

## MAJOR CHANGES:

### 3-TRACK RENEWAL SYSTEM

- **High Track: a streamlined and longer renewal term** for charter schools demonstrating strong performance across all Dashboard indicators and for schools closing the achievement gap for historically disadvantaged subgroups.
- **Middle Track: places greater weight on academic performance**, allows for 2<sup>nd</sup> look (sunsets 2026) if school performance on the California School Dashboard state and local indicators does not demonstrate clear case for renewal
- **Low Track: presumptive non-renewal** for chronically underperforming schools, allows for 2<sup>nd</sup> look (sunsets 2026), if approved – only for 2-year term.

### “SECOND LOOK” CONSTRUCT

- **Second look process to allow for alternative data in Middle and Low tracks:** Particularly important for schools whose academic performance measures on the California School Dashboard are mixed. Allows schools and authorizers to consider alternative, robust measures of achievement growth and postsecondary success as evidence to support charter renewal in the Middle and Low Tracks (sunsets 2026).

## HIGH TRACK *Ed. Code 47607(c)(2)(A)*

A school is considered for expedited 5-7 year renewal unless it has substantial fiscal or governance issues, or is not serving all pupils who wish to attend. Schools qualify by either the:

- **All Students/All State Indicators Path:** Any school that receives a green or blue on all of their state indicators in the 2 most recent consecutive years schoolwide (for the “all students” group on the Dashboard).
- **Achievement Gap/Academic Indicators Path:** The school must meet the following metrics:
  - Schoolwide: Schools must be the same status or better than the statewide average for the academic indicators (ELA, Math, EPLI, CCI).
  - Subgroup: For subgroups underperforming the statewide average status for all students (on each academic indicator), across each academic indicator a majority of underperforming subgroups must have a higher status than the statewide average status for that subgroup.
    - For example, in the 2019 Dashboard the following subgroups fell below the statewide average status: American Indian, English learner, Foster Youth, Pacific Islander, Students with Disabilities, African American, Hispanic, Homeless Youth, and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged

## MIDDLE TRACK *Ed. Code 47607.2(b)*

A school can be renewed for 5 years in the Middle Track. Charter schools fall into the Middle Track if they do not qualify for either the High or Low Track. In making renewal determinations, authorizers are to consider the following:

- **All indicators:** The authorizer shall consider all California School Dashboard state and local indicators, schoolwide and for all subgroups, placing greater weight on measurements of academic performance (ELA, Math, College/Career, and English Learner Progress).
- **Second look process to allow for alternative data:** Particularly important for schools whose academic performance measures on the California School Dashboard are mixed, the Middle Track renewal criteria allow schools to present, and authorizers to consider, alternative data that provides clear and convincing evidence that students are growing in their academic achievement and/or are achieving strong postsecondary outcomes compared to similar peers.
- **Authorizer may only deny renewal if:** it finds the charter failed to meet or make sufficient progress, that closure is in the best interest of the pupils, and that its decision placed greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance.

## LOW TRACK *Ed. Code 47607.2(a)*

Charters in the Low Track will not be renewed unless there is compelling evidence of academic progress or post-secondary readiness. Schools renewed that qualify under this track can only be renewed for 2 years and are eligible via one of the following pathways:

- **All Students/All State Indicators Path:** Any school that receives an orange or red on all of its state indicators in the 2 most recent consecutive years schoolwide (for the “all students” group on the Dashboard).
- **Achievement Gap/Academic Indicators Path:**
  - All students/Schoolwide: Schools must be the same/worse status as the statewide average for the academic indicators.
  - Subgroup: For subgroups underperforming the statewide average status for all students (on each academic indicator, across each academic indicator a majority of underperforming subgroups must have a lower status than the statewide average status for that subgroup).

## LOW TRACK RENEWALS

- To renew a school under the Low Track, the authorizer must make written factual findings citing evidence based in one of the evaluation questions that the school is both
  - **Taking “meaningful steps to address the underlying cause or causes of low performance.”** Those steps must be reflected or will be reflected in a written plan adopted by the governing body of the charter school, and
  - **Second look process to allow for alternative data:** This verified data can only be considered by the authorizer for schools that were operating on or before June 30, 2020, and only for the charter school’s next two subsequent renewals. The second look process sunsets for the Low Track on June 30, 2025.

## SECOND LOOK PROCESS FOR MIDDLE AND LOW TRACK SCHOOLS:

The second look process allows charter schools to present clear and convincing evidence that the school is helping increase student learning and postsecondary success, particularly when that evidence is not readily apparent on the Dashboard.

- **Schools should present clear and convincing evidence, with verified data** that either:
  - The school achieved **measurable increases in student achievement**, defined as at least one year’s progress for each year in school, or
  - Students had **strong postsecondary outcomes**, as defined by college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers,
  - Schools in the Middle Track can use this second look process for their next two renewals, until Jan. 1, 2026 when the second look process will sunset.
- **Verified data** includes:
  - Data from **nationally recognized, valid, peer-reviewed, and reliable sources** that are **externally produced, including measures of postsecondary outcomes**.
  - **By January 1, 2021 the State Board of Education shall establish criteria** to define “verified data” **and identify an approved list of valid and reliable assessments**. Thereafter, only these approved data sources can be used for this.
  - Until the State Board establishes criteria and an approved list, renewing charter schools can present their authorizers with data consistent with the parameters of this code section for “verified data.”

To learn more and explore CCSA’s new charter renewal data tool, please review our webinar [here](#).

An additional live webinar will be offered in summer 2020.