



NEWS RELEASE

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SCCOE validates Spark Charter School's compliance with charter and state law, notifies school it is satisfied classes can resume

SAN JOSE, CA – Staff from the Santa Clara County Office of Education has validated that Spark Charter School has complied with procedures required by state law, and contained in their charter, concerning background checks and TB clearances for its employees. Records were also reviewed to ensure that all teachers were appropriately credentialed. As a result, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools Jon R. Gundry issued a letter this afternoon confirming all requests have been satisfied for the school to resume operation.

“We are glad to have this issue resolved and pleased we could provide the necessary assistance to get students back into the classroom without further delay,” said Superintendent Gundry. “The safety of all students is of paramount importance and we will continue to monitor and work with Spark Charter School to ensure the legal requirements and contents of their charter petition are followed.”

Deficiencies were first brought to light during the SCCOE's investigation of Spark Charter School after learning about the arrest of an 18 year-old part-time employee on charges of sexual misconduct. The SCCOE immediately responded by having staff visit the school. When Spark staff could not confirm they had followed procedures required by law and contained in their charter, the SCCOE acted swiftly to request the school close immediately or risk having their charter revoked by the Santa Clara County Board of Education.

Spark Charter School is independently operated and governed by a nonprofit board of directors. They opened this year serving grades K-6. Under the charter law, the SCCOE doesn't oversee daily operations or the hiring or supervision of Spark employees. The Santa Clara County Board of Education's authority was to approve the charter, which empowered the Spark board and management to make those decisions and take necessary actions to comply with all state and federal laws governing schools.

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