

CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADVOCACY MONTH APRIL 2018

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Charter Public Schools Advocacy Month?

The goal of Charter Public Schools Advocacy Month – or simply, Advocacy Month – is for charter public school advocates to be active in the State Capitol throughout the month of April, a pivotal time in the annual legislative process.

Every Tuesday in April, charter public school advocates from around California will travel to Sacramento to meet with elected representatives in the State Capitol to discuss the most pressing legislative proposals impacting charter public schools.

Why the change from CCSA's Advocacy Day?

With new threats and powerful special interest groups working against charter public schools, *one day is not enough*. Charter public school advocates must be present, especially while key legislative committees meet and act on issues that directly impact charter public schools. Advocacy month will consist of four lobby days during the month of April, instead of just one day in May.

What are the dates of Advocacy Month?

CCSA is scheduling meetings, hosting briefings, and supporting constituent lobby visits during each Tuesday in April. Choose the day that works best for you!

Where does Advocacy Month take place?

Check-in, briefing, lunch, and debrief all take place at the CCSA Sacramento office, located at [1107 9th Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814](#). Legislative meetings take place in the California State Capitol Building, just two blocks from the office.

What is the schedule for each Tuesday?

The schedule for each Tuesday is the same: Arrive at the CCSA Sacramento office by 10:00 a.m., where you'll start the day with an issue briefing and tips for effective meetings. Then you'll review your appointments, sign up for an optional capitol tour, prepare for meetings, and enjoy lunch. Meetings will be held at the Capitol between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. and you'll end the day with a debrief at the CCSA Sacramento office. Depart any time after 5:00 p.m.

Who can participate?

Participation in Advocacy Month is a benefit of CCSA membership. Administrators, teachers, board members, parents, and students from any CCSA member organization are welcome. Each person needs to individually [register here by March 23, 2018](#).

How much does it cost?

Participation in Advocacy Month is a benefit of CCSA Membership. There is no fee to register. Coffee service, lunch, and snacks will be provided. Schools are asked to cover the cost of

traveling to/from the capitol. If you have a hardship, support maybe available on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Laura Kerr for more information at lkerr@ccsa.org

Which legislators will I meet with?

CCSA will schedule meetings with your State Senator and Assemblymember, based on geographical information previously provided and/or the address used when registering your lobby day. You might also be included in legislative meetings with legislators representing other areas because of their leadership position, your school's proximity to their district, or organization's unique experience on a key issue. Thanks in advance for your flexibility.

Who else will be in the legislative meetings?

Legislative meetings often include charter public school advocates from multiple school sites. CCSA staff will also be present in each of your legislative meetings to provide support.

What issues will we be discussing?

Legislative issues are dynamic and timing is important, so things may change. This year, we anticipate advocating for additional funding for the SB 740 Charter Public School Facilities Grant Program; including all African American students in the LCFF concentration cap; supporting fixes for non-classroom based schools impacted by the *Shasta* decision; and charter public school transparency.

We will likely oppose bills that would: allow district finances to be used as rationale for denying charter public schools; increase construction cost for particular facility projects; ban Teach for America from working in high poverty schools; and pushing back on unfunded mandates on charter public schools.

The issues emphasized will vary based on your legislative representatives and the key committee hearing agenda's set that week. You'll have an opportunity to learn more and ask questions from experts during the morning briefing, and additional information can be found in CCSA's Capitol Update Newsletter. To sign-up for the Capitol Update, please email membership@ccsa.org

How do I get to Sacramento?

CCSA's Sacramento offices is located at 1107 9th Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814.

If you are driving, you can park at the following garages surrounding the office:

- Capitol Garage: Located at 1303 10th Street. This will be on the right side of 10th Street between L and K Streets)
- Priority Parking Services: Located at 830 L Street. This will be on the left side of L Street, between 8th and 9th Streets.

If travelling by train, look up service to [Amtrak's Sacramento Valley Station](#). The train station is a 10 minute walk to the CCSA Sacramento office.

If flying, Southwest, United, WestJet, and Alaska offer reliable service into Sacramento International Airport (SMF). The airport is about 15 minutes from the CCSA Sacramento office without traffic.

Have questions or need specific accommodations?

Please contact Laura Kerr, at lkerr@ccsa.org or (916) 230-7496