



# School Closure Policy

The Governing Board of The Cottonwood School (the “Charter School”) is committed to following all applicable laws and related to school closure.

The purpose of the The Cottonwood School Governing Board approving the School Closure Policy is to accomplish the following:

1. Establish the Official Action of the Board of Directors to Close the Charter School
2. Outline the Notification Process of a School Closure
3. Outline the Management of Student Records
4. Establish the Preparation of Final Financial Records
5. Outline the Management of Assets of the Charter School
6. Outline Who is Responsible for Liabilities
7. Establish Compliance with the California Corporations Code
8. Establish the Release of Claims

**1. Official Action of the Board of Directors:** Closure of the Charter School will be documented by official action of the Board of Directors. The action will identify the reason for closure. The official action will also identify an entity and person(s) responsible for closure-related activities.

**2. Notification of School Closure:** The Board of Directors will promptly notify parents/guardians and students of the Charter School, the District, the County Office of Education, the Charter School’s SELPA, the retirement systems in which the Charter School’s employees participate (*e.g.*, Public Employees’ Retirement System, State Teachers’ Retirement System, and federal social security), and the California Department of Education of the closure as well as the effective date of the closure. This notice will also include the name(s) of and contact information for the person(s) to whom reasonable inquiries may be made regarding the closure; the pupils’ school districts of residence; and the manner in which parents/guardians may obtain copies of pupil records, including specific information on completed courses and credits that meet graduation requirements. A copy of this Policy will also be provided to the Charter School’s SELPA. If required by the Charter School’s SELPA, the Charter School will provide additional information to ensure: 1) Appropriate transition of special education services for students served by the Charter School; 2) Compliance with state and federal laws; 3) Compliance with state and federal funding requirements; and/or 4) Accuracy and reliability of any data submitted to the Charter School SELPA.

The Board will ensure that the notification to the parents/guardians and students of the Charter School of the closure provides information to assist parents/guardians and the students in

locating suitable alternative programs. This notice will be provided promptly following the Board's decision to close the Charter School.

- 3. Student Records:** The Board will also develop a list of pupils in each grade level and the classes they have completed, together with information on the pupils' districts of residence, which they will provide to the entity responsible for closure-related activities.

As applicable, the Charter School will provide parents/guardians, students and the District with copies of all appropriate student records and will otherwise assist students in transferring to their next school. All transfers of student records will be made in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g. The records of the Charter School should remain with the nonprofit entity, at least until the nonprofit closes, in which case the records should be maintained by other Charter School-related agencies. If all of the aforementioned agencies have closed, the Charter School will ask the District to store original records of Charter School students. All records of the Charter School shall be transferred to the District upon Charter School closure. If the District will not or cannot store the records, the Charter School shall work with the County Office of Education to determine suitable alternative location for storage.

All state assessment results, special education records, and personnel records will be transferred to and maintained by the entity responsible for closure-related activities in accordance with applicable law.

- 4. Final Financial Records:** As soon as reasonably practical, the Charter School will prepare final financial records. The Charter School will also have an independent audit completed within six months after closure. The Charter School will pay for the final audit. The audit will be prepared by a qualified Certified Public Accountant selected by the Charter School and will be provided to the District promptly upon its completion. The final audit will include an accounting of all financial assets, including cash and accounts receivable and an inventory of property, equipment, and other items of material value, an accounting of the liabilities, including accounts payable and any reduction in apportionments as a result of audit findings or other investigations, loans, and unpaid staff compensation, and an assessment of the disposition of any restricted funds received by or due to the Charter School.

The Charter School will complete and file any annual reports required pursuant to Education Code section 47604.33.

- 5. Assets of the Charter School:** On closure of the Charter School, all assets of the Charter School, including but not limited to all leaseholds, personal property, intellectual property and all ADA apportionments and other revenues generated by students attending the Charter School, remain the sole property of the Charter School and upon dissolution of the nonprofit public benefit corporation shall return to the nonprofit corporation to be used within the state of California only. Any assets acquired from the District or District property will be promptly returned upon Charter School closure to the District. The distribution shall include return of any grant funds and restricted categorical funds to their source in accordance with the terms of

the grant or state and federal law, as appropriate, which may include submission of final expenditure reports for entitlement grants and the filing of any required Final Expenditure Reports and Final Performance Reports, as well as the return of any donated materials and property in accordance with any conditions established when the donation of such materials or property was accepted.

6. **Liabilities:** On closure, the Charter School shall remain solely responsible for all liabilities arising from the operation of the Charter School.
  
7. **California Corporations Code:** As the Charter School is operated by a nonprofit public benefit corporation, should the corporation dissolve with the closure of the Charter School, the Board will follow the procedures set forth in the California Corporations Code for the dissolution of a nonprofit public benefit corporation and file all necessary filings with the appropriate state and federal agencies.

The Charter School will utilize the school's budgeted reserve fund to undertake any expenses associated with the closure procedures identified above.

8. **Release of Claims:** When the Charter School closes, the Charter School shall release and discharge the Charter SELPA and its past and present principals, members, partners, officers, directors, affiliate employees, agents, successors, assigns, attorneys and insurers, collectively with the Charter SELPA, from any and all claims arising out of the operations of the Charter School. Accordingly, the closing Charter School shall promptly withdraw and/or cause to be filed dismissals with prejudice of all applications, requests, reports, complaints or appeals, if any, filed or made as to any such claims.

Consistent with the release language above, closure of a Charter School terminates the ability for the Charter School and associated entities affiliated with the Charter School to submit claims to any funding or to any Charter SELPA Risk Pool (*e.g.*, Legal Risk Pool, SELPA Set Aside, Rate Smoothing Pool, etc.) effective the date of the Charter School closure and/or termination of membership pursuant to CEO Policy 26. Termination of the ability to submit funding and SELPA Risk Pool claims may be suspended for an Organization Partner with local educational agencies that will continue as Charter SELPA members.