



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

District's Response - 2015-2016 Alameda County Civil Grand Jury Final Report - "The Oakland Unified School District and Charter Schools"



Presented by Antwan Wilson, Superintendent

Presented to Board of Directors, OUSD

September 14, 2016

v2

www.ousd.org



@OUSDnews

Current State of Charter-run Schools in Oakland

From 2007 to 2016, between charter closures and new school openings, the District's total number of authorized charters only increased by five (5).

10 Years

32 → 37 OUSD Charter-run schools

(ACOE = 7 charter-run schools in Oakland)

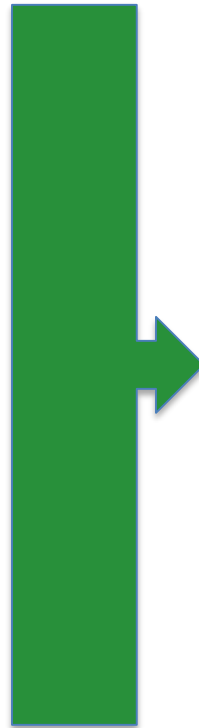
Background

A Civil Grand Jury is comprised of a panel of citizens to objectively consider how government operates, and then provides thoughtful insight, findings, and recommendations to the organization reviewed.

Grand Jury Report Summary

Identified Concerns:

- Authorization Process
- Renewal Process
- Safety and Welfare of Students
- Equitable Treatment and Funding of Students
- Governance and Management
- Relationship of District and Charter Schools



4 FINDINGS

8 RECOMMENDATIONS



**Finding 16-35:
While charter
schools use
public funding,
they are
insulated from
adequate
public
oversight.**

District agrees with this finding.

- Charter Law limits public oversight and transparency related to posting of financial documents, LCAP, and self-selected charter board members' contact information.
- OCS attempts at requiring this has received push-back from CCSA and charter partners.

Finding 16-36:
The current authorization and evaluation systems of charter schools are insufficient to ensure that each provides equitable opportunities for all students.

District **partially agrees** with this finding and would substitute “charter law” for “evaluation systems.

OCS Systems

- Expulsion Reporting
- Student Exit Reporting
- Charter Family Exit Surveys
- ACLU Report Follow-Up

Finding 16-37:
There is no plan in place in the Oakland Unified School District to manage the proliferation of charter schools.

District **does not agree** with this finding.

- Spike in numbers during the State Administration
- Since 2007= increase of only 5 OUSD authorized
- 575K State Charter Grants
- CA has NO charter cap
- ACOE BOE or SBE can authorize

Finding 16-38:

There is a desire on the part of the Oakland Unified School District administration to enact a plan to ensure that every student in OUSD regardless of the school they attend, is given equal opportunity to be successful, but there are significant obstacles to achieving this goal.

District agrees with this finding.

- Call for Quality Schools
- Equity Pledge
- Linked Learning Focus
- AAMA
- Newcomers

**Recommendation
16-28: The
Oakland Unified
School District
must increase the
staffing of the
Office of Charter
Schools to allow
more thorough
oversight of
charter schools.**

Implementing
recommendation to the
extent possible:

- OCS has 5 FTE
- 1% oversight fee paid by charter schools could support a total of 7 FTE
- 6th FTE being hired for 16-17 school year
- Cross-departmental support increases capacity

**Recommendation
16-29: The
Oakland Unified
School District,
Office of Charter
Schools, must
increase its
number of on-
site visits to
charter schools.**

Practices consistent with implementation:

- Annual and Renewal Site Visits
- Best Practice Sharing Site Visits
- Complaint Investigation Site Visits
- Exceeds the # of visits required by Ed Code

Recommendation 16-30: The Oakland Board of Education, the Office of Charter Schools, and OUSD's [S]uperintendent must attend charter board meetings to ensure compliance with state law and procedures, and to better assess the management and priorities of each school.

Practice addresses underlying goal:

- Exact implementation is not feasible with OUSD and ACOE BOE Mtg obligations
- OCS presents to Charter Boards
- OCS conducts Renewal Focus Groups
- Other Governance and Fiscal Oversight (list in "Response")

**Recommendation
16-31: The Oakland
Unified School
District must not
authorize or renew a
charter school
unless that charter
[school] agrees to
join the
[S]uperintendent's
proposed Oakland
Equity Pledge, and
adhere to the same
accountability
system for
measuring
achievement.**

Practice addresses
underlying goal:

- Working collaboratively through Equity Pledge
- Co-construction of expectations and agreement to inform renewal processes
- Potential limitation under Charter Schools Act
- Authorization by ACOE BOE or SBE

**Recommendation
16-32: There
must be a
facilities review
to ensure that all
Oakland Unified
School District
charter school
venues are safe
and comply with
appropriate
safety and
building codes.**

Practices consistent with implementation:

- New School Facility Application and Walkthrough
- Compliance ensured with either Field Act (if a school building) or city/state codes (if not a school building)

Recommendation 16-33:

The Oakland Unified School District, in collaboration with its charter schools, must prepare a comprehensive strategic plan to ensure that the future growth of charter schools in the city will continue to improve student outcomes. The plan should address OUSD's expected outcomes, efficient use of available resources and maximize the uses of tax dollars for the benefit of all students.

Practices consistent with implementation:

- Strategic Regional Analysis
- Equity Pledge
- Working with charter partners on new parcel tax

**Recommendation
16-34: The Oakland
Unified School
District should seek
independent legal
counsel as well as
advice from the
state to ascertain
how to exercise
more rigor in the
charter school
renewal and
approval process.**

Practice consistent with
implementation:

- John Yeh, Partner with
Burke, Williams & Sorensen
- 25 years of legal experience
- 15 years representing school
districts in charter school
law
- Specially qualified

**Recommendation
16-35: The
Oakland Unified
School District
should focus its
lobbying efforts
to seek state
revision of
charter school
legislation to
improve the
authorization
process.**

Practices consistent with implementation:

- Senate Ed Committee Presentation (08/03/16)
- Seeking state revision of legislation to ensure:
 - Public Accountability;
 - Uphold basic student rights;
 - Representative student body;
 - Equal access to all students.

EVERY STUDENT THRIVES!



**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Community Schools, Thriving Students

1000 Broadway, Suite 680, Oakland, CA 94607

www.ousd.org



@OUSDnews