



# Alameda County Office of Education

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March 8, 2002

The Honorable Sarah Reyes  
State Capitol, Room 2117  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1994 (Reyes)—Support**

Dear Assemblymember Reyes:

The Alameda County Office of Education supports AB 1994 that would establish necessary and common sense reforms for charter schools in California.

In light of the Gateway Charter School situation, which was chartered in Fresno County, but opened satellite schools as far away as Monterey, Yuba City, and Tehachapi and is currently under investigation by the local sheriff's department, police department, and FBI for allegedly charging students tuition and alleged financial mismanagement causing the school to currently face a \$1.3 million debt, the California legislature must act to make sure charter schools are more accountable to the California taxpayers.

AB 1994 is a necessary first step. It addresses key issues by requiring charter schools to notify parents about the transferability of courses for entrance into California State Universities and the Universities of California. It requires a close-out audit if a charter school shuts down in order to identify unspent funds and disposition of assets, and establish procedures for maintenance and transfer of records. Charter schools that wish to operate multiple sites will need to show in their charter how they will notify the district of satellite sites. In order to keep charter schools satellite sites under control charter schools will only be able to open sites in the county and in contiguous counties from where the school received its charter.

AB 1994 is fair, reasonable, and common sense legislation which will make sure that charter schools are held accountable to their students, parents and communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Sheila Jordan  
Alameda County Superintendent of Schools

SJ/scm

2003-04  
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