



Agenda Page 28

Item 6110-001-0001

Countywide Charter School Petitions—Multiple Sites

June 4, 2013
Page 1

- Existing Law.** (1) Authorizes countywide charter schools, which are schools approved by a county board of education and allowed to operate at multiple sites within the county, and (2) treats all sites like a single school. Currently, the state does not recognize those individual sites as separate schools. For example, the state does not distinguish among the sites for purposes such as accountability, funding, and oversight.
- Implications of Existing Law.** Countywide charter schools are (1) ineligible for advance apportionments (the upfront funding normally given to new schools) when opening additional sites, (2) limited to one federal start-up grant, and (3) less easily held accountable for the academic performance of individual school sites. Currently, a countywide charter school can only mitigate these limitations by circulating a separate petition for each site.
- Governor.** Proposed trailer bill language (TBL) allowing sites to be recognized as separate schools for various purposes such as oversight, apportionment funding, and data reporting. The proposal was adopted by the Senate and rejected by the Assembly.
- LAO Compromise.** Recommend LAO TBL that requires countywide charter schools to identify all proposed schools in their initial petitions and (2) clarify that these schools are treated separately for certain state purposes. Also include new LAO TBL to address the related issue of advance apportionments. The new language would allow a charter school to receive advance apportionments when (1) the school is experiencing major structural changes of a one-time nature and (2) the change is likely to increase pupil enrollment by 25 percent or more over the prior fiscal year.