



# Santa Ana Unified School District

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Stefanie P. Phillips, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

May 30, 2019

Dear Parents and Community Members,

The charter schools that SAUSD authorizes are required by law to contribute a fair share of their funds to students with disabilities in Santa Ana. For many years, OCSA, OCEAA, NOVA, El Sol and E.B. Cole have not contributed anything, even though their charters clearly state their responsibility to do so. California law requires it.

When Santa Ana Unified School District staff met with the charter schools to discuss the required contribution, they responded by taking SAUSD to court. We are simply trying to work toward a resolution of the debt that they owe the special needs students of Santa Ana. California law requires it.

SAUSD never insisted any contributions be made immediately or at once. We invited the charters to engage in collaborative conversations in order to reach a mutually agreeable resolution. At a recent hearing, Judge David Hoffer pointed out that OCSA would need to come to terms with the District or face a very large bill at the end of the fifteen-month period specified in their charter.

SAUSD hopes it will resolve the issue with each of its charter schools in a manner that provides for the needs of our special education students. We are hopeful that the charters will understand their responsibility to the special education students of Santa Ana. We remain optimistic that the leadership of each of these charters will decide to abandon their attempts to avoid responsibility through legal maneuvering and the distribution of inaccurate information. We respect and follow the law. We expect our students to respect and follow the law. Charter schools should also respect and follow the law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stefanie P. Phillips".

Stefanie P. Phillips, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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