

**STAFF ANALYSIS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND
RECOMMENDED FINDINGS OF FACT RE
RENEWAL CHARTER PETITION FOR
LEMORE UNIVERSITY ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL**

RENEWAL REQUESTED FOR JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2031

PUBLISHED JUNE 1, 2026
FOR ACTION AT JUNE 16, 2026, DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

PROCEDURAL STATUS

On May 1, 2026, Lemoore University Elementary Charter School (“UCS”) submitted to the Lemoore Union Elementary School District (“District”) a charter petition (“Charter” or “Renewal Petition”) requesting renewal for a term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031. The District Governing Board has previously approved and renewed the UCS Charter, with the current term of the Charter running through and including June 30, 2026.

UCS is a dependent charter school of the District. The District Board of Trustees serves as the UCS governing board. The District Board retains final authority over all UCS policies, budget approval, and UCS operations.

UCS day-to-day operations are managed by the Dean of Charter who reports to the District Superintendent. The Dean is responsible for instructional leadership, staff supervision, student discipline, and community relations. The District administration provides UCS’s administrative services.

UCS also has a Charter Council that serves in an advisory capacity to the District Board of Trustees. The Charter Council is composed of stakeholders including parents/guardians, teachers and staff, student representatives (as appropriate), and administration. The Charter Council provides input on the LCAP, safety plans, and programmatic decisions, ensuring that the voice of the school community is heard.

As a dependent charter school operating pursuant to the above-described governance and operational structure, the District finds that the Charter itself is not required to include the same level of detail as would be required of an independent charter school operated and governed by a separate entity.

If the District Board renews the UCS Charter, the new term of the Charter would begin on July 1, 2026, and run through and including June 30, 2031. This Charter renewal is governed by the standards and criteria set forth in Education Code Sections 47605 and 47607, including the standards for renewal applicable to middle performing charter schools.

On May 26, 2026, the District Board held a public hearing on the renewal Charter in accordance with the requirements of the Charter Schools Act. It is anticipated that the District Board will act on the renewal Charter at its meeting of June 16, 2026.

CRITERIA FOR RENEWAL OF A CHARTER PETITION

Education Code Section 47607(b) specifies that charter renewals “are governed by the standards and criteria described in [Education Code] 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.”

Pursuant to Education Code Section 47605, a renewal charter petition may be denied on the basis of written factual findings that support one or more of the following:

1. The charter school presents an unsound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school.
2. The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.
3. The petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions required by statute.
4. The petition does not contain a reasonably comprehensive description of all the required elements.
5. The petition does not contain a declaration of whether the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public employer of the employees of the charter school for purposes of the Educational Employment Relations Act (EERA).

As an “additional criterion” for determining whether a charter should be renewed, the chartering authority is required to consider the charter school’s performance on the state and local indicators included in the California School Dashboard. For this purpose, charter schools are now divided into high, middle, and low performance categories, plus Dashboard Alternative Status Schools (“DASS”), based on their performance during the two consecutive years immediately preceding the renewal decision. The pertinent renewal standards and the available length of the renewal term are dependent on this categorization. (Ed. Code §§ 47607 and 47607.2.)

The California Department of Education (“CDE”) annually creates a list of charter schools and ranks their academic performance indicators from the California School Dashboard, specifying whether each school is in the high, middle, or low performing category, or is a DASS program school, pursuant to the requirements of Education Code Sections 47607 and 47607.2. This list was intended to relieve the burden on chartering authorities and provide a starting place for the renewal process. The CDE has designated UCS as a “middle” performing charter school for purposes of this renewal.

As defined in EC Section 47607.2, “middle” performing charter schools are any charter school not deemed as “high” or “low” performing or DASS. Middle tier charter schools are eligible to be considered for a five-year renewal term.

In determining whether to renew a middle performing charter, the chartering authority is to consider the schoolwide and subgroup performance on the state and local indicators on the Dashboard, giving greater weight to measurements of academic performance.

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The chartering authority may deny a “middle” performing school on these bases only by making written factual findings, setting forth specific facts to support the findings, that the school:

- i. *Failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the pupils of the school;*
- ii. *Closure of the school is in the best interest of pupils; AND*
- iii. *If applicable, that the decision provided greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance.*

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is reviewing the renewal Charter using the criteria established in California Education Code Sections 47605 and 47607. Given the dependent nature of UCS and the District administration’s and District Board’s ultimate authority over UCS, as described above, the version of the Charter initially submitted to commence the renewal process was the starting point for the process and the District administration and legal counsel are working cooperatively with UCS during the renewal process in order to finalize a version of the renewal Charter that comports with the legal standards and the District’s best practices for renewal of a charter. The District and UCS are making adjustments to any areas of the Charter that require refinement, clarification, updating, or correction to comply with law, best practices, and the standards for renewal, which revisions will be made to the UCS Charter prior to District Board action on the renewal request. It will be that updated version of the Charter on which the District Board will take action.

District Staff recommends the District Board approve the UCS renewal in order to allow UCS to continue serving the interests of students.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends renewal of the Charter and that the District Board adopt proposed Resolution No. 06162026A Approving the Charter Renewal for Lemoore University Elementary Charter School, and that the final, updated version of the Charter be attached to the approved version of Resolution No. 06162026A.