



# Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher, Superintendent

**To:** Fresno County Board of Education

**From:** Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Charter School Petition Review Committee

**Subject:** Committee Report Regarding the Big Picture Education Academy Material Revision

**Date:** July 1, 2026

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The Fresno County Superintendent of School's (FCSS) Charter School Petition Review Committee (Charter Committee) has reviewed the Big Picture Education Academy (BPEA) application for a Material Revision to its 2025-2027 charter petition. This Committee Report provides a detailed discussion of the Charter Committee's review, concerns, and findings related to the Material Revision.

## I. BACKGROUND

Lead petitioner Diana Gonzalez, M.Ed., Superintendent, is petitioning the Fresno County Board of Education (FCBE) on behalf of BPEA for a Material Revision of its current charter petition (2025-2027). BPEA submitted the Material Revision May 22, 2026. Each FCBE member has received a copy of the Material Revision and its appendices. The FCBE conducted a public hearing regarding the Material Revision on June 18, 2026. A site visit to the proposed location took place May 26, 2026.

BPEA provides a comprehensive K-12 educational program, including an adult high school diploma program. The elementary program, located at 2811 Mariposa Street in downtown Fresno, serves approximately 150 TK-8 students in a seat-based model. The high school campus, located at 1207 S. Trinity Avenue in West Fresno, serves approximately 60 students in grades 9-12, in a hybrid non-classroom-based model. The adult program, the largest at BPEA, serves approximately 214 students.

This Material Revision seeks to relocate the BPEA Elementary campus from 2811 Mariposa Street in downtown Fresno to 1626 W. Princeton Ave, Fresno CA 93705 in west-central Fresno.

## CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (CDE DataQuest)

### BPEA Program Enrollment

Grade Span	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
K-8 Elementary	183	172	145
9-12 Site-Based HS	94	96	60
9-12 Adult	273	252	214
<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>419</b>

Source: CDE DataQuest

## II. CHARTER MATERIAL REVISION CRITERIA:

The Charter Committee reviewed the BPEA Material Revision based on the requirements set forth in applicable laws, including Education Code (“EC”) sections 47605, 47607, and in the Memorandum of Understanding between FCBE and BPEA for the charter term of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027 (“MOU”).

EC section 47607 provides in part:

(a)

...

(3) *A charter school that, concurrently with its renewal, proposes to expand operations to one or more additional sites or grade levels shall request a material revision to its charter. A material revision of the provisions of a charter petition may be made only with the approval of the chartering authority. A material revision of a charter is governed by the standards and criteria described in Section 47605.*

(4) *The findings of paragraphs (7) and (8) of subdivision (c) of Section 47605 shall not be used to deny a renewal of an existing charter school, but may be used to deny a proposed expansion constituting a material revision. For a material revision, analysis under paragraphs (7) and (8) of subdivision (c) of Section 47605 shall be limited to consideration only of the impact of the proposed material revision.*

(5) *The chartering authority may inspect or observe any part of the charter school at any time.*

(b) *Renewals and material revisions of charters are governed by the standards and criteria described in 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 section 47605(a)(4) provides:



*(4) After receiving approval of its petition, a charter school that proposes to expand operations to one or more additional sites or grade levels shall request a material revision to its charter and shall notify the chartering authority of those additional locations or grade levels. The chartering authority shall consider whether to approve those additional locations or grade levels at an open, public meeting. If the additional locations or grade levels are approved pursuant to the standards and criteria described in subdivision (c), they shall be a material revision to the charter school's charter.*

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FCBE and BPEA provides:

*5.1.1 MATERIAL REVISION DEFINED. A "Material Revision" is any change to the Charter and/or MOU that is any of the following:*

*...  
5.1.1.6 Addition of any new Charter School Site, or elimination of any Charter School Site listed on the Cover or in an amendment.  
...*

*5.1.2 REQUEST FOR MATERIAL REVISION.*

*5.1.2.1 GENERALLY. Charter School may submit to Authorizer, and Authorizer will consider, any proposed Material Revision to the Charter and/or MOU in accordance with Authorizer's policies and procedures, if any, that are in effect at the time that Charter School submits the proposed Material Revision. Unless stated otherwise in Authorizer's policies and procedures, Charter School shall submit any proposed Material Revision at least 90 days before the date on which Charter School intends the Material Revision to take effect. The proposed Material Revision shall be in writing and state, at a minimum, the following: (A) a description of the proposed Material Revision; (B) the date on which Charter School anticipates the proposed Material Revision to take effect; and (C) the name and contact information of the person at Charter School with whom Authorizer is to communicate regarding the proposed Material Revision.*

*5.1.2.2 ADDITION OF CHARTER SCHOOL SITE. In addition to the requirements in Section 5.1.2.1 above, in any request for a Material Revision to add a new Charter School Site, Charter School shall allow Authorizer to inspect the new facility as part of Authorizer's consideration of such request.*

*5.1.3 AMENDMENT REFLECTING MATERIAL REVISION.*

*5.1.3.1 GENERALLY. Except as provided otherwise in this Article 5 in which case such provision shall apply, any Material Revision shall be set forth in an amendment, which must be approved and executed by the Parties. Any amendment to the Charter that requires County Superintendent to perform any services or assume any obligations must be signed by County Superintendent to be binding on County Superintendent.*



*5.1.3.2 ADDITION OF CHARTER SCHOOL SITE. In addition to the requirements in Section 5.1.3.1 above, the following shall apply to any amendment for a Material Revision to add a new Charter School Site:*

*5.1.3.2(A) The amendment shall state the full street address of the new Charter School Site.*

*5.1.3.2(B) At least 30 days before Charter School's first day of occupancy of the new Charter School Site, Charter School shall submit to Authorizer a certificate of occupancy or other documentation issued by the appropriate governmental agency(ies) authorizing Charter School to use the new Charter School Site for the purposes intended by Charter School.*

*5.1.3.2(C) Charter School shall submit evidence to Authorizer that the new Charter School Site complies with the provisions of Sections 7.2.1 and 7.2.2.*

*7.2.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS. Each Charter School Site that Charter School operates shall comply with the following requirements:*

*7.2.1.1 Health, safety, and fire code requirements applicable to California charter schools.*

*7.2.1.2 Federal and California laws applicable to charter school facilities.*

*7.2.1.3 Requirements under the ADA.*

*7.2.1.4 California and local regulations governing the operation of charter school facilities.*

*7.2.1.5 One of the following unless a Charter School Site is exclusively owned or controlled by an entity (e.g., federal government) that is not subject to the California Building Standards Code: (A) the California Building Standards Code (Part 2, commencing with Section 101 of Title 24 of the CCR) as adopted and enforced by the local building enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the area in which Charter School is located; or (B) the Field Act, EC 17280 et seq. and 17365 et seq.*

*7.2.1.6 Location in an area properly zoned for operation of a school and has been cleared for pupil occupancy by local authorities with jurisdiction of the Charter School Site.*

*7.2.1.7 Local approvals, including but not limited to, applicable fire marshal clearance, certificate of occupancy or other documentation authorizing Charter School to use the facility for the purposes intended by Charter School, signed building permit inspections, and any approved zoning variances.*

*7.2.2 NUMBER OF CHARTER SCHOOL SITES. Charter School shall only operate at the Charter School Sites set forth on the Cover."*

### **III. CHARTER PETITION REVIEW COMMITTEE ANALYSIS**

#### **Public Hearing**

The County Board held a public hearing to hear information and support for the public hearing during its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2026. During the public hearing, Executive Director Stephanie Hinton presented Big Picture Educational Academy's request to relocate its elementary campus to a facility that she described as safer and more conducive to student learning. Hinton explained that the proposed site would provide expanded green space,



improved facilities, greater long-term sustainability, reduced rental costs, and additional operational savings. She noted that the relocation would increase the number of elementary classrooms from eight to thirteen and would provide dedicated spaces for special education services, counseling, and intervention programs, thereby enhancing the school's capacity to support students' academic and social-emotional needs.

Superintendent Diana Gonzalez provided updates regarding the school's educational program and student outcomes. She described how the program is now better aligned with state standards and grounded in the three Big Picture pillars of Rigor, Relevance and Relationships. Gonzalez reported that an increasing percentage of students are meeting their academic growth targets and highlighted gains in mathematics achievement, including growth among high school students. She noted that students with disabilities and Hispanic students have demonstrated improvement in both English-Language Arts and Mathematics on the NWEA assessments. In addition, Gonzalez shared that the school has expanded career technical education pathways, increased dual enrollment participation through a partnership with Lemoore College, implemented the CaliforniaColleges.edu platform, and achieved improvements in campus climate outcomes.

The following FCSS Charter team members visited the proposed locations May 26, 2026:

- Executive Director of Facilities and Operations Jeff Becker
- Director of Charter Schools, Dr. Jeffrey Hunt
- Assistant Superintendent Dr. Corey Greenlaw
- SELPA Compliance Officer Daniel Soto

The questions centered on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, hazardous materials, zoning issues, costs, student access, and the plan for maximizing the new space.

### **Facility Review and Summary**

BPEA proposes relocating the BPEA Elementary campus to 1626 W. Princeton Ave. The site currently hosts Golden Charter Academy, whose lease ends June 30, 2026. Materials included with the material revision consisted of a "Non-Binding Letter of Intent to Lease" the site and supporting email correspondence, a self-performed Charter School Annual Oversight Checklist – Section 4 Facilities and Operations, a self-performed Facility Inspection Tool (FIT) report indicating the facility to be in "Exemplary" condition. The landlord of the proposed facility as well as the facility BPEA would be vacating is the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno.

The proposed site is better able to support an elementary school program as compared to the existing facility. The site includes green space, playgrounds, and space for support programs that the current facility does not.

During the site visit of May 26, 2026, the current tenant was in the process of packing and moving. The team noted that the building appeared to be constructed in the 1940's and is in mostly original condition. The main building systems, including air conditioning systems, were functional. Doors, windows, hard flooring surfaces and architectural finishes were mostly original with some walls painted in various colors over the years. Overall, the facility condition



was fair with a few items that are functional but need to be replaced or updated soon. Many drinking fountains were not working at the time of the visit. Because of the site's age, BPEA should verify compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Being a single-story site provides significant advantage over the current two-story site that does not have an elevator.

Because the site is already zoned for Public and Institutional use, a Conditional Use Permit is not required. The space is currently occupied by another charter school and has a Group E (Educational) occupancy type. Buildings with Group E occupancy are subject to an annual inspection by the local fire authority for compliance with building and fire codes. It is recommended that BPEA consult with the Fresno Fire Department and conduct a walk-through prior to occupying the site.

BPEA provided the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Initial Inspection Report dated May 2, 2025, which was prepared for the prior tenant. The report shows that all suspected materials are assumed to contain asbestos. Any verified or assumed asbestos containing materials must be inspected every six months to verify their condition and any maintenance or operational activity that may disturb the material must be performed by qualified asbestos professionals and in accordance with all applicable regulations. An updated AHERA report should be prepared for BPEA prior to occupying the site.

### ***Lease Terms***

Following multiple rounds of review and revision, BPEA submitted an updated lease agreement June 25, 2026, that addressed FCSS's concerns regarding the school's long-term financial obligations in the event of charter nonrenewal or closure. The revised lease establishes an initial one-year term, conditions future lease extensions on the continuation of the school's charter, provides for automatic termination upon charter nonrenewal, and expressly releases the school from future financial obligations following such termination. As a result, the staff finds that the lease provides adequate protection to the school and satisfies the expectations communicated during the material revision review process.

### **Fiscal Review**

The proposed BPEA material revision request represents a net positive fiscal impact to the district's monthly budget in the amount of \$1,402.14 due to rent savings.

The 2025-26 Second Interim budget reflected a \$580,000 deficit for the year which decreases the school's reserves, but they are projected to remain at a healthy level of 33%. The Second Interim MYP reflects salaries and benefits reductions of \$540,000 in 2026-27 which will create a balanced budget in that fiscal year.

### **Petition Review**

In addition to a description of the proposed changes, each Material Revision to a petition must include a reasonable description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or renewed. The Charter Committee analysis of the material revision is provided in the following table based on the standards and criteria set forth in EC



section 47605(c). The request for material revision included a table that reflects updates to the BPEA 2025-2027 charter petition.

**EC 47605(c)(1) [Does the charter school present a sound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school?]**

The Material Revision contains updates to the petition to describe updates to the BPEA instructional program including continued implementation of a comprehensive and cohesive TK-12 curriculum with coaching and support from FCSS, Kern County Superintendent of Schools, CharterSafe, California Charter Schools Association (CCSA), Charter Schools Development Center (CSDC), Parsec Education, the Community Engagement Initiative (CEI), and other local organizations to provide.

The material revision states that BPEA has developed and launched A-G approved pathways in Business and Education and are currently developing Medical and Security pathways. BPEA has developed and opened a comprehensive library at the elementary campus and partnered with community partners to provide job placement, SEL, and mental health support for students.

**EC 47605(c)(2) [Are the petitioners likely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition?]**

BPEA's one-year data submission demonstrates moderate progress toward CTE course and pathway development, dual enrollment participation, student internship participation, and campus climate metrics. Academic performance data are pending the release of Spring 2026 NWEA and CAASPP results.

Subsequent to the submission of this Material Revision, BPEA informed FCSS of a transition in the Superintendent position and the departure of several certificated employees at the conclusion of the 2025–2026 school year. School leadership and the governing board have indicated they are actively filling vacant positions and implementing measures to ensure organizational stability and a successful start to the 2026–2027 school year. While these developments do not directly affect the proposed site relocation, they present organizational risks that warrant close attention. Accordingly, FCSS will provide enhanced oversight during the 2026–2027 school year to monitor governance, staffing, and academic implementation as the school navigates this leadership transition.

**EC 47605(c)(3) The Petition contains the number of signatures required by subdivision (a).**

NA-This is not required for Material Revisions.



**EC 47605(c)(4) [Does the petition contain an affirmation of each of the conditions described in 47605.6(e)]?**

The required Signed Affirmations and Declarations can be found on page 208 of the Material Revision.

**EC 47605(c)(5) Complete and Reasonably Comprehensive Petition**

*The following analysis identifies only those elements of the petition that do not fully meet the legal requirements of EC §47605, including areas where additional clarification or statutory specificity is needed.*

Staff has reviewed the Big Picture Educational Academy Material Revision and finds that it contains reasonably comprehensive descriptions of each of the elements required by §47605(c)(5)(A) through (O). Staff further finds that the material revision includes the required affirmations, assurances, and declarations applicable to charter schools under California and federal law. Accordingly, the material revision satisfies the legal content requirements applicable to the material revision.

**EC 47605(c)(6) *A declaration of whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public school employer of the employees of the charter school for purposes of the Educational Employment Relations Act (Chapter 10.7 (commencing with Section 3540) of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code).***

The material revision includes a signed declaration that BPEA shall be deemed the exclusive public school employer of the employees of the charter school for the purposes of the Educational Employment Relations Act. A signed affirmation is located on Page 28 of the material revision.

**EC 47605(c)(7) *The charter school is demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which the school is proposing to locate. Analysis of this finding shall include consideration of the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school. A written factual finding under this paragraph shall detail specific facts and circumstances that analyze and consider the following factors:***

*(A) The extent to which the proposed charter school would substantially undermine existing services, academic offerings, or programmatic offerings.*

*(B) Whether the proposed charter school would duplicate a program currently offered within the school district and the existing program has sufficient capacity for the pupils proposed to be served within reasonable proximity to where the charter school intends to locate.*



Staff reviewed the proposed relocation pursuant to §47605(c)(7) and finds no evidence that Big Picture Educational Academy is demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community in which it proposes to locate. The proposed relocation involves an existing charter school with approximately 145 students relocating to a campus currently occupied by another charter school serving approximately 350 students. As a result, the relocation does not represent a substantial expansion of charter school enrollment capacity within the community. Staff finds no evidence that the relocation would substantially undermine existing services, academic offerings, or programmatic offerings at nearby district schools, including Homan Elementary School, nor is there evidence of a significant adverse fiscal impact on Fresno Unified School District attributable to the relocation. Accordingly, staff finds that the circumstances described in §47605(c)(7), including the factors set forth in subdivisions (A) and (B), do not provide a basis for denial of the material revision.

**EC 47605(c)(8)** *The school district is not positioned to absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school. A school district satisfies this paragraph if it has a qualified interim certification pursuant to Section 42131 and the county superintendent of schools, in consultation with the County Office Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team, certifies that approving the charter school would result in the school district having a negative interim certification pursuant to Section 42131, has a negative interim certification pursuant to Section 42131, or is under state receivership. Charter schools proposed in a school district satisfying one of these conditions shall be subject to a rebuttable presumption of denial.*

Staff reviewed the proposed material revision pursuant to §47605(c)(8) and finds that the statutory conditions necessary to support denial under this provision are not present. Fresno Unified School District is not currently operating under a qualified interim certification that has been determined by the County Superintendent of Schools, in consultation with the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), to be at risk of a negative certification as a result of the proposed charter school, nor is the District operating under a negative interim certification or state receivership. Furthermore, the proposed material revision consists of the relocation of an existing charter school with approximately 145 students to a facility currently occupied by a charter school serving approximately 350 students and does not constitute a substantial expansion of enrollment capacity. Accordingly, staff finds no evidence that Fresno Unified School District is unable to absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed relocation, and §47605(c)(8) does not provide a basis for denial of the material revision.

#### IV. CHARTER PETITION REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS:



Based on a review of the material revision, supporting materials, and facility visits, the Committee recommends that the County Board **APPROVE** the Material Revision.

