



Sherwood Montessori School Renewal Petition for 2025-2030

Chico Unified is the Authorizer of Sherwood Montessori School. Charter schools, as public entities, operate under a charter agreement with our district, which serves as the authorizer. This renewal outlines the school's mission, goals, and performance expectations.

Sherwood Montessori School submitted a charter renewal petition for the 2025-2030 school years on January 15th, 2025, and there was a public hearing held on March 12th, 2025 at the Chico Unified School Board meeting.

The Chico Unified Educational Services team reviewed and evaluated the charter petition for renewal to ensure that the charter is fulfilling their commitments to students and their school community. Key aspects of this process include a performance review in which we review academic performance data, fiscal stability, and operational compliance. This involves analyzing student achievement, reviewing financial audits, and assessing the school's adherence to its charter agreement.

As the authorizer, we have reviewed and confirmed that the charter petition has met all of the requirements for renewal. Below is the summary of the findings.

I. Educational Program

Sherwood Montessori School describes the educational plan in place to serve students. The plan includes a clear vision and mission for their educational program that describes the educational climate, structure, materials, schedule, assessments, and outcomes. The renewal petition outlines 21st century learning skills and goals to become lifelong learners. It highlights the emphasis they put on the Montessori core values which include educating the whole child, building critical thinkers and global citizens and students having freedom of choice. The charter provides an overview of the educational program and its design around multigrade instruction that builds from concrete to abstract while building responsibility and self-directed learning.

II. Student Achievement and Educational Performance

Pursuant to Education Code Sections 47605(c)(5)(A)(ii) and 47605(c)(5)(B), a reasonably comprehensive description of the Charter School's annual goals, actions and measurable outcomes, both schoolwide and for each subgroup of pupils, which address and align with the Eight State Priorities as described in Education Code Section 52060(d), can be found in the Charter School's Local Control and Accountability Plan ("LCAP"). Each of these goals addresses the unique needs of all students attending the Charter School, including the numerically significant student subgroups. The metrics associated with these goals help the Charter School to ensure that these specific subgroups are making satisfactory progress, and are provided with necessary additional support made possible by additional funds from the Local Control Funding Formula ("LCFF").

Sherwood defines the desired student outcomes. These are aligned with their Local Control and Accountability Plan and include chronic absenteeism rate, suspension rate, attendance rate, social-emotional measures and academic Indicators. In addition to the academic indicators, the renewal petition highlights the other means of local data they collect to monitor student progress. This includes portfolios, written assessments, participation in community events, and local academic assessments.

III. Governance and Organizational Makeup

Sherwood Montessori governance structure and operations are clearly described. They operate as a non-profit public benefit corporation and the renewal petition includes evidence that the school's governance structure includes the required elements of compliance with meeting requirements, reasonable conflict of interest policy, and appropriate size/composition of board members and/or advisory councils. There is a plan for involvement or input of parents/guardians in the governance of the school.

IV. Employee Qualifications

The school meets all requirements for hiring and staff qualified teachers. All teachers hold appropriate Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificates. There is a clear plan for recruitment and evaluation of the staff, including the school leader. Additionally, there is an approved and public organizational chart delineating board roles and lines of authority.

V. Health and Safety

Sherwood Montessori charter petition outlines the requirements for health and safety. Every employee at the school has cleared all background checks and proof of tuberculosis examination. Staff members also annually have the Mandated Child Abuse Reportings and natural disaster and emergencies (fire/earthquake) drills/practices.

Sherwood also has a comprehensive School Safety Plan that addresses all necessary elements. These elements include safety issues, discrimination and harassment. All emergency procedures are addressed including evacuation.

VI. Racial and Ethnic Balance

To align its student population more closely with the diversity of Chico Unified School District (CUSD), Sherwood Montessori has developed and implemented a student recruitment strategy focused on fostering inclusivity and ensuring representation across racial, ethnic, special education, and English learner (EL) groups. Some of the key elements of the outlined strategy include:

- The development of promotional and informational material that appeals to all of the various racial and ethnic groups represented in the district.
- The organization of, and participation in, outreach events that will include prospective students and parents of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- The scheduling of school tours, Montessori informational events, and prospective parent nights for parents and other activities during the school year.

Charter School Enrollment:

Student Group	2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
All Students	105		98		114	
English Learners	7	6.7%	5	5.1%	3	2.6%
Foster Youth	3	2.9%	4	4.1%	1	0.9%
Homeless	10	9.5%	9	9.2%	12	10.5%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	61	58.1%	43	43.9%	66	57.9%
Students with Disabilities	17	16.2%	22	22.4%	26	22.8%
African American	4	3.8%	5	5.1%	5	4.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	1.9%	2	2%	1	0.9%

Asian	5	4.8%	3	3.1%	2	1.8%
Filipino	0		0		0	
Hispanic	21	20%	14	14.3%	16	14%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0		0		0	
White	59	56.2%	52	53.1%	66	59.7%
Two or More Races	14	13.3%	22	22.4%	24	21.1%

**Source: DataQuest*

Chico Unified School District Enrollment:

Student Group	2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-24	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
All Students	11996		12087		12317	
English Learners	743	6.19%	756	6.3%	844	6.7%
Foster Youth	72	0.60%	74	0.6%	76	0.6%
Homeless	453	3.77%	494	4.1%	523	4.2%
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	6987	58.24%	6897	57.1%	6609	53.6%
Students with Disabilities	1664	13.87%	1792	14.8%	1832	14.9%
African American	235	1.96%	265	2.2%	285	2.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	130	1.08%	135	1.1%	121	1.0%
Asian	610	5.09%	604	5.0%	658	5.3%
Filipino	59	0.49%	53	0.4%	46	0.4%
Hispanic	3422	28.53%	3473	28.7%	3581	29.1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	50	0.42%	48	0.4%	58	0.5%

White	6384	53.22%	6281	52.0%	6214	50.5%
Two or More Races	765	6.38%	831	6.9%	892	7.2%

**Source: Previous Years- DataQuest, Current Year - CALPADS Snapshot Reports 1.1, 1.17 & 1.5*

VII. Admissions Policies and Procedures

The petition includes a clear description of the policies and procedures that the charter will use to admit students. It clearly states there shall not be any tuition charged, and it will not turn away or discriminate against pupils enrolling. The charter petition outlines a clear description of admission, how students and community will be informed and given an equal opportunity to attend the school.

VIII. Annual Financial Review

All annual auditing procedures meet requirements. Included in the renewal packet, Sherwood's Multi-Year Projection (MYP) did not have conservative estimates built in for ADA in future years. A more conservative estimate for enrollment and attendance rate has been requested by CUSD, and provided by Sherwood, due to the implications this can have on future revenue assumptions. The alternative revised MYP shows that Sherwood has a plan to address potential decreases in ADA, and the associated decrease in revenue, in future years. The renewal petition clearly addresses all of the pieces for their annual operating budget. Costs of all major items are identified and within reasonable market ranges. Annual operating budget expenditure items meet the required standard and are reasonable. Annual revenues and expenditures are identified by source and expenditure assumptions reflect the Montessori educational program. The reserve, or projected ending balance, meets requirements.

IX. Suspension and Expulsion

Sherwood's renewal petition describes the suspension and expulsion policies and procedures. Sherwood understands relevant laws protecting the constitutional rights of students and provides for due process for all students and demonstrates understanding of the rights of students with disabilities in regard to suspension and expulsion.

X. Special Education

Sherwood's renewal petition includes reference to Ed Code, Section 504 Act and Title II and SELPA policy in relation to procedures and processes that guide their special education program. Nord understands the relevant laws protecting the rights of students with disabilities and can identify the SELPA policy.

XI. Staff Retirement System

Sherwood Montessori staff does participate in STRS/PERS and/or Social Security. The charter renewal does outline a process to settle disputes, both internally and externally. The petition does acknowledge that except those disputes between the district and the school, all disputes involving the school shall be resolved by the school according to the school's own internal policies. The renewal petition does include describing attendance alternatives for students residing within the county who choose not to attend charter schools. The petition addresses employee return rights, sick/vacation leave, and earning service credit while at the charter school.