

Board Meeting – August 12, 2025

Item VII. Recommendation / Public Hearing

A. Adopt the Superintendent’s Recommendation to Approve the Material Revision to the Charter of *Los Angeles Leadership Academy, Grades 6-12*

a. Staff Findings on the Material Revision to the Charter of *Los Angeles Leadership Academy, Grades 6-12*

On June 30, 2025, Los Angeles Leadership Academy (LALA) submitted a request for a material revision to its current charter. The material revision would:

- (1) Add students in grades 9-12 to the current grade 6-8 facility at 2670 Griffin Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90031 (Private site- “Griffin”); and
- (2) Drop their second site at 234 East Avenue 33, Los Angeles, CA 90031 (Private site- “East Avenue”) where the grade 9-12 students were formerly served; and
- (3) Updates to charter petition language to reflect the location changes and any changes in law since their approval on April 15, 2025.

Material revisions of charters are governed by the standards and criteria described in Education Code (EC) Section 47605, and shall include, but not be limited to, a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed. [EC 47607(b)]

Fiscal Impact:

The Los Angeles Leadership Academy’s request for a material revision to consolidate all students grades 6-12 onto a single site results in a reduction in the number of students served and also a reduction in staffing and facilities costs.

The Los Angeles Leadership Academy’s (Charter) proposed material revision and financial projections are based on a significant decrease in enrollment and average daily attendance (ADA) in fiscal year 2025-26, as shown in the table below.

	*2024-25 P-2	(A) Material Revision 2025-26	(B) Petition Budget 2025-26	Change (A-B)	Change % (A-B)
Enrollment	322	225	490	(265)	54.1%
ADA	299.37	216.0	470.40	(254.40)	54.1%
<i>*CDE’s 2024-25 Second Principal Apportionment (P-2) Certification.</i>					

The Charter’s material revision reflects revised enrollment of 225 students and 216.0 ADA, a decline of 265 students and 254.40 ADA, or 54.1 percent from the original petition budget. The projection is based on the Charter’s expectation of a significant decline in the 9th through 12th grade span.

In addition, the latest projection reflects a decline of 97 students and 83.37 ADA or 27.8 percent when compared to the Charter’s 2024-25 P-2 enrollment of 322 and ADA of 299.37

The Charter has experienced declining enrollment for the past five fiscal years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 and projects continued decline in 2025-26. The cumulative five-year decline represents a total loss of 155.13 ADA, or 34.1 percent.

Fiscal Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 P-2	2025-26 Material Revision
ADA	454.50	370.14	342.15	318.40	299.37	216.00

The Charter’s current financial projections reflect significant decreases in revenues and expenses due to a substantial decrease in projected enrollment and ADA compared to the Charter’s petition renewal projections. The table below summarizes the changes in projected revenues and expenses.

	*2024-25 Estimated Actuals	2025-26 Material Revision	2025-26 Petition Budget
Total Revenues	\$7,132,073	\$4,596,318	\$10,336,654
Total Expenses	\$7,730,964	\$4,206,044	\$8,558,123
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$598,891)	\$390,274	\$1,778,531
Unrestricted Net Position	\$1,291,524	*\$1,681,798	*\$3,070,055
<i>*The Unrestricted Net Position is based on the 2024-25 Estimated Actuals Ending Unrestricted Net Position..</i>			

Based on the material revision request, the Charter proposes to serve the high school students at the Griffin school site and eliminate the high school lease at the East Avenue school site, resulting in annual savings of approximately \$510,000 in facilities related expenses. In addition, with the termination of the East Avenue lease, the Charter has indicated that the landlord plans to sell that property and repay the Charter the outstanding debt of approximately \$3.0 million. As of July 25, 2025, LALA and its landlord are negotiating a revised loan agreement, including payment terms and execution of an agreement is pending. The repayment of debt to the Charter would result in a substantial increase in its operating cash.

The Charter projects to meet its financial obligations for fiscal year 2025-26. Should the Charter be unable to meet its enrollment and ADA projections, the decline in revenues could jeopardize the Charter’s ability to meet its financial obligations and reserve requirements.

Community Impact:

LACOE staff assessed the potential impact to the community based on this additional location and found no significant impact to either the charter school’s identified community or to the community surrounding this new location. Factors that informed this determination include:

- (1) The school has been a continuous part of this community for over 20 years.

(2) The site being dropped is less than a mile away from the consolidated site.

(3) Aside from the consolidation of the school site, there is no additional enrollment or grade levels in the petition and therefore, no additional fiscal impact to the district.

Facilities:

A site inspection of the 2670 Griffin Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90031 site was conducted by LACOE Facilities and Construction Unit on July 11, 2025. The Facilities Inspection report found that zero items needed corrections to be compliant.

The report also found that there was no overlap between the TK-5 students served by the Los Angeles Leadership Primary Academy (LALPA) and the grade 6-12 students being served by LALA. Both schools share the site but are housed in completely different wings.

- b. Adopt the Superintendent’s Recommendation to Approve the Material Revision to the Charter of *Los Angeles Leadership Academy, Grades 6-12*

The Superintendent recommends that the Los Angeles County Board of Education (County Board) take action to approve the material revision to the charter of Los Angeles Leadership Academy to add students in grades 9-12 to the current grade 6-8 facility at 2670 Griffin Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90031 and drop their second site at 234 East Avenue 33, Los Angeles, CA 90031 where the grade 9-12 students were formerly served.

If the school cannot provide evidence of meeting the conditions above by the dates indicated, the County Board will be notified at a regularly scheduled meeting. Failure to meet any of the conditions by the specified timeline is grounds for termination of approval for the material revision.

This recommendation is made based on the review and findings within Section VII.a (above), and supporting documents provided to the County Board with the Public Hearing Item dated July 15, 2025.

Staff from the Charter School Office and Business Advisory Services will be available for questions regarding this report.