

## ANAHEIM CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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June 27, 2008

Nancy Wieben Stock Presiding Judge of the Superior Court 700 Civic Center Drive West Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Stock:

Below is Anaheim City School District's (ACSD) response to the recently released Grand Jury Report, "Are Charter Schools Getting Passing Grades." Incidentally, the Anaheim City School District does not have any charter schools within its boundaries.

## **FINDINGS**

F-1: Orange County charter schools meet the intent of the Education Code 47600-47664 by providing parents and pupils a choice in educational opportunities, emphasizing specific learning experiences, and aiding at-risk or academically low-achieving students.

ACSD's Response: We are aware of the Education Code and its outlined purpose of charter schools.

F-2: The number of charter schools in Orange County is not growing commensurate with the overall growth of charter schools in California.

ACSD's Response: Many Orange County schools are experiencing a decline in student enrollment, which may be impacting the growth of charter schools. Furthermore, there is great satisfaction among parents with their public schools, which could hinder the growth of charters.

F-3: Orange County school district's oversight costs, in some districts, exceed the authorized 1% reimbursement.

ACSD's Response: The school district does not have any charter schools within its boundaries.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

R-1: Orange County school districts and Orange County Superintendent of Schools continue to offer expanded choices for educational opportunities, as required in the State Education Code, by utilizing charter schools as an option to provide additional choices, especially for at-risk and academically low-achieving students.

ACSD's Response: Charter schools have not been identified as a need in Anaheim City School District.

R-2: The chartering authorities should follow the intent of the legislature by encouraging the establishment of charter schools by granting more charter school petitions provided they meet State requirements.

ACSD's Response: No charter school petitions have been presented to the ACSD school board in the past eight years.

 $R-3\colon$  Local school districts provide adequate oversight of charter schools even though State law does not allow for full reimbursement for such oversight.

ACSD's Response: There are no charter schools within ACSD's boundaries.

A copy and an electronic format of these responses are being mailed separately to the Orange County Grand Jury.

Sincerely,

Sandra Barry Superintendent

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cc: Orange County Grand Jury