



Sharpening public education's cutting edge for nearly 30 years

**CHARTER SCHOOLS
DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

*We're here
to help!*



**CHARTER SCHOOLS
DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

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CSDC always has its ear to the ground and shares relevant information at critical times—can't imagine navigating the charter world without their resources!

– Karin Marsolais

Chief Administrative Officer, The Preuss School

About CSDC

The Charter Schools Development Center (CSDC) provides comprehensive and up-to-date technical assistance and resources to charter school operators, developers, authorizers, and policymakers. We support all charter schools, in California and beyond, with our knowledge and expertise in the areas of charter school leadership, finance, operations, governance, accountability, advocacy, and development.

We are Independent

We are a self-sustaining organization, thanks to our loyal members, and therefore CSDC is not reliant on grants or donors. By remaining independent, we are afforded more freedom in our efforts to support all charter schools and assist the evolution of education reform policy at state and national levels. CSDC is dedicated to serve and advocate for all charter schools, whether large or small, independent or networked, and we support a wide variety of instructional practices.

We are Experts

As the nation's first charter school support organization, founded in 1993, CSDC is a leading resource center for charter schools. CSDC's leadership trainings, online resources, and consulting services offer our clients the experience and knowledge of nearly 30 years of charter school start-up guidance, operational support, and advocacy. We are recognized as the leading experts in charter school law and policy, finance, school design, charter authorizing, governance, and personnel. Our staff members have assisted with the drafting of the charter laws in over two dozen states across the country and play a prominent role in the decision-making of school reform policy at both the state and national levels.

We are Your Partner

Delivering critical news articles and updates, CSDC members have access to the most current information relevant to charter schools. Our members may contact us at any time with technical issues that will be forwarded to an expert who will work with them until their questions are answered. Throughout each year, we assist hundreds of CSDC school members with ongoing operations and renewal, as well as strategic growth, replication, development, and start-up efforts. We provide comprehensive trainings, including on-site custom trainings for school leaders and school board members who are seeking to maximize the performance of their schools. CSDC firmly believes that all students deserve a high-quality education and we are committed to helping our members achieve their goals.



Our mission

is to help public education change from a highly regulated, process-based system to one that allows and encourages schools to be more creative, performance-based centers of effective teaching and learning. We aim to achieve this by providing technical assistance to the charter school reform movement in California, nationally, and internationally.



As always, we were provided timely information in response to an event that is unfolding. It is always professional, honest, and based in best past practices as we navigate new waters. Thank you!

– Cynthia Soares

Principal, Yuba County Career Preparatory Charter School

CSDC offers insightful webinars that get right to the point. The fiscal and policy insights allow for clear guidance in leading charter schools in turbulent times.

– Paul Keefer

Executive Director, Pacific Charter Institute

How We Support Charter Schools

CSDC draws upon its decades of experience in the charter school movement in order to provide:



Legislative and Technical Support

Ongoing support to all charter schools through our **CSDC Membership program**



Leadership Training

A variety of timely and in-depth trainings, workshops, webinars, and online tutorials tailored specifically to charter school leaders



Consulting Services

Comprehensive services to charter school leaders, board members, authorizers, and development groups seeking assistance



Receive consistent, ongoing support from CSDC's charter school experts

CSDC Membership supports ongoing advocacy efforts and enables your organization to tap into the knowledge, wisdom, and experience we have gained from nearly three decades of operations. Each year, hundreds of California charter schools continue to support CSDC as annual members.

CSDC is sustained through the direct support of California charter schools—not outside interests or agendas, which sometimes fail to account for the wide range of instructional programs, school models, and student backgrounds in a state as big and diverse as California.

CSDC members have exclusive access to a variety of trainings, tools, and resources.

For more information, visit chartercenter.org/membership.

Advocacy

CSDC has positively influenced more pro-charter legislation than all other California charter advocacy organizations combined. CSDC staff, including Executive Director and Founder Eric Premack, were among the primary proponents advocating for the passage of California's first charter school law in 1992 and have played a critical role in the rapid spread of charter school legislation in over 25 states.

- We helped write California's first charter school law.
- We assisted with a major overhaul to the Charter Schools Act in 1998.
- We are fiscal experts who fight for equitable charter funding.
- We were the architects of the "block grant" system.
- We help secure funding for new and growing charters.
- We play an important role in the state budget process.
- We defend charter schools from legislative attack.
- We vigorously support charters before regulators and state agencies.
- We represent charter interests in regulatory law.
- We spot unseen—but critical—bureaucratic matters.
- We have helped to win over 1 billion dollars in grant funding for California charter schools.
- We support innovative school models of all types.

We are not resting on our laurels. CSDC continues to be California's hardest-hitting charter school advocacy organization and the "go-to" source for charter school support, technical expertise, and leadership development.

CSDC's recent advocacy accomplishments include:

- We successfully advocated against numerous pieces of anti-charter legislation.
- We successfully advocated for major upgrades to the vital Charter Facilities Grant Program ("SB 740").
- We are advocating for a shift away from the exclusive reliance on standardized test scores, and towards a broader-based, "multiple measures" approach.
- We successfully advocated for extensive amendments to the Local Control Accountability Planning (LCAP) regulations and template.

Stay up-to-date and see where CSDC stands on active bills and legislation. For detailed information on CSDC's advocacy efforts and recent successes, and to view CSDC's activity on **CapitolTrack**, visit chartercenter.org/advocacy.

YEAR-ROUND online trainings

Online Board Member Training

Designed specifically with governing board members in mind, but useful for the entire leadership team, the Online Board Member Training course offers a series of short instructional videos that discusses everything from open meetings, roles, and responsibilities of the board members and school administrators, to the alphabet soup of acronyms that make up the common vernacular of education policy, and much more. This training is a self-paced instructional tutorial that can be completed individually, or as part of a more comprehensive board training.

chartercenter.org/bmt

Online Brown Act Training

Every charter school in California must follow one of the open meeting acts outlined in law. Most schools choose the Ralph M. Brown Act. CSDC's Online Brown Act Training course offers a series of self-paced instructional videos that discusses in depth the Ralph M. Brown Act.

chartercenter.org/brownact



Become a Member!

Stay up-to-date on the latest charter school issues.

Call: **(916) 538-6612**

Email: **membership@chartercenter.org**

Visit: **chartercenter.org/membership**
for more information and to join.

Technical Assistance

Get your questions answered by contacting us on our **CSDC Help Desk**, and access trusted experts when you're in need of immediate support.

CSDC members receive exclusive access to our CSDC Help Desk: **csdc@chartercenter.org** or **(916) 538-6612**.

While you never know when your next concerning issue may arise, you can rest assured that CSDC's trusted experts will be but a phone call or email away.

Savings

Gain exclusive access to CSDC's **online training courses** for various stages and roles in charter schools.

Enjoy significant **Member Discounts** when attending our renowned leadership trainings and events (see next page).

CSDC acknowledges the fiscal pressures faced by California's charter school leaders and has designed and sustained **membership rates that are significantly lower** than other advocacy and technical assistance organizations. We are dedicated to the preservation of the charter school movement and ensuring our members receive timely, critical information and support throughout the year.

As usual, CSDC cut through all the confusion and murkiness and got right to the heart of what we need to know. The advice was extraordinarily helpful in a time when we have so much uncertainty.

– Markus Mullarkey

Chief Operations Officer, Caliber Schools

Resources

Avoid costly mistakes and justify tough decisions by accessing the resources and tools available only to CSDC members.

Charter Currents: Regularly delivered to members' email inboxes, *Charter Currents* provides timely, in-depth updates on the latest fiscal and policy developments affecting California charter schools. Get the latest funding projections and practical advice from CSDC's plugged-in charter school experts.

Sample Operating Policies: CSDC's Sample Charter Operating Policies is a repository of both required and recommended sample policies relevant to California charter schools. Our sample policies are updated annually by CSDC Specialists and Advisors.

CBO Direct: Intended for charter school business officers and other school leaders with fiscal oversight responsibilities, CBO Direct contains a variety of frequently used templates, sample documents, and resources relevant to school finance and operations.

Charter School Annual Planning Calendar: Updated regularly by CSDC Specialists, CSDC's charter school planning calendar provides a complete listing of key dates and deadlines relevant to California charter schools.



Charter Data: CSDC members have access to CSDC's data analysis tools and methods to support accountability requirements and renewal preparation. Members can access customizable **California School Data Reports** to view their school's performance on the Dashboard relative to demographically similar schools in the district or state.

Charter Jobs: Charter Jobs helps promote your school's job openings directly to our network of thousands of potential candidates, including those who are especially eager to work with innovative instructional programs or school models.

Start Smart: Online Charter School Developer Training

Available online, this training provides an overview of charter school development, including the basics of petition drafting, charter school approval, school design, founding team development, finance, and facilities.

This online course aims to provide both the nuts-and-bolts of charter school development as well as insightful perspectives on what can be a challenging process. Charter school developers are also strongly encouraged to attend our annual Leadership Update Conference, which includes a variety of sessions relevant to school developers, as well as opportunities to connect and collaborate with fellow charter school leaders.

chartercenter.org/startsmart





In-depth leadership trainings for California charter school leaders

CSDC offers a comprehensive series of trainings for charter school principals, chief business officers, governing board members, and charter developers. These trainings, combined with our annual statewide charter conference, provide charter school leaders with the opportunities for growth and professional development and help them ensure the continual improvement of their schools.



FALL

Charter Leadership Update Conference

Held every fall as charter leaders return to their campuses, and attended by thousands of charter school leaders and staff, our annual statewide California Charter Schools Leadership Update Conference is designed to provide California's charter school movement with the skills and knowledge it will need to thrive during the school year ahead. The Leadership Update Conference offers attendees the opportunity to obtain the latest information critical to charter schools, network and collaborate with others in the charter school community, and acquire new learnings that they can immediately implement within their schools. This event typically rotates between northern and southern California locations each year, and provides the in-depth, technical content CSDC is known to deliver each year.

chartercenter.org/conference

Governance Training Certificate Program: Offered exclusively at CSDC's annual Leadership Update Conference, the Governance Training Certificate Program offers an opportunity for administrators and board members to obtain extensive training and certification, upon completion of a series of specific training sessions and completing session evaluations.

chartercenter.org/gtc

SPRING

May Revise Webinar

This annual webinar, hosted every spring by CSDC's Executive Director and Founder, Eric Premack, provides CSDC members an overview of key budgeting points and strategies, the very latest from the legislative arena, and a variety of critical and timely charter-specific considerations.

chartercenter.org/mayrevise

SPRING

Accountability and Renewal Workshops

CSDC's spring Accountability and Renewal Workshops are held throughout the state in multiple locations, and are also available in an online webinar format. These workshops offer charter school leaders key updates and practical tools to ensure compliance with the many charter school accountability measures required of California charter schools. Prepare for renewal, understand detailed Dashboard requirements, obtain custom data reports specific to your school, review and interpret school data, and more.

chartercenter.org/acc

SPRING

Charter Business Officer Training

Offered each spring season, our Charter Business Officer (CBO) Training program brings together a new cohort of charter school business leaders each year. This comprehensive training program delves into the key fiscal management skills required of California charter school directors, business officers, governing board treasurers, and other fiscal personnel who have significant financial management and/or oversight responsibilities. CBO Training attendees gain both the extensive training offered and a lifelong networking group of colleagues while gaining access to CSDC experts.

chartercenter.org/cbo

SUMMER

Leadership Intensive

The Leadership Intensive (LI) offers new and veteran school leaders an opportunity to gain comprehensive training on essential charter topics including finance, policy, facilities, special education, personnel, and more. This annual intensive training offers both advanced content for veteran charter school leaders as well as sessions tailored to those new to the charter arena or to charter school administration.

chartercenter.org/li

YEAR-ROUND

Online Governance Academy

In order to support charter school leaders with critical guidance on their governance responsibilities, CSDC members have year-round access to CSDC's Governance Academy, which currently includes online, self-paced trainings such as:

- Online Board Member Training
- Online Brown Act Training
- Advocacy for Charter School Leaders
- The Role of Governing Boards During a Crisis
- Form 700 Training
- Additional online modules released regularly

chartercenter.org/ga



Accountability, Data, and Renewal Services

CSDC members have access to CSDC's expert assistance on school accountability and charter renewal—an increasingly important topic in the high-stakes environment of California's charter schools. Members can also receive customized **California School Data Reports** to view their school's performance on the Dashboard relative to demographically similar schools in the district or state. These reports automate information such as “points to next color,” “points to next status level,” and median performance data points, as well as provide helpful Grade Level Trajectory charts for a different look at school quality.

Accountability Services

Available on a consulting basis:

- Renewal petition review, revision, and negotiation
- Annual operational agreement development and structuring (i.e., Memoranda of Understanding) for services, including special education and financial management
- School data evaluation and recommendations using CSDC's expert data analysis methods and tools
- Dispute resolution between charter schools and charter-granting agencies

Development, Replication, and Expansion Assistance

CSDC assists charter school leaders with development, replication, and expansion efforts including financial plan development, charter petition drafting, MOU reviews, and strategic communications. CSDC also provides support navigating the challenges related to the authorization and launch process. When challenges require work that exceeds phone and email guidance provided to CSDC members, developers may request consulting assistance with a charter school expert.

Governing Board Training

CSDC offers custom governing board trainings designed to equip charter school board members with the tools and resources necessary to be highly effective in their duties and oversight responsibilities. CSDC also offers services to assist with the development and revision of critical charter school governing board policies. CSDC members have exclusive access to our online repository of **Sample Charter School Board Policies**, updated annually by our expert staff and trusted advisors. Extensive board training through our **Governance Training Certificate** program is also available to charter school board members at our annual Leadership Update Conference.

Other Consulting Services

CSDC also offers expertise in the areas of:

- Facilities planning and compliance
- Financial and strategic planning
- Public Charter Schools Grant Program application review
- Compliance with federal and state laws
- Employee benefits assistance
- Interaction with school unions
- Assistance for independent study and home schools

CSDC offers membership options for charter schools, charter management organizations, authorizers, and developers:

Charter Schools	Charter Management Organizations (CMOs)	Charter School Authorizers	Charter School Developers
Most of our members join us as individual school members. These are schools that do not have a charter network affiliation or any additional head office support.	Many of our members are also leaders of larger charter school networks, which manage two or more charter schools.	Charter school offices at school districts and county offices access CSDC membership to further their knowledge in charter school accountability and administration.	Charter school developers can enjoy a variety of CSDC member resources to initiate their journey in the charter school world.

CSDC is pleased to offer affordable membership rates to all membership types. For most charter school members, dues represent but 0.01% of their annual operating budget.

chartercenter.org/membership

CSDC also offers a special vendor membership rate for those organizations that support charter schools and share our mission to serve the charter school movement.

Vendor members may access many aspects of our CSDC knowledge database and enjoy discounts to our trainings and events. Vendors often choose to join CSDC in order to better understand the charter school landscape and to further support the charter school movement.

The information CSDC gives directly relates to how we run our school. We have depended on them for over 15 years, and while our school has many sources of information, CSDC is the one I trust most when creating our budget and have come to depend on. Their advice has always been spot on while conservative enough to keep us out of trouble and help us get us through some very difficult times.

– Satisha Furnish
Finance Manager, Tierra Pacifica Charter School

Who We Are



Eric Premack / *Executive Director and Founder*

Eric Premack is the Executive Director and Founder of CSDC. For nearly 30 years, Eric has played a leading role in the development and spread of charter schools, including helping to draft and implement charter school policy in over two dozen states, at the federal level, and overseas. He has received the California Charter Schools Association's Legacy Award for 20 years of outstanding service to California charter schools, and has twice received the Hart Vision Award for outstanding service to California's charter schools. Eric holds a BA and MA in Public Policy from the University of Chicago.



Stephanie Schwuchow / *Director of Operations*

Stephanie Schwuchow is the Director of Operations at CSDC and has been involved in the California charter school movement since 2002. Stephanie leads CSDC's organizational strategy in operations, finance, human resources, marketing, and technology. She oversees the planning and execution of all client services including leadership trainings, membership, and consulting services. In prior years, Stephanie served as CSDC's Charter School Fiscal Specialist and grantwriter, and was a founding member of Unity High School in Oakland. Stephanie holds an BS and MBA from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business.



Susanne Coie / *School Accountability and Development Specialist*

Susanne Coie is the School Accountability and Development Specialist at CSDC. Susanne works closely with operating schools facing renewal and charter school developers. She develops and delivers extensive trainings, and provides consulting support in areas including data analysis, renewal best practices, authorizer relations, petition reviews, and more. Prior to joining CSDC, she was Principal and Co-founder of the Los Angeles Leadership Academy. She holds a BA from Pomona College and an MA in Public Policy from the University of California at Berkeley, as well as a teaching credential from California State University at Los Angeles.



Caitlin O'Halloran / *School Governance and Policy Specialist*

Caitlin O'Halloran is the School Governance and Policy Specialist at CSDC. Caitlin leads the development and delivery of CSDC's Online Governance Academy and Governance Training Certificate Program. She works closely with CSDC member schools, and provides analysis and expertise in the areas of charter school governance, advocacy, and policy. In 2004, Caitlin co-founded the Dixon Montessori Charter School, and in 2013 she was appointed to and continues to serve on the Dixon Unified School District Governing Board. She has served on the Advisory Commission on Charter Schools, and was the Woman of the Year for Senate District 03 in 2016. Caitlin holds a BA in Government with a minor in History from Mills College.



Candice Lamarche / *School Operations Specialist*

Candice Lamarche is the School Operations Specialist at CSDC. Candice works with CSDC leadership to strengthen CSDC's resources and trainings, and closely monitors charter school and general education fiscal policy and school operations matters. Candice has worked in the charter sector since 2004 and began her career as a founding team member at the California Charter Schools Association. She also served as the founding Chief Operations Officer for Growth Public Schools, providing strategic leadership and overseeing all operations. Candice holds a BA in Legal Studies from the University of California at Berkeley.

Leslie Loy
*Leadership Training
Coordinator*

Kevin Blatt
*Marketing and Outreach
Coordinator*

Debbie Brown
*Bookkeeper and
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Advisors & Guest Instructors

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about us, please visit
www.chartercenter.org**

