



Blue Ridge Academy FAQ: AB 1316

This bill has several provisions that, if approved in its current form, would severely impact charter schools throughout CA. AB 1316 limits the operation of non-classroom-based charter schools but **all charter schools** will be impacted by the legislation.

[Click here](#) for an **overview** of the proposed legislation. To read the **full bill** [click here](#). The following information is not exhaustive, but is a brief summary of the most concerning provisions specific to non-classroom based charter schools and what that means for our school:

Included in legislation proposal:

ADA for independent study (in NCB and CB charter schools) may only be claimed for students who reside in-county (no longer allowed to reside in an adjacent county).

What this means:

Blue Ridge Academy is authorized out of Kern County. Currently, the law allows charter schools to support students in the county it is authorized and adjacent counties. Many of our students are in adjacent counties, specifically Los Angeles and Ventura County. If this law passed, Blue Ridge Academy would no longer be able to serve students outside of Kern County. There is no grandfather clause in place for students currently enrolled in adjacent counties.

Included in legislation proposal:

Requires supervising teachers to have in-person or live visual/audio contact with independent study students at least once every third day and increases supervision and paperwork requirements for supervising teachers of independent study students (in non-classroom based and classroom-based charter schools).

What this means:

All Blue Ridge teachers must increase their teacher-pupil contact, which shall be in person, or by any other live visual and audio connection. No more than three school days shall pass without at least one instance of supervising teacher-pupil contact. Increased documentation of work completed will be required.

Included in legislation proposal:

Reduction in funding of most non-classroom-based schools by 30 percent using a sliding scale which rewards schools with more funding by increasing the amount of classroom-based instruction provided.

What this means:

With Blue Ridge Academy's current education program offerings, we would receive 30% less funding per student. The only way to lessen the proposed funding reduction per student would be to offer 80% or more in-person, classroom-based instruction. This solution is not feasible for us due to previous legislation (Shasta ruling) which prohibits non-classroom based schools to operate learning centers outside our authorizing district.

Included in legislation proposal:

Any persons employed by school vendors/providers that provide direct services to pupils in order to meet instructional time requirements must hold the Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit, or other document required for their assignment consistent with the requirements for teachers in a charter school.

What this means:

Students utilizing vendor classes, tutors, and services would be limited to only those that hold appropriate CTC-issued credentials. All current vendors would need to meet this requirement or could no longer be approved vendors.

Included in legislation proposal:

A charter school that offers nonclassroom-based instruction shall provide classroom-based instruction for those pupils for whom the charter school determines shall return to another program in the charter school for which the pupil is enrolled or a charter school operated by the entity managing the charter school.

What this means:

Blue Ridge Academy would need to develop a fully classroom-based option that must be available to all students. The solution is not feasible for us due to previous legislation (Shasta ruling) which prohibits non-classroom based schools to operate learning centers outside of the authorizing district.

Included in legislation proposal:

Assigned work cannot be altered after the beginning of the learning period, all pupil work would need to be dated and collected for auditing purposes, teachers will need to maintain a record of time value for all student work and a signed affidavit or statement under penalty of perjury.

What this means:

Supervising teacher must assign, evaluate, and collect all work completed each learning period. Work can only be assigned by the teacher and must be assigned prior to any learning period. Work would not be returned to the family but instead maintained by the teacher.

Where is the bill now?

Following a lengthy discussion by members of the Assembly Education Committee, the bill passed with a vote of 5-2. The bill now moves on to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

What do parents and community members have the right to do?

You have the right to continue to voice your opinion to legislators before the next vote. You have the right to contact [legislators](#) in the appropriations committee or your local legislator via phone or email. You can look up your district number and local representatives by entering your home address, [here](#). You also have the right to reach out to other local businesses and organizations to share how this bill may impact them.