

CHARTER SCHOOLS

A charter school is an independently operated public school granted greater flexibility in its operations, in return for greater accountability for performance. The “charter” establishing each school is a performance contract detailing the school’s mission, programs, students served, performance goals, and methods of assessment. The Grand Jury as interested in charter schools and their functions. The Tulare County Grand Jury visited Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center, University Preparatory High School, Visalia Early College (VTEC) and Harmony Magnet Academy.



Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center

31191 Road 180
Ph: 559-592-9160

Visalia, CA 93292
Fax 559-592-2927

October 1, 2014

To the Tulare County Grand Jury,

We thank you for your time visiting Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center, and getting to know how Charter Schools operate in general, and ours in particular. We agree with your findings that our staff provide students and parents support with curriculum an instruction, and that we have high parent involvement and participation in our program. Regarding your recommendations, we have the following responses.

Recommendation #1

The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center pursue Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation so students qualify for CSU or UC campuses.

This recommendation requires further analysis, to be discussed at the November 11th board meeting. In the past, ERCLC has decided not to pursue WASC accreditation because of the limits imposed on our educational program. In general, homeschooling families prefer the flexibility of our program over the benefits of WASC accreditation. It is untrue that our students do not qualify for CSU or UC campuses because we are not WASC accredited. But WASC accreditation does make the process easier, so we will revisit the topic again.

Recommendation #2

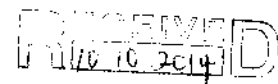
The Tulare County Grand Jury recommends Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center provide their Student Handbooks in English and Spanish.

This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future when needed. We currently do not have any students or families that need a Spanish (or any other foreign language) copy of the Student Handbook. Because these documents are continually updated, it does not make fiscal sense to translate a document until it is needed.

We appreciate the time and effort dedicated by the Tulare County Grand Jury to improving student learning.

Sincerely,

Daniel Huecker
Director/Superintendent
Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center



From: Helen Milliorn-Feller <helenmf@tcoe.org>
To: "grnd_jury@co.tulare.ca.us" <grnd_jury@co.tulare.ca.us>
CC: Eric Thiessen <erict@tcoe.org>, John Kelly <johnk@tcoe.org>, Nicole Roch...
Date: 11/3/2014 3:37 PM
Subject: University Preparatory High School Grand Jury Resonse Letter
Attachments: UPHS Grand Jury Response 2014.pdf

Dear Tulare Grand Jury,

Thank you for being patient with our school. You received our Student-Parent Handbook in English and Spanish today. I am now attaching our Response Letter to your Findings and Recommendations.

If you need any other information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Helen

Helen L. Milliorn-Feller M.A.
Vice Principal/Lead Teacher
University Preparatory High School
915 S. Mooney Blvd
Visalia, CA 93277
(559) 730-2529
(559) 901-8485



University Preparatory High School

915 S. Mooney Blvd. Visalia, CA 93277

(559) 730-2529 Fax (559) 730-2518

November 3, 2014

Tulare County Grand Jury
5963 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277

Subject: Written Response of University Preparatory High School pursuant to California Penal Code §933©

Dear Tulare County Grand Jury:

We thank you for visiting University Preparatory High School, and we are always pleased to share with your organization how we are serving the students of Tulare County at our Charter School by helping them earn a high school diploma, while also preparing them for college through the taking of College of the Sequoias (COS) classes. We agree with your findings that we are asking our students to earn 20 college units at The College of the Sequoias as a part of our graduation requirements. We understand this represents one third of the units a college student needs to earn an Associate Degree or to transfer to a four year university. We have also spent an extended period of time rewriting and creating a Student-Parent Handbook in both Spanish and English to help inform parents and help facilitate the acclimation of students to our school.

FINDINGS

1. A student that earns twenty college units to graduate will have attained one-third of the credit for an Associate Degree.

Response:

1. We agree with the findings that students are one-third of the way to earning an Associate Degree by completing 20 college units at COS before they graduate from University Preparatory High School.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Tulare County Jury recommends University Preparatory High School (UPHS) have a Student Handbook available in English and Spanish.

Response:

1. We agree with the Tulare Grand Jury that the UPHS Student-Parent Handbooks be available in both English and Spanish in order to insure all students attending UPHS have access to important school information. UPHS faculty and staff, under the leadership of the principal, spent the first twelve weeks of the 2014-2015 school redrafting, updating, and translating the UPHS Student-Parent Handout. This vital school document is now available in both Spanish and English

Sincerely,

Eric Thiessen

Eric Thiessen
Principal
University Preparatory High School

11-3-2014



University Preparatory High School

915 S. Mooney Blvd. Visalia, CA 93277

(559) 730-2529 Fax (559) 730-2518

November 3, 2014

Tulare County Grand Jury
5963 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277

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Sincerely,

Eric Thiessen

Eric Thiessen
Principal
University Preparatory High School

Craig Wheaton, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Todd Oto, Ed.D.
Area Superintendent

Victoria Porter
Principal

Wendi Powell
Learning Director



Board of Education

Jim Qualls
Juan Guerrero
John Crabtree
William A. Fulmer
Donna Martin
Charles Ulmschneider
Lucia Vazquez

July 30, 2014

To: Whom it may concern

From: Victoria Porter, Principal VTEC High School

Re: Response to Grand Jury recommendation

VTEC high school, respondent, agrees with your recommendation regarding the implementation of a Spanish handbook. A Spanish handbook will be available to students prior to the 2014-2015 school year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at the school office at (559) 622-3212.

Sincerely,

Vicki Porter
Principal, VTEC High School

RECEIVED
JUL 31 2014

*VTEC is a Partnership between
Visalia Unified School District and College of the Sequoias*



Visalia Technical Early College, 2245 S Linwood St Visalia, CA 93277 559-622-3212 Fax: 559-622-3214



Craig Wheaton, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Todd Oto, Ed.D.
Area Superintendent

Victoria Porter
Principal

Wendi Powell
Learning Director



Board of Education

Jim Qualls
Juan Guerrero
John Crabtree
William A. Fulmer
Donna Martin
Charles Uimschneider
Lucia Vazquez

August 21, 2014

To: Whom it may concern

From: Victoria Porter, Principal VTEC High School

Re: Response to Grand Jury recommendation

VTEC high school, respondent, agrees with the following findings;

- 1) VTEC is an early college, career technical school, offering hands-on education to students.
- 2) VTEC provides a smaller learning environment in the classroom.
- 3) In addition to the academic core classes, VTEC offers students hands-on assignments.

VTEC High School will proceed with your recommendation regarding the implementation of a Spanish handbook. A Spanish and English handbook will be available to students online prior to November 2014.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at the school office at (559) 622-3212.

Sincerely,

Vicki Porter

Principal, VTEC High School

MAILED
17 9-10-2014

*VTEC is a Partnership between
Visalia Unified School District and College of the Sequoias*



Visalia Technical Early College, 2245 S Linwood St Visalia, CA 93277 559-622-3212 Fax: 559-622-3214

