



Centralia School District

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August 25, 2008

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

Re: Orange County Grand Jury Report – Art Charter Schools Getting Passing Grades?

Dear Judge Wieben Stock:

Please note the following responses that are in accordance with Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05:

R-1: Orange County school districts and the 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.

Response: We agree with the finding. In accordance with Education Code, we evaluate each charter request against the approval criteria as required by state law, regulations and case law. Parents are free to enroll their students at local charter schools.

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 the State requirements.

Response: We agree with the finding. Each charter petition is evaluated against the criteria for approval as required by state law, regulations and case law. The Board of Education would approve charter school petitions that meet state requirements.

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

Response: We agree with the finding. We would work with a charter school to create Memoranda of Understanding relative to the oversight of fiscal, personnel and curriculum.

Sincerely,


Diane Scheerhorn, Ph.D.
Superintendent

DS:rmc

c. Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Board of Trustees: Karen Blake • Shirley Doi • Art Montez • Dennis Salts • Irv Trinkle
District Superintendent: Diane Scheerhorn, Ph.D.