



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

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# Current State of Charter-run Schools in Oakland

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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

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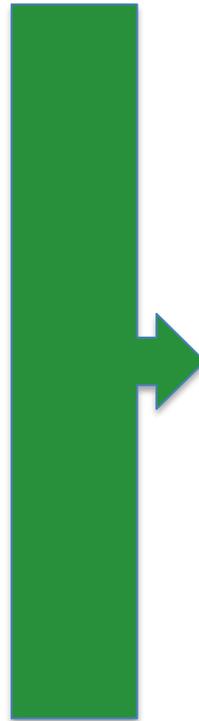
A Civil Grand Jury is comprised of a panel of citizens to objectively consider how government operates, and then provides thoughtful insight, findings, and recommendations to the organization reviewed.

# Grand Jury Report Summary

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## 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
- 6<sup>th</sup> 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!



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