

**Sharpening public education's
cutting edge for over 30 years**



**CHARTER SCHOOLS
DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

*We're here
to help!*



**CHARTER SCHOOLS
DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

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www.chartercenter.org

Founded in 1992 – We are the nation's longest-running
charter school support and advocacy organization

*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) was founded shortly after the passage of the Charter Schools Act of 1992. CSDC's Executive Director and Founder, Eric Premack, was a leading force in the national charter school movement, and helped draft California's charter school law, funding system and policies. CSDC continues to play an influential role in the California charter arena, providing renowned leadership trainings, critical and timely technical assistance and resources, and continual advocacy support on behalf of all California charter schools.



We are Independent

We are a self-sustaining, non-profit organization and do not rely on grants or individual donors. By remaining independent, we are afforded more freedom in our efforts to support and advocate for all charter schools. We exist to support charter schools and the students they serve – not outside interests and agendas. We believe in high quality charter schools – and understand that the definition of which must not hinge solely upon standardized test scores. We fight vigorously against disparities in charter funding, and regulatory creep that distracts charter leaders from improving student achievement. CSDC is dedicated to serve and advocate for innovative education models of all types and configurations, whether large or small, independent or networked, and we support a wide variety of instructional practices.

We are Experts

We helped write California's first charter school laws in 1992 and have been hard at work ever since. CSDC's leadership trainings, online publications, and consulting services offer our clients the experience and knowledge of over 30 years of charter school start-up, 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 level.

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.



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:



Advocacy Technical Support Information and Resources

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



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.



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 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 critical and timely trainings, tools, and resources.

For more information, visit www.chartercenter.org/membership.

Advocacy

CSDC staff 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.

In 2021 we worked hard to derail an egregious targeted attack on charter schools. With the help of our members, we sent 473,087 letters written by 12,125 individuals to the 120 members of the California State Legislature, proving beyond a doubt that there is power in membership.

Additionally, two years in a row we led the charge against legislation that would have required charter schools (including existing charter schools) follow specific and onerous siting requirements when evaluating school sites for emissions or waste.

www.chartercenter.org/advocacy

YEAR-ROUND online trainings for CSDC members

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.

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.

www.chartercenter.org/ga





Become a Member!

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

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

Email: **membership@chartercenter.org**

Visit: **www.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

Thanks for all you do for us. You have no idea how much I appreciate being able to write an email and have a well thought out response on the same day.

– Jeff Kraunz
Executive Director, Creekside Charter Management

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.

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.

Sample Charter School Board Policies: New legislation often triggers new board policy. CSDC has created a compendium of the "boiler plate" templates for the major policies California charter schools are urged – and sometimes required – to adopt.

Board Bulletins: CSDC created the Governing Board Bulletin to highlight topics of interest to board members. New topics of interest to governing board members are sent out via email six times a year and past issues are archived on the CSDC website.

Charter School Resource Database: Explore CSDC's extensive library of charter school resources, guides, templates, and tools, searchable by topics including accountability, operations, governance, legislative, and more.

Charter Data Analysis: 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.

Vendor Directory: Browse our complete list of charter school vendors who support and provide products and services to charter schools. Check out their listing to see if they offer exclusive promotions for CSDC Members! www.chartercenter.org/vendors

www.chartercenter.org/resources

YEAR-ROUND

online trainings for CSDC members

Form 700 Webinar

By law all charter school board members are now required to complete and turn in the FPPC's Form 700 by April 1 (annually). Let CSDC staff walk you through the process in this webinar which reviews each section of the form and answers questions about topics like jurisdiction, investments and income.

Advocacy for Charter School Leaders

This webinar offers an opportunity to learn and ask questions about how to build and grow relationships among service organizations, local governments and state government officials. This training also comes with a customizable toolkit that can be used for creating handouts and other documents necessary to make high-quality presentations.

The Role of a Governing Boards During a Crisis

This webinar reviews the role that board members should be taking during the COVID-19 pandemic in their oversight responsibilities in California's charter schools and how that extends to other crises which boards may need to navigate.

www.chartercenter.org/ga



In-depth leadership trainings for California charter school leaders

CSDC offers a comprehensive series of trainings for charter school administrators, fiscal and operations leaders, governing board members, development teams, teachers, and other charter school stakeholders. These trainings, combined with our annual statewide charter school conference, provide charter school leaders with 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.

www.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 evaluations.

www.chartercenter.org/gtc

SPRING

May Revise and Legislative Update Webinars

Delivered regularly to CSDC members, these webinars review key budgeting points and strategies, the very latest from the legislative arena, and a variety of critical and timely charter school-specific considerations.

www.chartercenter.org/may-revise

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.

www.chartercenter.org/acc

Coming Soon

HR Academy: A new, comprehensive training tailored to the unique technical, legal and organizational challenges faced by those leading and overseeing Human Resources in California charter schools.

SPRING

Charter Business Officer Training

CSDC's Charter Business Officer (CBO) Training program brings together a new cohort of charter school business and operations leaders each spring. This comprehensive program delves into the key fiscal management skills required of California charter school administrators, business and fiscal leaders, and other operational personnel who have significant management and/or oversight responsibilities. CBO Training attendees gain both the extensive training offered and a lifelong networking group of colleagues while obtaining access to CSDC experts.

www.chartercenter.org/cbo

SUMMER

Leadership Intensive

The Leadership Intensive provides participants with the knowledge, skills, and professional networks that successful charter leaders need to navigate the year and responsibilities ahead. Drawing on CSDC's knowledge of 30 years of charter operations, with a wholistic approach, this program is built and adapted through the collaborative contributions of veteran charter leaders from throughout the movement. CSDC staff and expert guest presenters provide trainings on a wide range of essential charter topics, ranging from accountability, renewal, legal issues, special education, collective bargaining, personnel, authorizer relationships, governance, finance, facilities, and more.

www.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

www.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.

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 compensation evaluation
- 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 and CMOs

Most of our members join us as individual school members or charter management organizations (CMOs), which manage two or more charter schools.

Charter School Authorizers and SELPAs

Charter school leaders at school district, county, and state offices, as well as SELPAs, access CSDC membership to further their knowledge in charter school accountability and administration.

Charter School Developers

Charter school developers can enjoy a variety of CSDC member resources to initiate their journey in the charter school world.

Charter School Vendors and Consultants

Vendors and consultants serving charter schools often choose to join CSDC to better understand the charter school landscape and further support the charter school movement.

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.

www.chartercenter.org/membership

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 a BS and MBA from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business.



Susanne Coie / *Charter 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 / *Charter 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 / *Charter 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.



Greg Hall

*Marketing and
Technology Manager*

Leslie Loy

*Leadership Training
Coordinator*

Debbie Brown

*Bookkeeper and
Office Coordinator*

Melissa Warren

Office Assistant

Advisors & Guest Instructors

Gary Bowman

Jody Graf

Michelle Hammons

Jean Hatch

Laurie Inman

Jesse Leyva

Jennifer McQuarrie

Joyce Montgomery

Beryl Nelson

Ting Sun

**For more information
about us, please visit**

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