

June 25, 2010

Anaheim Unified High School District  
Attn: Board of Trustees  
501 Crescent Way  
Anaheim, CA 92803

To the Honorable Board of Trustees:

Orange County Business Council (OCBC), representing the largest, most innovative companies in America's fifth largest county is writing to support "Seal of Biliteracy."

As the leading voice of business on important issues locally, regionally and nationally, the OCBC supports meaningful partnerships with academia to promote job training that will prepare students with the skills and knowledge necessary to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. An important component of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills is fluency in another language (besides English) that will enable California's next generation of business leaders and workers to continue to grow our economic capacity. Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) proposed policy to recommend a "Seal of Biliteracy" is an excellent example of K-12 practices that support 21<sup>st</sup> century skills for economic success.

The Seal of Biliteracy will affirm AUHSD's commitment to success as symbolized by Oxford Academy, one of America's best high schools, which has developed strong Chinese and Spanish foreign language programs. Sycamore Junior High and other schools in the district are also to be commended for their commitment to rigorous foreign language programs such as "Spanish for Spanish Speakers" which has been highlighted as a best practice in closing the achievement gap.

The seal is rigorous in that the student must show academic literacy in both English and another language through Advanced Placement scores and high grades in both languages. In these difficult budgetary times, the OCBC commends AUHSD for not settling for mediocrity and continuing to find ways to align with business and support curriculum that will give our young people a "leg up" on the competition.

In providing a proactive forum for businesses, government and academia to join together, OCBC helps assure the prosperity of America's fifth largest county. The Orange County Business Council serves pro-business interests so that the region's vibrant economy will continue to expand, bringing the benefits of prosperity to every corner of the county.

Sincerely,



Kate Klimow  
Vice President, Government Affairs

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