Oakland's student population and (iv) schools are located where more high quality options are needed.

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b. Enrollment – how OUSD can work with all Oakland public schools – district or charter - to better articulate feeder patterns across Oakland to ensure more predictability for families. This body of work should also include how charter schools will serve the same diverse populations of students as OUSD schools so that the highest need students are not concentrated only in OUSD schools, articulating a process by which charter schools may apply to rejoin the OUSD SELPA to facilitate the city-wide plan to provide an excellent, equitable education to all Oakland students.

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c. Authorization and Oversight - how (i) OUSD can strengthen its role as authorizers to ensure that new schools are providing an innovative and high quality education to all students, including highest need students, and (ii) how OUSD can exercise oversight and accountability to ensure that all schools operating in Oakland are providing a high quality education and working to address inequities at their schools

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d. Collaboration and sharing best practices – how best practices can be shared across all Oakland public schools, e.g., professional development, recruitment and retention of educators and other collaborative opportunities that improve equitable educational access for all Oakland students

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e. Innovative Schools - how OUSD can best support continued innovation within Oakland schools and accelerate the number of high-quality school options including assessing innovation of charters at inception and upon renewal and by providing district schools similar strengthened site-based decision-making, while also maintaining the financial stability of the district;

3) Deliver such plan to the Board by October 1, 2018, which will be ultimately voted on by the Board in January 2019, after sufficient community engagement and input.

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