

Comparison of Board Roles

Dimension	Board as Governing Board of Dependent Charter	Board as Authorizer (Oversight Role)
Legal Authority	Acts as the legal governing body of the charter school (dependent charter is part of the district)	Acts under EC §47605 to approve and EC §47607 to renew/revoke charters
Statutory Role	Not separately defined in statute; operates under general district governance authority	Defined in EC §47604.32 as responsible for oversight of academic, fiscal, and operational performance
Primary Function	Direct governance and management oversight of the school	Accountability and oversight of an independent or semi-autonomous entity
Decision-Making Scope	Approves budgets, staffing, curriculum, and operations	Approves petition, renewals, material revisions, and revocation decisions
Fiduciary Responsibility	Full fiduciary responsibility for the charter school as part of the district	Fiduciary responsibility to ensure oversight systems protect public funds
Oversight vs. Management	Engaged in active governance and direction-setting	Maintains arms-length oversight ; does not manage daily operations
Accountability Mechanism	Internal accountability through district systems and board governance	Formal oversight per EC §47604.32 , including monitoring outcomes and compliance
Performance Monitoring	Ongoing as part of managing district schools	Structured oversight including data review, site visits, and intervention protocols
Renewal / Revocation Authority	Not applicable	Exercises authority under EC §47607
Policy Application	District policies apply unless waived in charter	Ensures compliance with approved charter terms and applicable law
Risk Profile	Direct legal, fiscal, and operational liability	Oversight liability tied to adequacy of monitoring and intervention

Key Governance Distinction

- As a **dependent charter governing board**, the Board operates **within the system**, directly responsible for outcomes and operations.
- As an **authorizer**, the Board operates **in an oversight capacity**, holding charter schools accountable for performance without engaging in day-to-day management.

Considerations for the Board

- Maintaining clear role delineation reduces governance ambiguity and potential liability
- Oversight expectations under **EC §47604.32** require **intentional systems for monitoring and intervention**
- Dependent charters require governance structures aligned with **district priorities and fiduciary oversight**
- Board training and protocols may be beneficial to reinforce role clarity during agenda item deliberations