

**Oakland Charter Schools  
FAQs February 2019**

**CCSA's Statement on the OEA Strike**

Oakland's charter public schools hope that the dispute between the Oakland Unified School District and the Oakland Education Association can be resolved quickly so that we can shift our collective energy to priorities that unify us. We should all be marching together in Sacramento on behalf of all public schools to increase statewide funding for our most vulnerable students and bring more resources and support to teachers.

**Q: Are charter schools unionized?**

Charter public schools, like all public schools, are subject to the Educational Employment Relations Act (EERA) and the state's collective bargaining laws. The decision to unionize is made at the school level involving schools and their employees on a case by case basis.

**Q: What percentage of charter schools in California are unionized?**

CCSA estimates that approximately 30 percent of charter public schools in California have some form of a collective bargaining agreement or representation.

**Q: How many charter schools are co-located in OUSD?**

There are 5 charter schools co-located across 5 OUSD sites as of the 2018-19 school year.

**Q: Will a strike impact access to charter school facilities on co-located sites?**

OEA's leadership publicly opposes co-location and the sharing of facilities and resources with charter school students and has made bargaining demands related to charter co-locations. Students, families and staff have a legal right to access their school site. OEA's demands cannot impact access to public school facilities, which is protected by law. However, it is likely that OEA protests will occur in front of charter public schools.

**Q: Will independent charter schools be a part of a OEA-OUSD contract settlement?**

Charter policy is not legally bargainable in the current contract negotiations. This includes any changes to Proposition 39 co-location policies that impact independent charter schools; as a voter-approved ballot measure, Prop 39 policy is not eligible to be changed through bargaining. We expect that the District and OEA will comply with the law.

**Q: What is the focus of charter schools during an OEA strike?**

In the event of a strike by OEA members, all independent charter schools operating within the boundaries of the district will remain open to ensure kids and teachers have safe places to learn and work. For the sake of all Oakland families who will be affected each day a strike occurs, we urge OEA and OUSD to resolve contract negotiations and reach an agreement quickly.

**Q: Will independent charter schools accept new students in the event of a strike?**

In the event of a strike we recommend charter schools remain focused on student safety and operations, not proactive student recruitment. Under the law, if a parent independently decides to enroll their student in a charter school, the charter school must enroll that student if they have space. Charter schools do not have special eligibility or entrance requirements. If there are more students who want to attend than there are seats available (as stated in their charter petition), charter schools will use a process to randomly select students.