

# GARDEN GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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July 18, 2008

SUPERINTENDENT  
Laura Schwalm

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

Subject: Response to the Grand Jury Report on Charter Schools

Dear Judge Wieben Stock:

The following responses are in accordance with Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05.

## **Finding F-1**

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

*The respondent believes, from the information presented in the report, that Orange County Charter schools meet the intent of the Education Code by providing parents and pupils choice in the education setting that best meets their personal and academic needs.*

## **Finding F-2**

The number of charter schools in Orange County is not growing commensurate with the overall growth of charter schools in California

*Based on the data presented in the report, the respondent agrees that the growth in the number of charter schools in Orange County is less than the statewide average.*

## **Finding F-3**

The Orange County school districts' oversight costs, in some districts, exceed the authorized 1% reimbursement.

*Based on the information presented in the report, the respondent agrees that the oversight costs in some districts exceed the authorized 1% reimbursement.*

The Honorable Nancy Wieben Stock, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Response to the Grand Jury Report on Charter Schools  
July 18, 2008  
Page 2

**Recommendation 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.

*The respondent agrees that Orange County school districts and the Orange County Superintendent of Schools have offered and should continue to offer a variety of educational choices in accordance with the State Education Code to meet the needs of parents and students.*

**Recommendation 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.

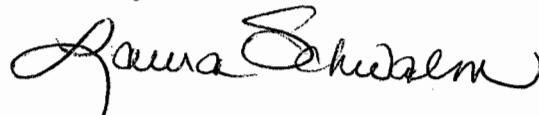
*The respondent agrees that chartering authorities should follow the intent of the legislature by allowing the establishment of charter schools who meet the requirements of the law.*

**Recommendation R-3**

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

*The respondent agrees that districts and chartering authorities must provide adequate oversight of charter schools whether or not the State allows for full reimbursement for such oversight.*

Sincerely,



Laura Schwalm  
Superintendent

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C: Orange County Grand Jury  
John Nelson, Assoc. Supt., OCDE