



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL FOR DISTRICT 75

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CEC District 75
Special Education

RESOLUTION #2 ADDRESSING APPROPRIATE SPACE AND CO-LOCATION

WHEREAS, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ensures that all children with disabilities are entitled to a free appropriate public education to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living; and

WHEREAS, the provision of an adequate public education requires appropriate space to meet the necessities of children with special needs; and

WHEREAS, the lack of appropriate space may negatively impact the learning experience of children with special needs; and

WHEREAS, a direct impact of co-locations on District 75 schools has been the loss of critical space; and

WHEREAS, while the media has often highlighted the preferential treatment granted to charter schools and their students—including renovations and modernizations—children in District 75 have been receiving mandated services in inappropriate spaces (such as storage closets, hallways, and sometimes bathroom stalls); and

WHEREAS, according to the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE), there are growing concerns that charter schools fail to provide equal access to students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, according to the CRPE, charter schools on average serve a smaller percentage of special education students than do the states' district-run school; and

WHEREAS, the CRPE suggests that further inquiries are necessary to determine whether discrimination drives lower enrollment of students with special needs; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised that charter schools may be discouraging students with disabilities from enrolling; and

WHEREAS, contrarily to the claims of charter schools, they have access to funds and benefactors who can support the needs of the children without dividing community; and

WHEREAS, under the pretense of constrained resources, charter schools fail to meet the needs of students with more severe disabilities; and


WHEREAS, the Division of Portfolio Development has consistent and improperly measuring space for our schools utilization and has blatantly disregarded at adherence to the guidelines set forth for the correct formula for measuring classroom square footage for students with disabilities. Coupled with inaccurate records for estimating enrollment and capacity; and

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, charter schools must be required to allocate their resources to locate and fund their own facilities prior to utilizing the Department of Education's building inventory.

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Division of Portfolio Development must review its methods of evaluating availability of usable space prior to relinquishing space in co-located schools.

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, we strongly recommend that school officials draft a policy that clearly specifies the term "APPROPRIATE SPACE."

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Department of Education must be required to ensure that charter schools are appropriately serving the needs of students with disabilities prior to depriving our students of more space.



Council President's Signature

11/20/13

Date



Witness Signature

11/20/13

Date