

Q & A Prop 39: Charter School Co-location

1. What is Prop 39?

In 2000, the **School Facilities Local Vote Act** was passed changing the 2/3 supermajority to a supermajority of 55% to approve bond measures for school facilities. Embedded in the proposition is an amendment to Ed Code Section 47614 requiring Districts to offer equitable and adequate unused public space to charter schools. In 2010 there was a court ruling specifying that LAUSD offer unused school space to charter schools thereby creating a co-location with a district school and charter school.

2. What is co-location?

Co-location is two or more schools sharing the same campus.

3. What is the process that is followed to grant rooms/space?

LAUSD sets a timeline with several steps that usually comes out in late fall. Charter schools submit a written request for space. The District reviews projections and then makes a preliminary offer to the charter schools. Charter schools respond and often do a walkthrough of the school site. The District makes a final offer. The Charter school accepts or rejects the final offer. This process takes about six months.

4. How are the students selected?

The students are LAUSD students that apply to attend the charter school. Often, the students are chosen by lottery.

5. Does Prop 39 provide more educational opportunities, or does it actually have the opposite effect?

Prop 39 could provide more options. But sometimes loss of opportunities for students occurs. In some cases the rooms that are given to the charter school are the “set asides” such as the computer lab, the music room and the parent room. Once overcrowded schools still have bungalows that should be removed to allow for more playground space. Instead, they are being offered as unused space. The co-location can have an effect on schedules and use of school facilities, such as the cafeteria, library, multi-purpose room and other common spaces.

6. What are some of the problems, concerns, and issues with co-location?

The overriding concern is equity. In some cases, the home school students can experience a loss of services or unequal quality and quantity of materials, supplies and technology. Sometimes the co-located schools have different expectations leading to disruption to the

home school. Potential problems with safety arise when the co-located schools have a wide grade level span. Surrounding schools can be affected when students are recruited to and/or counseled out of the charter school. Cost to the District can be an issue.

7. Does Prop 39 help or hurt communities?

Prop 39 can create competition and division, instead of collaboration. It can set up a multi-tiered school system that does not always serve the needs of all local students.

8. Are co-located schools under Prop 39 required to adhere to state ed codes?

Many charter schools ask for a "Mega Waiver" which exempts them from all of the California Ed Codes except for Ed Code 47605 which covers the elements of a charter school petition submission and appeals.

9. How should/could a chapter chair be involved? If your school is moving through the process to be co-located...

- Attend Prop 39 Chapter Chair meetings
- Chapter Chair should be having regular conversations with the principal
- Ask to be included in meetings with the Principal and the charter school
- Document meetings and pertinent information
- Let your staff know what is happening
- Inform your UTLA Rep

If your school is already co-located...

- Do all of the above and...
- Be sure to keep a detailed log that shows examples of inequity (i.e. materials, supplies and technology, safety concerns, use of playground, computer lab, library, multi purpose room or other shared spaces).

10. How can you support students' educational rights?

We want to assure equity and enhance educational rights. Get involved and help advocate to keep and maintain a high level of educational opportunities.

11. How should we regard teachers at co-located charter schools?

Charter school teachers at co-located schools are educators just like us. We should work with them to ensure a quality educational experience for all students.