



ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Center

1401 North Handy Street • Orange, CA 92867-4334

714.628.4000 • 714.628.4046 (Fax)

www.orangeusd.org

February 12, 2009

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

RE: 2007-08 Grand Jury Report titled "Are Charter Schools Getting Passing Grades?"

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to a letter dated January 30, 2009 and addressed to Superintendent Renae Dreier. Dr. Dreier assumed her position with the District in August, 2009 and was thus unaware of the request for a response from the Grand Jury.

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.

Response: Agreed. The District continues to offer expanded choices for educational opportunities, including charter schools as an option. The recommendation has been implemented in Orange Unified School District as demonstrated by the fact that two charter schools currently exist within the District's boundaries, and are chartered by the 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 the State requirements.

Response: Agreed. The District has not received a charter application since its approval of the two existing charter school applications.

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

Response: Disagree, in part. Districts, including OUSD, do attempt to provide adequate oversight of charter schools. This oversight is increasingly difficult in light of the ongoing fiscal crisis. As districts are forced to cut staff, particularly at the district office level, fewer staff is doing more required work. As a result, oversight is becoming increasingly challenging due to the reduced District staff available to provide that oversight.



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On behalf of the Orange Unified School District and Superintendent Dreier, this concludes the required response to the Grand Jury. If additional information is required, please contact me at (714) 628-4050.

Sincerely,

Marsha A. Brown, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent,
Educational Services

MAB:dt