



JOHN CHIANG
TREASURER
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

November 24, 2015

Mr. Dan Katzir
Chief Executive Officer
Alliance College-Ready Public Schools
601 South Figueroa Street, 4th floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Mr. Katzir:

I am writing out of concern regarding Alliance College Ready Public Schools' (Alliance) assertion that employees of its charter schools are not covered by the California Educational Employment Relations Act (EERA). While I understand that Alliance is attempting to dismiss litigation brought by the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) alleging violations of EERA, I believe this gambit is not only legally dubious, but will only serve to inject deep and costly acrimony into the student learning environment that you and your teachers have worked so hard to create.

Not only does California law explicitly provide that EERA applies to charter schools, but each charter school in the Alliance system has acknowledged that applicability in its respective charter. Moreover, both the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and PERB have issued decisions that support the conclusion that EERA, rather than the National Labor Relations Act, applies to California charter schools. Yet Alliance has opted to pursue a litigation strategy that appears to contradict both California law and Alliance's own position as has been stated in its charters for years.

At best, it will only serve to delay the inevitable need – required by BOTH state and federal law – to promote a fair and neutral environment for Alliance's teachers to self-determine whether they want collective bargaining. At worst, your decision could put at jeopardy its continued participation in many publicly-funded benefits and do irreparable harm to Alliance and its students.

As I am sure you are aware, there is a tension in California's charter school construct between the role of charter schools as a part of the public school system and their operation by private, non-profit entities. The more charter schools assert the dominance of their existence as private entities, as Alliance is doing here, the more they

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place at risk the significant benefits that come to charter schools, their students, and their employees via their identification as public schools.

I have a better solution. As you know, the temporary restraining order issued by Superior Court Judge Chalfant directs Alliance to meet with UTLA. I believe convening such a meeting and identifying a path forward would be more beneficial to all interested parties than pursuing the costly and time-consuming legal strategy Alliance has chosen. Continuing your posture will only lead to draining resources from Alliance and its schools and continuing the disruption caused by the parties' dispute. In light of Judge Chalfant's order that Alliance meet with its teachers on these issues, I am willing to convene and facilitate a meeting between Alliance and UTLA to discuss a fair and reasonable process to address the unionization issues before you.

Please let me know if you are amenable to such an effort. Thank you for your consideration of my request. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



JOHN CHIANG
California State Treasurer