



iLEAD Hybrid Charter School requests that the Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District (“District”) hold a public hearing and thereafter request a waiver of part of the Education Code (a portion of Education Code sections 47605 and 47605.1) with regard to the operations of iLEAD Hybrid. The District may seek a waiver from the State Board of Education pursuant to Education Code section 33050, which authorizes it to waive “all or part of any section of [the Education Code].”

Pursuant to our charter authorized by the District, iLEAD Hybrid operates a WASC-accredited nonclassroom-based charter school that serves K-12 students pursuant to its charter authorized by the District. iLEAD Hybrid’s project-based, multi-age learning model grounded in the arts and humanities goes to the heart of how kids learn, and iLEAD Hybrid incorporates technology as an organic part of the learning process. iLEAD Hybrid’s individual learning plans personalize goals and instruction for each child so that learning is interest-driven, peer-supported, and focused on powerful outcomes. iLEAD Hybrid teaches academic success as well as social and emotional development, life skills and community engagement, to prepare students to be confident problem solvers in college, career and life. iLEAD Hybrid has a facility located inside the boundaries of the District. iLEAD Hybrid also currently has six learning studios to support its independent study and homeschool students, located both in the county in which it is authorized (Los Angeles County) and in an adjacent county (Orange County) but outside the geographic boundaries of the District. iLEAD Hybrid’s learning studios each serve between 100-350 students. They are located in response to families who have nowhere else to go for resources to support the educational choice they’ve made for their child.

iLEAD Hybrid is requesting this waiver for a time period concurrent with the term of the charter because in October 2016, an appellate court ruled for the first time that charter locations outside the geographic boundaries of the authorizing school district violate the Charter Schools Act unless certain exceptions apply. The Charter Schools Act was amended in 2002 to expressly permit a nonclassroom-based school to establish a resource center, meeting space, or other satellite facility in a county adjacent to that in which the school is authorized. For over a decade, this was logically interpreted and applied throughout the State to allow nonclassroom-based schools to establish educational resource centers as far away as an adjacent county to provide independent study, homeschool, and online students with access to vital educational resources. The Shasta decision creates a “donut effect” for resource centers—they can be located within the authorizing district or as far away as an adjacent county, but not outside the authorizing district and in-county. We do not believe this is what the Legislature intended.

Thank you,

Amber Raskin, Executive Director of iLEAD Schools Development