

ELEMENT 4: GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation**

Academia Avance will exist as a legally and operationally independent nonprofit entity. As such, Academia Avance will incorporate as an independent California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation with its own Board of Directors. The affairs of the nonprofit corporation will be managed and its powers exercised under the Board's ultimate jurisdiction.

Academia Avance will be governed pursuant to the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws adopted by the incorporators, and subject to the limitations of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law. Academia Avance will comply with all laws relating to public agencies in general, and all federal laws and regulations and state codes as it pertains to charter schools.

Public Operating Principles

Academia Avance will be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations, shall not charge tuition, and shall not discriminate against any student on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors will have legal and fiduciary responsibility for Academia Avance. The Board will be responsible for providing fiscal accountability by approving and monitoring the budget. The Board will also help ensure effective organizational planning by approving long-range goals and annual objectives, monitoring the general policies such as health and safety, use and maintenance of facilities (for non-district sites), fundraising, and overseeing that school resources are managed effectively. This goal will be accomplished primarily through hiring, supporting, reviewing the performance, evaluating the Executive Director and the Principal.

The components of the Academia Avance governance structure are depicted in Appendix I.

There will be seven members that will serve as the Academia Avance Board of Directors. The Board will consist of individuals with these backgrounds and perspectives :

- Educator
- Community Representative
- Non-profit Business Operator
- Partnership Representative
- Entrepreneur
- Facilities Partner
- Charter School Operator

The composition of the Board will initially be designated by the Academia Avance development team.

Academia Avance will allow a LAUSD representative to serve as an ex-officio non-voting board member. The LAUSD representative will facilitate communications and mutual understanding between Academia Avance and LAUSD.

Advisory Board

In addition to the Board of Directors, an on-site governing structure will be the Advisory Board that will include representation from all the stakeholders of the school and community leaders. The Advisory Board will have at least two standing sub-committees with these memberships elected at large:

- Faculty Sub-Committee: the Principal, teachers, and classified staff
- Parents Sub-Committee: Current and past parents,

The responsibilities of the Advisory Board will be to assist with the daily decisions occurring at the school site level.

The community will be actively involved in the development of Academia Avance. Classified staff, student council leaders, and community representatives will be encouraged to address concerns to the school Advisory Board.

Parental Involvement

One of the primary predictors of student success is parent involvement. Parents of Academia Avance students will be encouraged and expected to participate in the educational process of their child(ren). Parents will participate in school governance, as well as, support student's educational development. Academia Avance will convene a Parent Association, which will present all concerns to the Parents Sub-Committee of the Advisory Board. In addition to issues regarding parent/teacher/student relations, the Parent Association will develop family events, support groups, and interest groups.

Prior to admission all parents/guardians and their child(ren) will be required to attend or view an orientation outlining all aspects of the school. Prior to admission, they will be asked to sign a pledge indicating they understand the Academia Avance philosophy, program and outcomes, and accept the responsibilities of their involvement in and support of their child(ren)'s educational experiences. The pledge will commit a parent/guardian to:

- Work with the child at home with homework, projects, etc.
- Maintain a positive and effective communication with the teacher and staff.
- Ensure that their child attends school on a regular basis and on time.
- Enforce the school code of conduct with their child

- Enroll their child in the prescribed academic enrichment and intervention programs if the school deems it necessary.
- Complete 15 hours of service to the school during the year.
- Attend at least two parent workshops during the school year.

District/County Involvement

The district may appoint one non-voting, ex-officio member to the school's governing board. The LAUSD representative will facilitate communications and mutual understanding between Academia Avance and LAUSD. LACOE will be involved to the extent that it is involved in the fiscal oversight of LAUSD and its related charter schools.

Academia Avance shall promptly respond to all reasonable inquiries, including but not limited to, inquiries regarding financial records, from the District and/or Los Angeles County Board of Education, and shall consult with the District regarding any inquiries.